

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS HUB Report 2024

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the European Union

Introduction

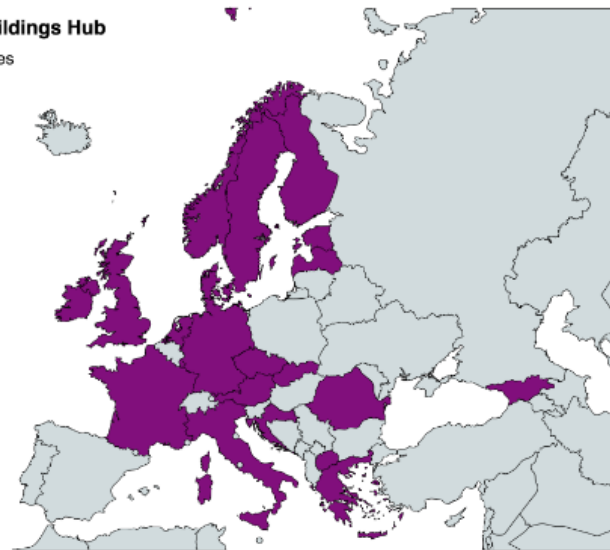
Through a series of workshops, presentations, and brainstorming sessions, the Hub has explored practical solutions to pressing challenges such as gentrification, resource scarcity, and the need for ecological responsibility in the cultural sector.

From **Collective Ownership workshop** at the TEH Conference in Tartu to the exploration of renewable energy in the **Solar Panel Cooker session**, this report highlights tips, inspiring case studies, and collaborative visions for a more equitable and sustainable future for cultural spaces across Europe and beyond. It also discusses the importance of solidarity, innovation, and policy advocacy in addressing financial, legal, and ecological challenges faced by the sector.

Name of the Organisation	Country
Asociația Casa Plaj	Romania
Pagan	Croatia
Manifatture Knos	Italy
Orrmstonhouse	Ireland
Vilaga Underground	UK (NON-EU)
GEHB	Germany
Antena	Slovakia
Kulturfabrik	Luxemburg
Mains d'œuvres	France
BASIS Vinschgau Venosta	Italy
Truc spherique	Slovakia
Wijngaarde & partners bv	Netherlands
mains d'œuvres	France
Le 8b	France
Kulturhauptstadt St. Pölten	Austria
Zo centro culture contemporanea	Italy
Institut for (x)	Denmark
IFÖ CENTER	Sweden
C.A.R.M.E.	Italy
Subtopia	Sweden
Tou scene	Norway (NON-EU)
Not quite	Sweden
Kaapelitehdas	Finland
HIT - Timis County Youth Foundation	Romania
RX in art - Inart	Greece
Fabriká Ibilisi	Georgia
Hraniciř	Czech Republic
Studio Alta	Czech Republic
Die Bäckerei – Kulturbackstube	Austria
WUK Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus	Austria
Fort	France
Kanopes Kulturas Centrs	Latvia
Collectif MU	France
MTÜ Aparadiitehas	Estonia

TEH Sustainable Buildings Hub

■ Hub members countries



HUBS ACTIVITIES IN 2024

1. SubHub Workshop at TEH Conference 97 – Tartu, Estonia (May 2024)

The workshop, titled *Collective Ownership*, was an important moment for the SubHub in 2024. It explored the concept of collective ownership as a sustainable solution for cultural spaces facing financial, legal, and social challenges. The session outlined strategies for

transforming cultural spaces into community commons, prioritizing inclusivity and resilience over market-driven real estate models. Key themes included financial sustainability, resistance to gentrification, and community empowerment.

Actionable insights included legal mechanisms such as long-term leases, financial models like citizen investment and solidarity funds, and governance frameworks that promote shared decision-making.

The workshop also presented inspiring case studies, including Germany's Mietshäuser Syndikat and France's Terre de Liens, which serve as successful examples of how collective ownership can secure the long-term viability of cultural spaces.



1. Legal and Structural Innovations:

- a. Mapping national options for cooperative ownership and adapting these to European contexts.
- b. Exploring the creation of a European Cooperative or Land Trust specifically for cultural commons.

- c. Examining legal mechanisms like long-term leases, which can convert temporary spaces into sustainable cultural centers.
- 2. Financial Mechanisms:**
 - a. Citizen investment models where communities raise funds for cultural spaces, supplemented by public financial support.
 - b. Solidarity funds and ethical financing options that redistribute profits to sustain projects.
 - c. Participatory budgeting processes to engage communities in funding decisions.
 - d. Specific examples include Germany's *Stiftung Trias*, which separates land ownership from buildings, and France's *Terre de Liens*, a land trust that supports sustainable agriculture through collective savings.
- 3. Governance Models:**
 - a. Developing frameworks that go beyond ownership, fostering participation and a sense of belonging for non-shareholders.
 - b. Creating structures that emphasize shared decision-making and long-term sustainability.
- 4. Integration with Urban Planning:**
 - a. Advocating for urban policies that reserve spaces for cultural activities within city development projects.
 - b. Encouraging municipalities to include cultural commons as part of their planning mandates.

