

“We are All Made out
Of Mud”

Final Evaluation



03.11.2023.

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Document explanation



This document is the output of evaluation of We are All Made out Of Mud project (WaAMoOM). Purpose of this evaluation is to:

1. Uncover the impact project activities created on its participants and organizations,
2. Discover potential future collaborations between partnering organizations



Evaluation was done based on:



Interviews with the project participants who participated in most activities



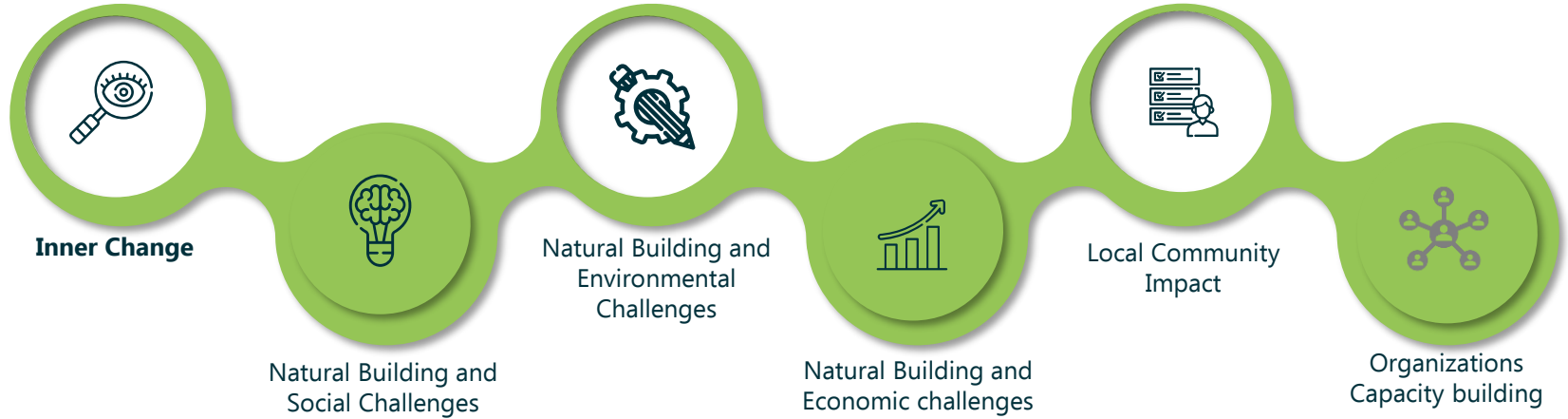
Specialized survey with 27 responses from project participants



Group work of participants of the Final evaluation event



Explanation of the survey



Additionally we collected ideas on



What could have been done better within project Activities?

What needs are there within the participant group and ideas for what next?



