

Community as the way forward From the Alps to Andalusia

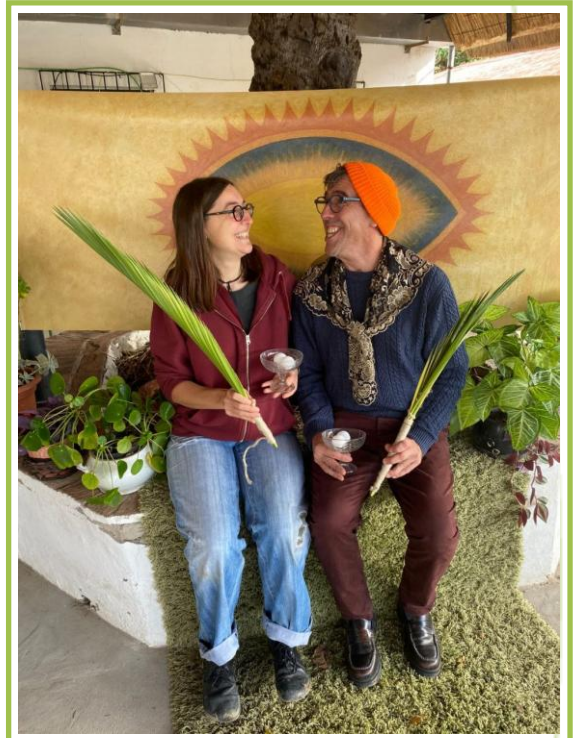
Relationship number: RLT_25

Period of Exchange: From April 2025 – to December 2025 (5 months)

Brief introduction (max. 1000 characters):

Marzia Béthaz, Italian Alps, a past as an artisan baker and an enthusiast of hospitality with a background in anthropology and a willingness to start a business as a cultural mediator. Jorge Gallardo, Andalusia, from theatre as a means of expression to theatre as a means of collective engagement, coordinator of the cooperative Be.Time. They share a dream for a new world, a world which can support life, a world where no one is left behind.

They decided to join forces through the Erasmus For Young Entrepreneurs programme, to explore together what building a regenerative community might mean, in a world where disillusion and individualism are rampant. Brought together by a common sensibility toward creating an imaginary of what's possible for humanity, they collaborated closely with the partner Asociacion Almenara Culturas Regenerativas, based in south-west Andalusia, to explore questions of local identity, belonging and regeneration, imbibing their work with playfulness and vulnerability.



Activities undertaken (max. 1000 characters):

Organising festivals, celebrating Saint Lucy's day with a blindfolded "Saint's run", building a poetic seed library, working as "infiltrates" in a permaculture and sociocracy community, or spending days taking care of dull admin necessary to organise exciting projects... These are all ways through which Jorge Gallardo and Marzia Béthaz collaborated to build community and bring people to reflect on the themes of identity, the role of humans in the ecosystem, the possibility of a future for our planet, the meaning of the concept of "regeneration".

Supporting closely a local partner to manage their community was among the most humanly rich and heartening projects they collaborated on. Contributing to kickstarting the work on the Horizon Europe project "EMCCINNO", on sustainability in the cultural and creative industries, was the most farsighted effort they shared.

Benefits achieved (max. 1000 characters):

Our deepest learnings come from dialogue – dialogue between the two of us, dialogue with our partners, dialogue with those whom we wish we could engage better. Through the exchange made possible by Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, we both learned something about what *community* means, about ourselves in community, and eventually, about what it means to be human. The philosophical questioning we shared was intrinsically relational, as intrinsically relational was our work.

Deep thoughts, feelings and conversations were made possible by a light and playful work mindset. They were also nourished by the development of practical, tangible skills, such as writing a successful project proposal, building databases, facilitating community processes or even making fertile compost.

The connection built between Marzia and Jorge during the exchange was fruitful, fun and deep. They shared their efforts harmoniously and they wish to continue this collaboration even beyond the terms set by the programme.

New Entrepreneur:

Name & surname: Marzia Béthaz

Country: Italy

Age: 32

Status: *Would-be entrepreneur/Start-up*

Sector: Community mediation

Name of business: --

Website:--

Host Entrepreneur:

Name & surname: Jorge Gallardo

Country: Spain

Age: 46

Experience (years): 9

Sector: Cultural and community mediation

Name of business: *Be.Time*

Website: <https://www.parpado.net/>

Quotation regarding the experience:

NE (max. 300 characters): “An experience which made me grow professionally and personally, full of insights, learnings and fun! I would recommend it to any person wishing to start a their own business”

Marzia Béthaz, New Entrepreneur

HE (max. 300 characters): “Having *Marzia* on the team has been very rewarding. On the one hand, she quickly assimilated the type of information required for her tasks, becoming just another member of the team. On the other hand, her attention to detail meant that she often exceeded our expectations.” **Jorge Gallardo, Host**

For further information about the exchange:

- NIO/HIO, ____, ____: ____
- HIO/NIO, Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias, eye@itccanarias.org

For information on the programme and details on how to enroll visit:

www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu