

Mobility, Sustainability and Community Engagement within the VAST-VIEW Framework

Introduction

Between 2010 and 2013 eight European and one African partner worked on an ambitious project entitled 'Green Village'. The EU-supported 'Leonardo da Vinci – Development of Innovation' project dealt with these subject areas in a rural context.....

- Rural Food
- Rural Energy
- Sustainable Building
- Wood Products

In a more complex and over-arching way Green Village, also focused on....

- Our Sustainable Ancestors
- Empowering Communities
- Access to Rural Research

One concrete outcome of the project was a training course entitled 'Sustainable Rural development – Focus on Culture and Nature' – consisting of six units of 'hands-on' training that could theoretically be delivered in eight weeks. As a partnership, we were careful to ensure that each of the Green Village European states (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom) could deliver all six units and it became necessary to develop a number of unit variants to achieve this; for example 'Rural Energy' in Iceland focused on geothermal power but in Cyprus on solar power.

Early on in the project, we began to focus more firmly on what rural sustainability actually meant. Environmental sustainability is quite easy to understand - we can think in terms of biodiversity and rarity of species, activities that have a low carbon life-cycle or stimulating activities that store up carbon, like tree planting. Often environmental sustainability is in conflict with economic sustainability..... in order to earn a decent amount of money a farmer must mechanise and have a hundred cows not one or two; fields must be bigger and bits of forest are just in the way and don't generate income. Despite these facts of modern life we need to promote the idea that rich biodiversity and the opportunity for tourists to witness it, can also generate money and jobs. We all agreed that economic sustainability in the countryside was important and that the trick is to gain it without sacrificing environmental sustainability.

We continued our work but soon realised that economy and environment were not the only considerations for rural sustainability; we had also to consider social sustainability. How sustainable is a village when all the young people have moved to the city? When neighbours no longer meet each other or the church congregation fades away and the school closes? Certainly a good economy is necessary to keep young people in the village, also for many, the quality of the environment is important. So, we begin to see that environment, economy and social factors are all linked together in any plan for a sustainable rural future.

Our final consideration was cultural sustainability; people do not simply need to exist and survive.... the majority want to create, explore through education, dance, play music, act, sing, dress-up, write, etc. A whole sector of economy has emerged, especially in the last fifty years, it is the 'cultural and creative industries'. Culture is not a dead thing, rooted in the past but should grow through intergenerational learning and the passage of skills and knowledge but also young people adding their own culture into the whole. In this respect skateboarding, Ipod culture, Hip-Hop, Gothic clothing, etc., etc., are all as important as the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. To be culturally sustainable a village should have measurable cultural assets that continue to grow, develop and be enjoyed.

By the time Green Village was half-way through we had definitely recognised the four pillars of rural sustainability – environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability. The difficulty was in finding examples where all four were

present. In Romania, we saw startling biodiversity but great financial depredation and yet strong social bonds and wonderful culture, still enjoyed by all ages within the village. In that same country, they gallop towards 'westernisation' and are in danger of sacrificing environmental, social and cultural sustainability on the altar of economy, as some may say we have done in the west?

We carried out some simple measuring of sustainability; each partner enlisted local people to give a subjective score of 1 to 10 for each of environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability for their village. The results were interesting. Of course the maximum score of 40, would be Utopia or paradise in terms of sustainability – we came no nearer than 25. In all cases and countries there seemed to be a trade-off between the four pillars of rural sustainability.

Green Village mobilised more than 300 individuals. By that we mean that villagers, students, teachers, managers... all travelled between the countries to undertake interactive training and development activities within any of those seven areas (rural food, rural energy, sustainable building, wood products, our sustainable ancestors, empowering communities and access to rural research). We saw first-hand the importance of mobility in understanding and transferring ideas about all four pillars of rural sustainability

I'm always telling people about the legacy of Green Village. This includes many new network partners and many new projects as well as jobs and significant career development.

Birth of VAST-VIEW

Regarding new projects, there are many but 'Viking Age Skills Training – Venues, Infrastructure, Environment and Work' (VAST-VIEW) is the one I talk about now.

Four of the Green Village partners, NAVE from Iceland, Grampus from the UK, Bildungshaus Heideiland from Germany and Satul Verde Association from Romania stayed together and formed the backbone of the VAST VIEW partnership. These four partners were joined by e-learning and training/ education experts and by those practical companies in the UK and Iceland who had acted as contractors in Green Village.

We chose the Viking Age for some very specific reasons; Norse people in the early medieval period were very sustainable – not because of any developed 'Green' consciousness but because...

- They used what they had to hand – for example, building with stone, wood, clay, turf... whatever was locally available
- They were not insular but seemed very open to new ideas, technologies and designs. There are many examples of 'hybrid' buildings that archaeologists have identified – with Norse, Celtic, Saxon features all incorporated.
- They copied things – no problem here... why re-invent the wheel? We know that Eastern clothing and fashion had a great impact of costume and adornment in Viking society.
- They were (vocationally) skilled in metal and wood working, building, boat-building, farming, trading, etc.
- We believe they were very cultured, enjoying song, dance, drama, the spoken word, literature (later) – the Icelandic sagas are one of the world's most important cultural offerings.

In short the Viking people had important lifestyle attributes that are represented in all four pillars of rural sustainability that Green Village identified.

The VAST-VIEW partnership was created.... Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Romania and the United Kingdom. You may ask, 'why Romania? – the Vikings are not majorly recorded as settling or even visiting there?' The answer is simple, in Romania we can see the only functioning medieval cultural landscape left in the European Union, with oxen still ploughing, horses extracting timber, leaf hay being cut for winter cattle food, village scale blacksmithing, etc. All these things we believe the Vikings did but those countries settled by the Norse have now completely lost them except for some museum examples.

VAST-VIEW is an EU-supported ‘Transfer of Innovation’ project that aims to build on the legacy of Green Village. To do this successfully we brought to the table two other successful former projects – the LdV Pilot Project ‘Unlocking Hidden Heritage’ – chosen for its success in community engagement and interactive exploration of the past and ‘Sheep Skills’ which produced very successful training material and engaged very fully with farming communities.

Our prime objective in VAST-VIEW was to put culture to work and expand and further develop Green Village ideas of rural sustainability and vocational training to achieve it. We chose the Viking Age as a representative period of great hands-on skills development and we wanted to keep our feet firmly on the ground by achieving.....

VENUES – places for people to create, re-enact, train and develop their own cultural and creative rural economy.

INFRASTRUCTURE – of course the venues are included here but also the infrastructure of networks that swap, exchange and transfer skills and knowledge, including e-learning possibilities, blended learning, etc.

ENVIRONMENT – we were determined to maintain our green credentials, to use local materials, low carbon solutions, hand work and show people that good environment equals good business.

WORK – we were also very keen to show that the cultural and creative industries were no longer consisting of dusty old museums that constantly lost money but could also lead into proper and lasting jobs to keep people in the countryside.

Our thinking in terms of the direction of the TOI is shown below – with the existing unit variants and possible new ones. It was not feasible to complete all these but select a range across the different Green Village units.

UNIT	EXISTING VARIANTS	POSSIBLE NEW VARIANTS
RURAL FOOD	Village Food Utilising Wild Food Food From Landscape	Historical Food Slow Food Leaf-Hay Production
RURAL ENERGY	Hydroelectric & Geothermal Power Heating & Cooking With Wood Understanding Solar Power	Viking Age Iron Smelting
SUSTAINABLE BUILDING	Adobe Brick Making Traditional Lime Burning Reconstructing Built Heritage	Repairing Heritage Buildings with Local Materials Traditional Paints for Heritage Buildings
WOOD PRODUCTS	Fencing Without Wire Mobile Chainsaw Milling Village Charcoal Wood Tar Production	Historically-Themed Wood Carving Transfer of Fencing Without Wire Transfer of Tar Production
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES	Village Fashion Show/Photoshoot Village Forum Exploring Village Textiles Historical Re-enactment	Re-Telling History – Story-telling for Community Engagement & Empowerment
OUR SUSTAINABLE ANCESTORS	Community Archaeological Survey Community Archaeological Excavation Applying Ancient Skills	Under ‘Applying Ancient Skills’, we can consider.... Blacksmithing / Forging Glass Bead Manufacture Medieval Village Shoe Making

We have achieved a great deal in VAST-VIEW and we have stuck to our principles of rural sustainability – all four corners of it. We have also carried on our idea of maximising mobility despite a need to initially reduce traveling due to budget constraints but we have found funds from elsewhere to mobilise.

Maintaining Sustainability.

GERMANY

Our first action in Germany was a slow start because we had not yet brought in new funds to maintain high levels of mobility and the weather was poor. We have made up for this through later mobilisation. The activity in Germany has been to restore a Saxon-age Germanic longhouse over a two-year period and use the venue for cultural education.

Skills explored have been....

- Wattle weaving for house walls.
- Long straw thatch restoration.
- Mixing and applying clay/loam/manure/lime daubs.
- Excavating, truncating and replacing earthfast timbers.
- Laying a 'pitched' stone floor
- Manufacturing wood tar as a preservative for timber in contact with soil.



Through the assistance of CNR IVALSA – Europe's top heritage timber researchers, we also ran a short 'Introduction to heritage building survey methods'. We achieved this by mobilising Dr. Nicola Macchioni

ROMANIA

Our second action was in Romania in the mountain commune of Rímeţ was carried out in good weather conditions with over 30 people having an active role. This was achieved through boosting mobility funding through application for 'Leonardo da Vinci – VETPRO' projects led from Iceland, UK and Germany. The activity in Romania was to build, using elements from more than one original building and with replacement elements, a traditional steep-pitched, thatched roofed log house.

Skills explored have been....

- Measuring and laying out the house footprint
- Digging foundations and building dry stone supporting walls
- Reconstructing a heritage house.
- Long straw thatching in the unique Romanian 'layered' style.
- Lathing up interior walls ready for clay rendering/plastering.
- Mixing and applying clay render/ plaster.

Participants also helped Satul Verde Association in Romania to visualise and plan the future use of the heritage building as a traditional skills training centre and working museum. This was achieved through a series of visits, arranged in work breaks, to see into people's homes and other examples of the unique steep-pitched thatched buildings of Rímeţ.



United Kingdom

Our third action was in the United Kingdom at Greengill near Gilcrux in West Cumbria. The location is in the heartland of the 'Norse area' and genetic studies by the University of Salford show up to 30% presence of the Norwegian recessive gene in the male population. The climate in West Cumbria is sufficiently wet to make building with stone and turf feasible – further east it becomes drier and the turf infill dies. Moorforge is at Greengill and the action was to build a 'Viking Age' forge for use in training in traditional blacksmithing. Moorforge has a development plan that includes completing further buildings based on 'hogback stone' evidence and archaeological footprints such as Norse farmsteads in Ennerdale

Skills explored have been....

- Measuring and laying out the forge footprint (including a review of Planning consent requirements)
- Digging foundations
- Building with turf and stone (Icelandic style – led by Stokkar og Steinar)
- Roof construction using European larch timber
- Turf roofing.
- Transfer of Romanian training unit 'Fencing Without Wire'
- Transfer of Green Village unit 'Cooking and Heating with Wood – Building an Outdoor Oven'.



In each of these three VAST VIEW constructions, care has been taken to follow a 'sustainability code' that was established in Green Village and considers the four pillars of rural sustainability...