Evaluation results

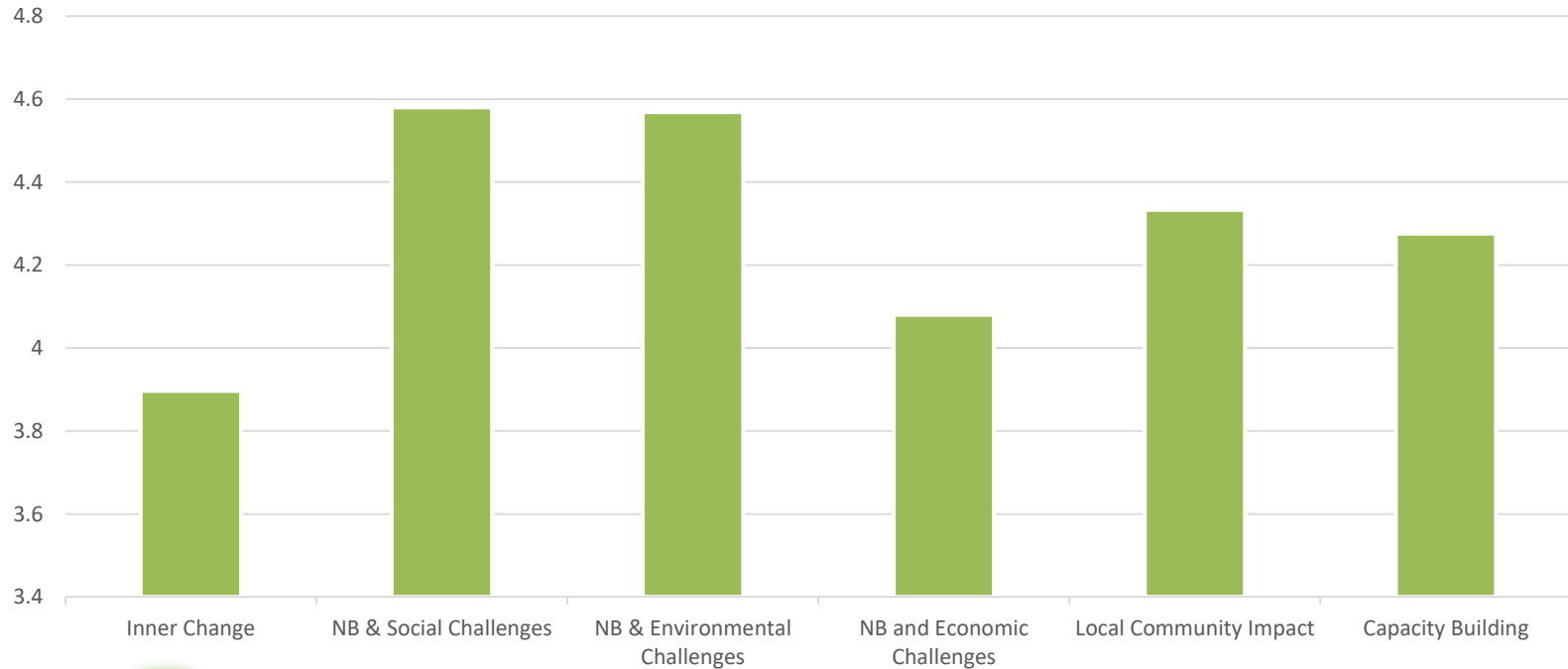


We
ARE All
made out
of mud

Overview of average grades per section



Average grades per sections



Inner Change



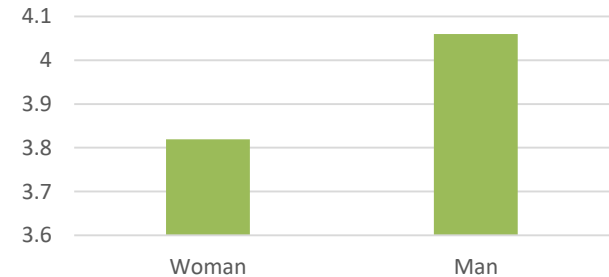
Inner Change

Observations and Insights



- Dominant responses of participants are in the direction of being inspired to pursue their own dreams and enhanced call to action. This seems to be mainly in pursuit of ideal lifestyle.
- There is a slightly higher number of participants whose value systems and habits have been deeply affected in comparison to the those whose experience didn't go as deep
- Only significant difference in average grade between man and woman was in this section
- Highest rated question was the impact on one's purpose
- Lowest grade was the effect of project activities on participants' daily habits

Inner change average



Participants quotes



”

I spend less time on my phone and feel more present in moments

The involvement in this project makes me work more on my goal for my future lifestyle.

Other peoples experience gives me courage to work on my ideas.

This experience has ignited a passion for impactful, purpose-driven work, guiding my career path towards meaningful contributions to society.

The values I want to orientate myself in life, become clearer to me every time I take part in such a project. I realize what I actually want, but don't have yet.

I reinforced my values: love for the well-being of the planet, humans, our surroundings and our own quality of life, which we can influence by our choice.

After taking part in this project, i was more curious and encouraged to really do smth and not only talk about problems/issues.

With the experience of being a trainer i am more aware of how my behaviour can reflect, inspire and impact positively or negatively my surroundings.