Case Studies from Europe

The presentation highlights successful examples of collective ownership and cultural commons, including:

- **Mietshäuser Syndikat (Germany):** A grassroots network that permanently removes housing projects from the real estate market. It emphasizes solidarity and self-management, ensuring that members reinvest surplus funds to support new projects.
- **Stiftung Trias (Germany):** This organization buys land and separates its ownership from buildings, creating a mutual fund that supports similar initiatives across Germany.

- **Terre de Liens (France):** A community land trust supporting sustainable agriculture by acquiring farms through collective savings. It integrates ethical investment practices with property management.
- **L'Asilo Filangieri (Italy):** A cultural commons in Naples that emerged from civic occupation. It created a legal framework to establish self-management rights for communities.
- **Dynamo Coop (Belgium):** A cooperative model supporting the grouped purchase of infrastructure and equipment for cultural creators, emphasizing accessibility and mutual support.

Proposed Recommendations and Future Directions

1. Advocacy and Policy Development:

- a. Engage with public policymakers and European institutions to establish supportive frameworks for cultural commons.
- b. Advocate for tools like a European Investment Fund for cultural properties and solidarity-based financing mechanisms.

2. Knowledge Sharing and Networking:

- a. Build partnerships across Europe to share successful models and experiences.
- b. Create platforms for cultural centers to access legal, financial, and governance expertise.

3. Sustainability and Innovation:

- a. Incorporate ecological considerations into the development of cultural spaces.
- b. Develop tools such as energy funds or participatory budgeting as financial levers.

4. Resource Creation:

- a. Publish guides and toolkits, such as the upcoming *La Main Cultural Land Trust Manual* (June 2024), to help organizations navigate collective ownership processes.

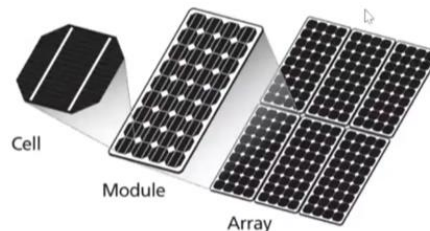
2. Solar Panel Cooker Presentation (February 7, 2024)

The TEH Subhub meeting on February 7, 2024, focused on advancing solar energy initiatives for sustainable buildings, led by Juan, a technical engineer with expertise in

renewable energy. Juan provided an accessible introduction to solar energy concepts, detailing practical considerations such as panel orientation, roof type, and energy storage. He showcased a case study of a 75.75 kW peak solar installation at a former school, generating 70 MWh annually and €7,000 in revenue, while addressing challenges in historical urban areas. The session introduced tools like SolarEdge Designer for project simulations and discussed innovative solutions, including portable solar kits from Solar Co-Op. A collaborative project proposal, Common Grounds, was also presented, aiming to link cultural centers in Torino with the Sustainable Buildings Hub for problem-solving and best practice sharing. The meeting concluded with actionable steps for data collection, project simulation, and planning future initiatives, emphasizing community-driven approaches to renewable energy deployment.

Solar Energy : Photovoltaics

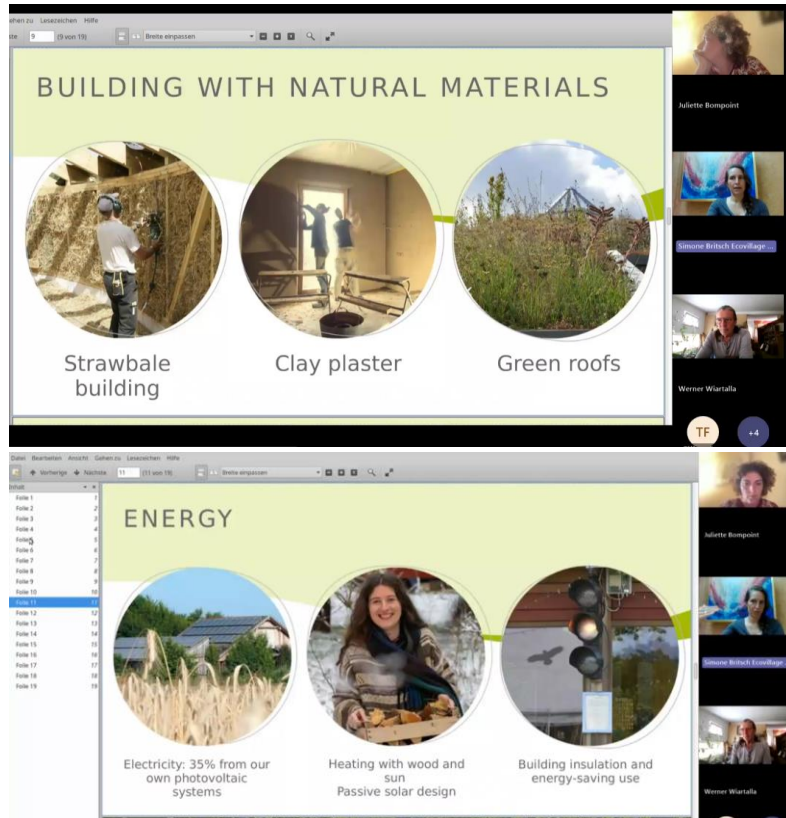
- When hit by light, they work like a battery !
- They produce **Power** which can be used to run appliances.
- The **Power** of a solar module is measured in **Watt peak (Wp)**.
 - E.g. A solar module of **300 Wp** produces **300 W** at "ideal conditions" (1000 W/m², 25°C).
- A few years ago, a typical module for a residential project would be around **300 Wp**.
- Today, **400 Wp** are common in the market.