Venue and Infrastructure	Cultural Sustainability	Social Sustainability	Environmental Sustainability	Economic Sustainability
Germanic Longhouse, Authausen, Germany	Based on a local archaeological footprint & keeping traditional skills alive	A meeting venue and used by schools for historical teaching.	All materials locally sourced (oak timbers, leather, reed, loam, willow withies) and no chemical treatments. Workers/trainees in Pressel – 5 km by car	Revenue earning capacity for the Authausen community – requires a marketing plan
Steep-pitched Roof Village House, Rímet Commune, Romania	Unique building style being maintained with traditional skills employed – part of a rich medieval cultural landscape	At the heart of the commune adjacent to shop, pub, ethnographic centre (museum) and church. Good central meeting point	All materials locally sourced (original house timbers, sawn replacement boards, hazel latts, loam, long straw for thatching, stone for footings). Workers trainees based 4 km away by car	Plan to attract paying students & trainees, housing museum collection with entrance fee, venue for paid local trainers to practice & pass on their skills. Retail outlet
Viking-Age Forge, Greengill, West Cumbria, UK	Draws on Norse archaeological and cultural evidence. Brings younger & older people together (intergenerational learning)	A nucleus for people to gather and exchange ideas and socialise	All materials locally sourced (Larch poles turf, rough limestone, sawn boards for doors & platform, willow & alder for fencing, recycled bricks & clay for oven). Workers trainees based 6 km away by car + local 26 bed accommodation next door	Plan to attract paying students & trainees, emerging visitor attraction, manufacturer of heritage metal work for retailing & wholesaling, venue for paid local trainers to practice & pass on their skills.
Viking Forge, Reykir, Iceland				
Essehus, Nymendigab Museum, Denmark	The Essehus is a local building style reflecting the historical fishing community	The location within the museum grounds is ideal for community engagement & family learning	Work was by hand with locally sourced material (sawn wood, thatching reed) with no chemical treatment. Accommodation of the work team was very local & transportation minimal	The museum is at the heart of a community with a tourism economy and visitor numbers are maintained through developing new features and exhibitions. The training days (ceramics, rope making, cooking, textiles) are enhanced through the Essehus

The Value of Mobility

The European Union and especially the Directorate General for Education and Culture has made mobility for teaching and learning a priority. The recognition of the value of mobility by students, teachers, trainers and learners was first expressed in the development of the COMET programme (1981-1986) which piloted staff and student exchanges. This led into the launch of Erasmus in 1987 and then in 1995 non-University learning institutions and private companies were invited to mobilise through 'Leonardo da Vinci'. The 'Life Long Learning Programme' (LLP) came into action two years later. Through all these programmes and international developments in training and education, the value of mobility has been increasingly recognised.

Current thinking draws on the 2009 report of the High Level Expert Forum on Mobility and the report: *Making learning mobility an opportunity for all*. The report recognised an urgent need to strengthen policies to make Europe ready for future competition and to give Europeans opportunities to learn and to develop their capacities. It further states that the European Union should forge a new European generation fully equipped to cope with the new global challenges, with a deepened sense of European identity, openness and cooperation.

That is why learning mobility should become a natural feature of being European and an opportunity provided to all people in Europe. The Expert Forum presented recommendations on how cross border mobility for learning and skills can be made a basic element in the emerging knowledge society and of a more competitive and attractive Europe.

The Green Village partnership (4 of the 8 organisations in VASTVIEW) developed a mobility strategy and that carries through. We all recognise the value of mobility and promote it.

The approval of VAST VIEW required that the budget was cut and the number of mobilities reduced. In our application we had planned for each partner to mobilise up to six persons to each country 'Let's Build Together' actions – this was reduced to two persons in order for the project to proceed.

At the suggestion of the Icelandic National Agency, partners were encouraged to apply for further mobility under another strand of 'Leonardo da Vinci'; the Icelandic, German and UK partners were successful in achieving extra mobility funding for VASTVIEW through this channel.

We can illustrate the value of the mobility within VAST-VIEW by selecting quotes from their written and verbal feedback.

Josette Falcidia

From the UK; after travelling to Romania.....