“



Final Evaluation event conclusions



Change we created was not part of the project goals but happened as a side effect
Coming back to the regular city life, made it harder to continue with created habits in project activities.
These was a bigger inner change influence with participants who were not already part of NB movement.
Project activities supported participants to take the step to try new things and open up to challenges



Questions to explore

Can inner change trigger bigger change?

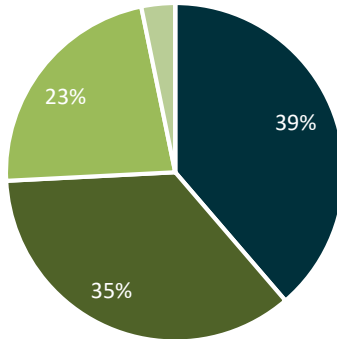


Most interesting graphs within Inner Change segment

Survey results

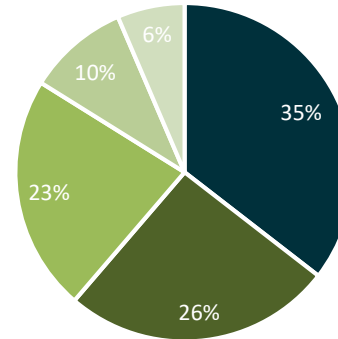


Project has inspired changes in how I believe I can fulfill my purpose.



- Completely Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Completely Disagree

Project has inspired changes in my daily habits and behaviors.



- Completely Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Completely Disagree



Natural Building and Social Challenges

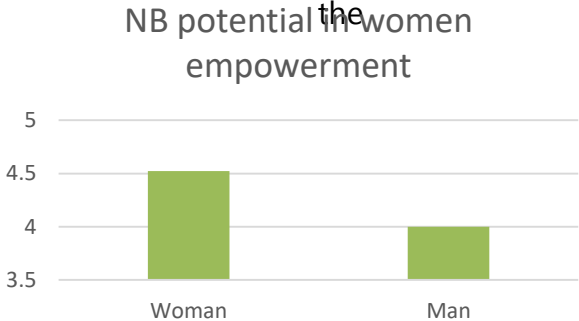




Natural Building and Social Challenges

Observations

- Inclusiveness was rated with 4.7 grade. The venues are not suited for disabled. Venues should be in the cities VS Being inclusive doesn't mean you must include everyone. Transportation tickets could be bought by sending organizations and not participants.
- There was no perceived advantage or disadvantage in participating in project activities related to gender. But there is a realization that we should build on strengths of specific gender and acknowledge the difference.
- 4.9 was the average grade of project activities being a great environment for forming new friendships and connecting to others.
- Lowest graded was the ability of project to help overcome prejudice. (4.1)
- There is a bigger difference in how man and women saw the potential of NB in the empowerment of women



Participants quotes



”

While we work together, we connect deeper.

Women body are different and need to be aware of difference. Men are oriented in result and women in details and way how to do it.

Women feel more safe with women workers so painter companies educate more women.

Earthen plasters, tadelakt, artistic techniques, rather the heavy building for women.

I believe a strong network of people was created through this project, and that is what will help with facing the challenges. Having connections that can support each other.

“



Final Evaluation event conclusions



Challenges and crisis need new approach and new tools of education

There is a significant difference in approaching NB as a tool for social change versus approaching it as a craft

Informal events and time in between sessions matters and impacts highly social component of project activities

Peace building happens even though we don't stress it.



Questions to explore

How can we ensure people who take part in activities are the "right" people to affect?

