



"HANDS FOR HOMES" NETWORK CHARTER



Preamble

This charter formalizes an international network of stakeholders. Its purpose is to improve the living conditions of persons who suffer from poor housing; keeping in mind a great awareness of heritage, architectural and ecological qualities of existing buildings.

We aim at providing the opportunity for occupiers to undertake rehabilitation while respecting the quality of works and the inhabitants' financial resources. The network proposes solutions based on workforce costs reduction thanks to the occupiers' and volunteers' involvement, mutual help and solidarity in the form of Shared and Accompanied Self-Rehabilitation (SASR).

Being aware that

- many inhabitants suffer from poor housing conditions and don't have financial means for a way out,
- energy poverty combat and hygrothermal improvement of buildings are particular critical issues: we thus contribute to the fight against climate change,
- solidarity and mutual help can be a lever to address precariousness in housing, notably through workforce costs fall,
- vernacular buildings ecorehabilitation is key to the conservation of cultural and architectural heritage, landscape and territorial identity,
- vernacular buildings ecorehabilitation require expertise, skills and technical competencies.

And favourable to

- the use of less- or unprocessed, natural and local materials and appropriate techniques that contribute to provide relevant responses to low-income inhabitants. We search for adapted and efficient solutions, while fostering local sector and economic development of the territories,
- the development of responsible production and consumption modes. We thus enable biodiversity and resources conservation by using techniques and materials as mentioned above and also by recycling,
- the development of social cohesion and solidarity between territories and generations. We target the fulfillment of all by the creation of social ties. In the prospects of social and professional inclusion we favour social, cultural and generational diversity through participatory ecobuilding sites,

Signatories commit themselves to:

- Mainly accompany persons in poor housing conditions,
- Promote mutual help and solidarity through Shared and Accompanied Self-Rehabilitation (SASR),
- Favour the use and development of low impact natural and local materials, with appropriate know-how, compatible with vernacular buildings and beneficiaries' resources,
- Promote Shared and Accompanied Self-Rehabilitation (SASR) with public and private institutions.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT ?



Accompany people in poor housing conditions

Occupants who have difficulties in apprehending their dwelling, as well as understanding technical and administrative issues need to be supported in order to find solutions adapted to their situations. This aid consists in social and technical support of beneficiaries prior to the building site organization. The objective is to search innovative solutions with the lowest monetary and environmental costs.

Beneficiaries of participatory building sites are mainly occupants in poor housing conditions. That is to say persons showing a certain instability or vulnerability (resources, employment, family, handicap, etc) and whose dwelling needs interventions in order to improve comfort (thermal, hygrometric, etc), and offer decency and salubrity.

Promote Shared and Accompanied Self-Rehabilitation (SASR)

The network promotes SASR which requires the participation of the occupant and/or of the owner to the rehabilitation (Self), with the help of volunteers (Shared) and accompanied by a professional (Accompanied). The occupant participation in the work encourages him to understand his accommodation. Volunteers take part in building sites with no wage, thus decreasing workforce cost. Everyone can volunteer, without discrimination due to gender, age, culture, resources or competencies, thus fostering social diversity. The building professional on site accompanies volunteers and beneficiaries in learning technical gestures and skills by transferring her/his knowledge and techniques. Besides it can lead to job creation perspectives and meet the identified local employment market needs.

Apply principle of reciprocity

Wherever possible, occupants renovate their houses with the help of neighbours. In return the latter will benefit from the help of those who they have helped for the rehabilitation of their homes. Thus beneficiaries get involved in a mutually beneficial system. Their involvement for the rehabilitation of their own house is expected for the rehabilitation of other beneficiaries' house in a reciprocation process. This system may take the form of a local time-swap exchange.



Use local and natural materials

These materials are unprocessed or less-processed and as much as possible available locally, such as earth, stone, sand, wood, flax fibre, hemp, straw, agricultural waste, etc. They comply with heritage building rehabilitation and offer consistent enhancement solutions, without degrading old buildings quality. They require specific knowledge and skills. They contribute to local development for example through supply chain development. Moreover they contribute to circular economy development in recycling waste from agricultural or industrial origin.

Name and first name of the signatory

Function and organization (possibly)

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Signature (possibly stamp)



Erasmus+