3. Eco-Village Presentation (July 26, 2024)

The TEH Subhub meeting on July 26 2024 introduced the **Gen Europe network**, highlighting the ecovillage of Stephanslinten in northern Germany as a model for sustainable living. With 150 residents managing 100 hectares of land, the village embodies low-impact practices such as straw bale construction, green roofs, and a closed-loop biogas system, achieving an ecological footprint 70% lower than the German average. Annalisa presented a related project in Turin, funded by the European Cultural Foundation, which engages

cultural centers in ecological management. Discussions explored shared tools, modular building research, and peer-to-peer learning. The meeting concluded with plans for future collaboration, including a focus on Thessaloniki in October and actionable steps to advance joint projects and knowledge-sharing initiatives.



4. Thessaloniki Meeting and Brainstorming Session (11 October 2024)

This onsite meeting brought together SubHub members for an interactive brainstorming session on the Driving Urban Transition (DUT2024) programme. A key focus was the *RECOUP Project* (Re-imagining Eco-creative Opportunities in Urban Planning), with ideas mapped out on a Miro Board. Participants also engaged in discussions on integrating cultural commons into urban development strategies.





wapcard



> TEH Camp Meeting 98 'Argatia'
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Let's Find Synergies with Eco-villagers! :

Only 12 seats left

Friday, October 11, 2024 10:30 AM to 12:00

PM · 1 hr. 30 min. (Europe/Athens)

[View time conflict](#)

Main Hall - Beach Venues

Presentation

Key Initiatives and Campaigns

The SubHub launched and supported several impactful initiatives in 2024:

- **Workshop on Collective Ownership:** Highlighted practical steps and tools for transitioning cultural spaces into community commons, addressing critical challenges such as gentrification and legal barriers.
- Rebuilding to Last project was initiated within the Sub-hub and implemented by some of the members of this Hub. ([RTL](#)) [Rebuilding to Last - Trans Europe Halles](#) Architecture and urban design interventions, workshops, e-learning sessions and the RTL final book were some of the activities of the project that engaged SUB- HUB members continuously during the 2024 .
- **Driving Urban Transition Pre-Proposal:** A collaborative effort to envision eco-creative urban planning models, involving partnerships with the Swedish research institute Rise and SubHub members.

Meeting Details

Overview of Meetings

1. **February 7, 2024:** Solar Panel Cooker Presentation (Online)
2. **May 2024:** TEH Conference 97 Workshop on Collective Ownership (Onsite)
3. **July 26, 2024:** Echo-Village Presentation (Online)
4. **October 2024:** Thessaloniki Meeting and Brainstorming Session (Onsite)
5. **October 2024:** Let's find synergy with eco-villagers

Participants

- **Total Members:** 41
- **New Members joined in October 2024:**
 - Bloom in Milan, Italy
 - Consorzio Wunderkammer, Italy
 - Salaam Cinema in Baku, Azerbaijan
 - 7arte in Mitrovica, Kosovo
 - Vzdělávací a Kulturní Centrum Broumov, Czech Republic
 - Soho in Ottakring
 - La Foresta, Turin, Italy

- **Coordinators:**
 - **New COCEs:**
 - Leonardo Delmonte (*Consorzio Wunderkammer*)
 - Hugo Thers (*Oltre*)
 - **Outgoing COCE:** Boris Melus (*Nova Cvernovka*)

Fundraising Efforts of the HUB

Fundraising activities in 2024 were intertwined with the SubHub's advocacy for sustainable cultural spaces. **During the *Collective Ownership workshop***, discussions centered on financial models such as citizen investment, participatory budgeting, and ethical financing. These approaches aim to empower communities to take ownership of cultural spaces while ensuring long-term financial viability.

The *Common Grounds* project also identified opportunities for collaborative funding to advance solar energy initiatives in cultural hubs, with a focus on sustainability and community engagement.

Driving Urban Transition Pre-Proposal: A collaborative effort to envision eco-creative urban planning models, involving partnerships with the Swedish research institute Rise and SubHub members.