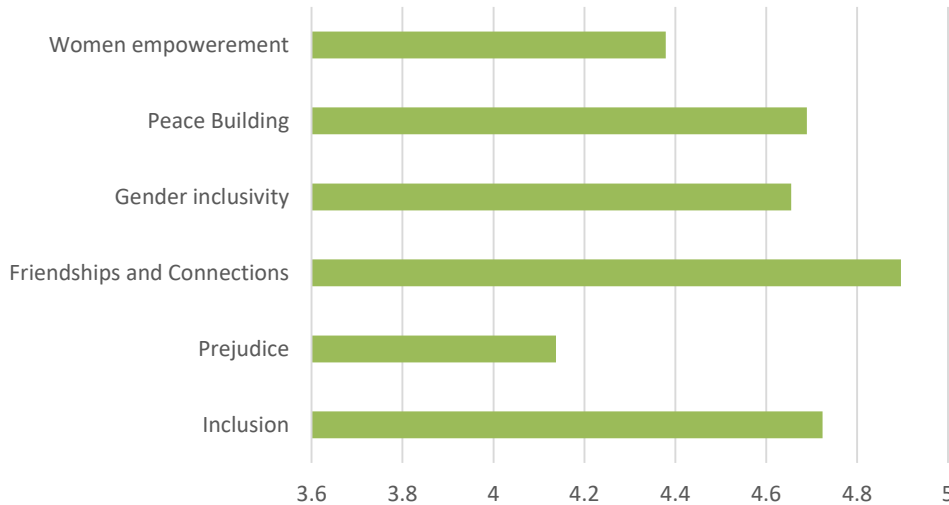


Most interesting graphs within Social Challenges segment

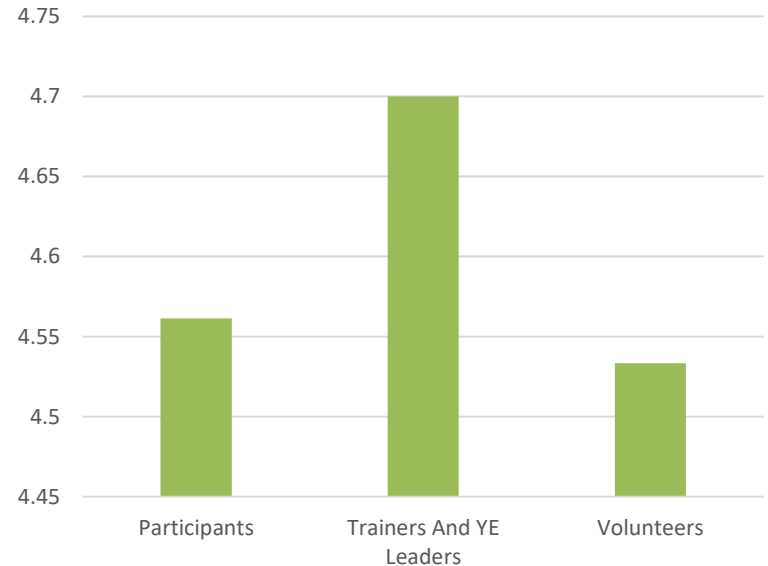
Survey results



Overall grading



Average grading per role



Natural Building and Environmental Challenges



Natural Building and Environmental Challenges

Observations



- Project Activities inspired "green" lifestyle choices of its participants
- The lowest rated was the enablement question of whether project activities enabled participants to facilitate environment protection activities. With a still high grade of 4.2.
- Trainers express highest belief (5) that natural building provides us tools to tackle the climate change, comparing to other roles (4.6)
- There is again an interesting difference between men and women in understanding of environmental challenges and inspiration for personal change and action
- Volunteers graded significantly lower the question about being inspired to to think about what they can do to address climate change problems



Participants quotes



”

I now understand that there are ways in which people can live that will help them save money that is also good for the environment

I have become much more conscientious in my daily activities, being mindful of their impact on the environment. I am careful about my water usage, reduce single-use plastic consumption, and actively recycle.

I've become more conscious of sustainable construction practices and have started incorporating eco-friendly materials into my DIY home projects

Changes we are facing are so huge that I don't see a green exit at the moment

During the project i saw, that there are really simple things and ideas that everybody can do and this encouraged me as well to try new small projects.