We worked alongside others from Britain, Iceland, Germany and Romania and people from the local village. This provided unique opportunities for meeting similar minded people from very varied backgrounds, making links that will last long beyond the project lifetime".

"I felt this opportunity would enhance my work in England - gaining skills and experiences that I could bring back to my life here and apply in my work. I was particularly enthused by the resourcefulness of the project - every product used in the construction of the house had been harvested locally from fully sustainable materials. Working in an area of low income and increasing poverty, this resourcefulness is a crucial aspect of daily life and it is inspirational how much can be achieved with so little financial input.

Terry Harvey-Chadwick

From the UK; after traveling to Denmark...



My week in Denmark as part of the Vast View project was a completely new experience for me. Despite being involved in Viking Re-enactment for nearly 25 years I had never been to Denmark or Scandinavia, so when I was given the opportunity by Grampus Heritage (via Dave Watson at Moorforge), I leaped at the chance. I met some very interesting people and learned a lot about modern Denmark. But the best things were two sites we were to be working on. The Nymendigab Museum was wonderful, and the activities going on there were totally absorbing, especially the bead making. It was very good to be able to see the Essehus being constructed. My favourite site, though, was the Bork Viking Harbour. That just blew my mind. Although such places do exist in Britain, they

do not have the attention to detail in the reconstructed longhouses I visited at Bork. Although not a practical person I was roped into helping the construction of a bell tower for the Viking church, and I managed to smooth off the massive logs with a drawknife without seriously injuring myself. I also managed to dig four massive (to me) holes for the belltower to stand in. I just loved the church, especially the fact that they had used authentic pigments, like vermilion and verdigris, to paint it.

I'm a professional historical interpreter in real life, specialising in the Vikings, so I was very grateful to be asked to come on this trip. I did wonder how I would be able to contribute in a meaningful way to such an expert group of craftsmen and Viking experts, but just being in Viking costume most of the time seemed to make everyone very happy. I was very happy to take part in the Viking feast at the end of the visit, and resurrected the old custom of the ranking female (the director of the Bork Viking Museum) serving everyone from the mead horn, and every person contributing a toast or song as the horn went from person to person. I found it very moving.

This was a visit I will always remember. I spent the night in a Viking longhouse, met some wonderful people, and made a couple of new friends. I hope I will be able to take part in a similar project again one day. Thanks very much to Vast View for inviting me, and for everyone in Denmark making me feel very welcome and useful and, finally, for letting me visit the Ribe Viking Museum before flying back home.

Cath Cain

From the UK, after traveling to Romania...

I work in the building trade in the UK and I'm interested in history. It was a chance to work, learn and document about this area of the world. I was involved in most of the tasks included in the building of the house – the task of which I learned the most would be how the Romanian people thatch their roofs compared to in the UK, also that everything on the build is gathered from the near surrounding area.



Philip Exley

From the UK; after traveling to Germany...

Once at the Saxon house we proceeded to debark tree trunks ready for replacing the beams the next day, it was still raining making the tools very blunt and the work difficult; in the afternoon after lunch we returned to Peters house and proceeded, to transport the Hand carved gable end boards to the house, this was done in a very unique labour saving way ! After moving the debarked planks and Gable End boards into the dry of the Saxon House. Peter gave us a talk about the general history of the house, and then took us to see two other projects the Slavic Pit House and the Bake house , we also visited the Landschaft Museum,

and a Floating Water Mill.

Sandra Chittick

From the UK; after traveling to Germany...

We began to oil the gable boards with recycled cooking oil from the hotel kitchen others in our team boys started work on replacing the first of the supporting pillars - very hard and arduous job. Peter replaced a wooden mallet by making a new one. Clay was collected from under the pillar being replaced and put aside ready to prepare for daubing the walls in the afternoon after lunch. All three activities showed how to recycle and re-use – as our ancestors used to.



Cathy Hamill

From the UK; after traveling to Germany...

After the week, the whole house was swept out the wooden furniture replaced. It looked so much better than it did at the start. We all felt that we had worked really hard and the house looked great, we were proud of our efforts. We worked as a team and it was a good feeling.