“



Final Evaluation event conclusions



Natural Building has ability to empower young people to take action and affect the climate change with their actions

We need more focus on the process and less on the result

Environmental challenges are pandora's box, making people often lose hope

We need new tools for small actions in direction of environmental challenges



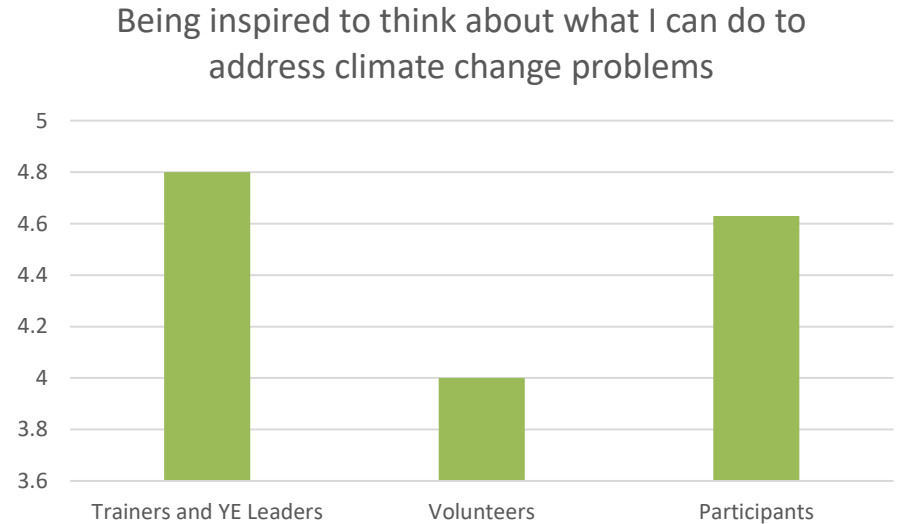
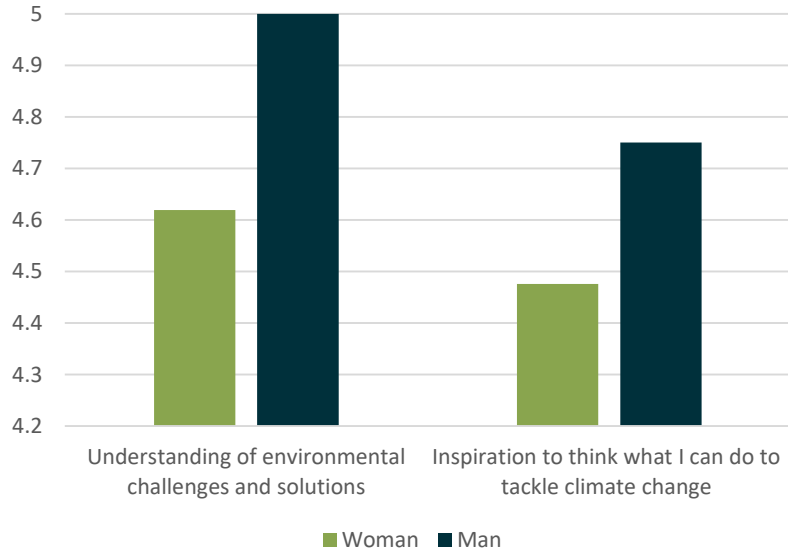
Questions to explore

How can we measure positive environmental impact of project activities?



Most interesting graphs within Social Challenges segment

Survey results



Natural Building and Economic Challenges

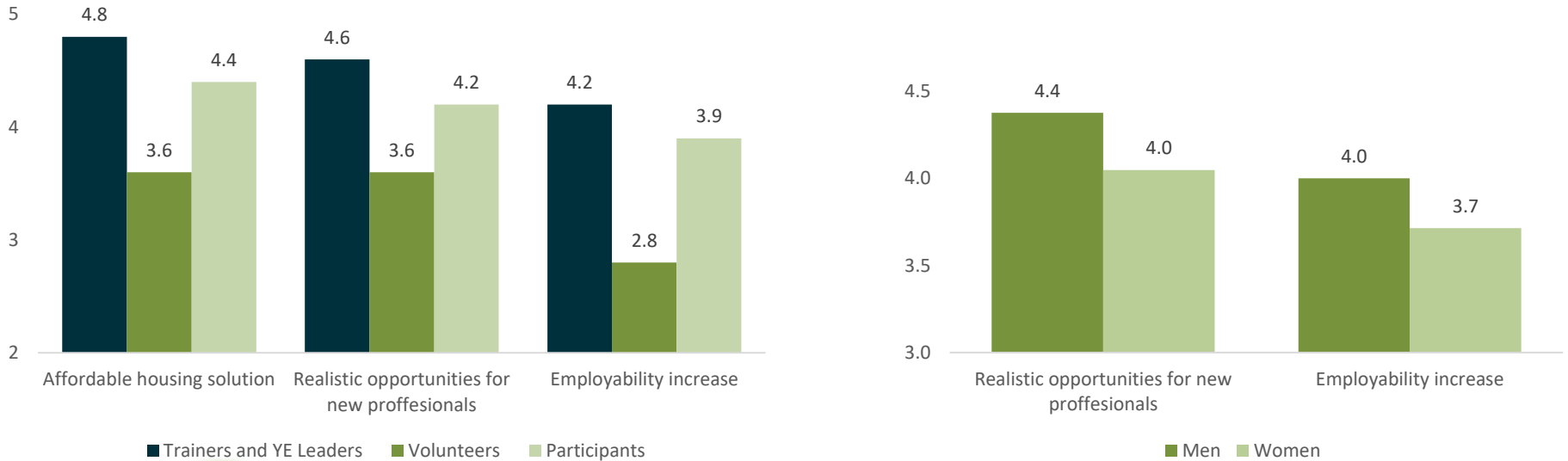


Natural Building and Economic Challenges



Observations

- Big difference in the perception of participants with different roles regarding potential and economic enablement of natural building and project activities
- There is a difference in the grading of questions from this segment between men and women.



Participants quotes on NB affordability



”

In future would be cheaper, if it would be commercialized and factories would make it (earthen plasters, adobe manufacturing. Mass production and usage of basic tools (earth spray) could speed up the process.

Affordability depends on techniques. But due to labor intensity and cost, it does not provide the difference. It could maybe be the same. If somebody else is doing it is pretty much the same. If you are creative with finding material it could be less.

It would be doable to insulate many homes for fraction of the price. Solution for countryside.

Government subventions for renovations and usage of natural materials would make a big difference.

There is a space for an unqualified work force to lower the cost of builds. There is a lack of professional builders.

“



Final Evaluation event conclusions



”

Project activities even affect the selection of volunteers studies

Vocational educations such as EKVET is a good starting point for those inspired to continue further

There is a need for natural building specializations.

Questions to explore

“

How can we connect NB and formal education?



Local Community Impact

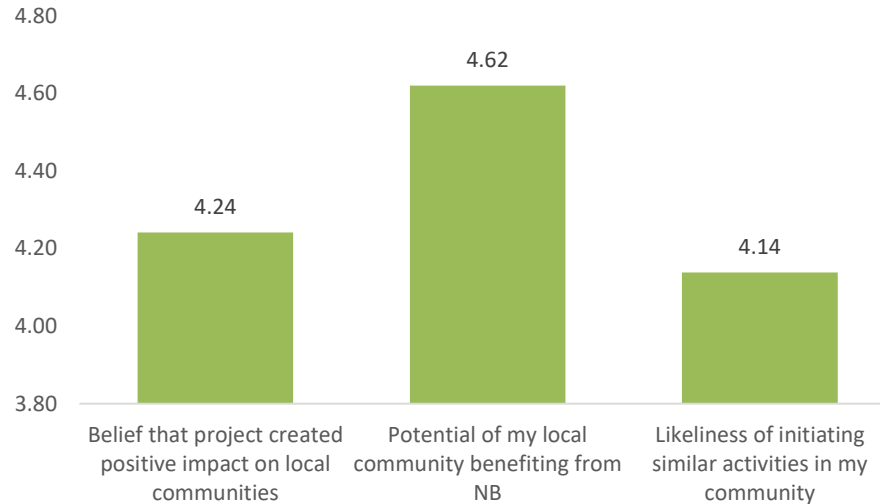


Local Community Impact



Observations

- Participants believe that there is a potential benefit for their local communities.



Participants quotes



Local people were joining us in the training and this filled my heart with hope and happiness.

I think already the recognition of Gaia Kosovo at the border is a huge impact. And on the neighbours who are not that judgy to foreigners anymore is important. I truly believe that the idea of the all inclusive local society can lead to even bigger political actions.

It is hard to speak about local community on such a big scale. I think that the project had strong impact of individuals that were part of it.

I still do not see a green light to implement concrete actions in my actual local community, so, until now it is more about me as personal growth and finding people that did things that I wanted always as my lifestyle.

The project had a positive impact. But they probably still don't completely understand the aim of the project.



Capacity building of partnering organizations





Participants quotes

How did the project enhanced the capacities of organizations?



By teaching me the tools to organize the activities better, thus engaging the community more. This knowledge has improved my project management and positioned me for future growth. I also plan to host similar projects on my property to further enhance our capacity and community impact.

created a network and increased our experience.

At first my capacity was improved: as a trainer, as a group leader, working on some other parts of the project. As an organisation i believe that it gave deeper understanding of the power of natural building as a social tool, stronger network around the topic of natural building, and better overview of what capacity building projects can offer

I was talking about the experience of the training course to the Krater collective and tried to communicate how we can implement the educational methods to our pedagogical department.

Maybe even to start an Erasmus + programs in the future.

Being from GAIA, the project was a learning process for the organization and its people as well. People got to be engaged in different parts of project realization, skills were improved, very good cooperation with organizations that do similar things was established/strengthened... Through the project facilities also got improved, so they have even more potential for working with natural building topics in the future.



Final Evaluation event conclusions



Project activities enabled networking and building up the connections for further collaborations
Sharing of experiences between organizations contributed to building up organizations capacities.
Also in a project management realm.
Project activities improved ability of organizations to host similar activities.



Questions to explore

How do we form sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships?



What could have been better?



What could have been done better?



NPS score = 9,8/10



- More practical hands-on on natural building different techniques, or maybe to focus on one and spend some time with it. Less planned activities, but more indepth.
- Better follow up after both of the trainings I have been involved in.
- Social activities could have been more professional, designed in advance, that more attention has been put into that part. Professional facilitators would make the right balance.
- Better promotion of the activities and project. Social networks should have been utilized better. Recording the experiences of the participants while on activities would be good material.
- What didn't work in training courses was to get a real target group, it was a more general profile of participants.



What could have been done better?



Final Evaluation event insights

- We should invest more in follow-up of the participants. Establish a buddy support to check on project participants in some regular timing.
- Less is more!
- Engage with less partners with stronger common interests.
- Consider more “doing by playing” activities
- If there is an economic barrier, organizations should cover the travel costs in advance
- Make social activities more in context of project activities
- Dedicate a coordination team for managing the project



Ideas for future initiative to explore



5 Needs of participants



1

Covering all steps from building process. Focusing on only specific technique, element of building.

More practical experiences

2

Spread project methodologies to the wider group of youth workers that are already in this topics but do not have the tools. Expand to formal insitutions.

Influencing larger number of youth workers

3

Educate proffessionals in smaller groups with longer commitment. Increase the number of experienced trainers for spreading the influence.

Educating proffessionals

4

Regular skill-sharing sessions within the community. Building up the small hub for promoting further NB.

Building up the communities capacity

5

Focusing on the enviromental benefits of natural building.

Environmental focus

Other mentions: Building the team to start the project, Data based decision making



5 Big dreams



1

Natural building is popular, "sexy" choice for people in the region.

„Muddy Festival“ – Natural Building as popular choice

2

We train more organisations/individuals to raise awareness, provide employability for new experts and maximize the growth of the NB movement.

Natural building school

3

We open up the natural building to broad public by commercializing natural building (making it accessible, lowering cost)

Partnership with commercial sector

4

We run a project that covers every stage of building, from the team building, project forming to the building of the natural material structure.

Whole project lifecycle simulation

5

We influence and support governments in making policies to popularize natural building.

Influence legislation



Thank you!



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