Lucian Gaita

From Romania; after traveling to Germany

I was keen to learn about the building skills of our ancestors and I had this opportunity both in the Romanian and the German action of the Vast View project. Furthermore, as a woodcarver I had the chance to learn something about the local design while taking part in the German action. I noticed the similarities between the Romanian and German symbols as regards carving. For instance, the wolf head was used both by Vikings and the Dacians when going to war.



Emilia Todea
From Romania; after traveling to Germany

It was my first trip outside Romania and the first time I saw a windmill. I learnt how to make tar and I also did some carving while in Germany. In Rimet I saw how a house is made in the traditional way and I intend to make my own house like the one we build in Rimet, with a thatched roof. We have some land up in the mountains and our plans are to build several houses using traditional techniques & materials. Some people are interested to invest in our project.

Dumitru Ciocan
From Romania; after traveling to Iceland

From Romania; after traveling to Iceland

We worked on a Viking house roof and a Viking forge. We learnt how to build with lava stones & turf. The building technique is amazing- the way each stone lays on top of the other with a layer of turf in between. We met a lot of locals and we saw how the community works together. We also learnt about the old Icelanders' way of life, about the fishing huts, about the way they smoked, preserved fish and used the fish skin.





Linda Ásdísardóttir

From Iceland; after traveling to Romania

The Romania workshop was the best for me as I learn the most, not only about how people lived in the old days and also today. But the amazing chance was that I got to be around people that live in that area, that I would never get a chance to see otherwise. Also I felt like I needed to contribute something that matters for the future.

Jessica Mittler

From Germany; after traveling to Iceland

I am an Architectural Conservator / Building Surveyor specialised in historic building conservation with a passion for vernacular architecture and sustainable building techniques. Having a genuine interest in the subject, I also like to explore other countries and cultures. I have always put an emphasis on the use of traditional building skills and enjoy learning about history. The

programme offered a unique opportunity to gain an in-depth insight of all these elements combined. I was especially interested in the construction of turf roofs, considering their possible use/incorporation in sustainable new developments. I am working on a small extension building in our local community centre, currently designing a structure that can accommodate a turf roof.



James Oldham

From the UK; after traveling to Iceland

Last year I took part in the Vast View project working in Iceland with a group of people from different European countries. We all worked as a group with a common aim of learning and understanding traditional building methods by working together - creating a traditionally built Viking Forge. Although we only had time to complete the foundation and some of the wall structure in the short time we were there. As I already have experience working on a grade 2 listed buildings in Yorkshire UK and have attended courses in dry stone walling, stone carving and other traditional building methods, the experience I found rewarding. I enjoy using the skills I have and adding to my experience with a different method of building work in a different environment. I also enjoyed meeting and working with new people, who had a different outlook, culture and life experience. Learning about Icelandic culture, environment, food and how people live now and historically.

We were also given an insight into a time when people lived sustainably from our countryside and skills developed by using materials from the land and sea. The instructors gave an overview of the full project, showing some of the other project buildings and explained the need to keep the crafts alive. Everyone welcomed me to the project and I had an unforgettable experience.



Steffen König

From Germany; after traveling to Romania

We worked on reconstruction and repair of a traditional Romanian village house, including set up and assembly of a structural timber frame and traditional thatch techniques. Old guys staying in the village were teachers, we were working in a group. For my future work there are possibilities in the use of natural materials and construction. I liked the mountains, the people and the colourfulness of the little church. I really liked to work with the local people.

Páll Gislason

From Iceland; after travelling to Romania



I can apply to my work the way of co-operation between people of different nationalities. I liked very much the way the Romanian people co-operated with each other. Thank you very much – I loved being here.

Pórunn Sigpórsdóttir

From Iceland; after traveling to Romania

I learned some traditional skills and building heritage and to see how people live in a rural part of Romania. Even though many things are different between Romania and Iceland, I can use the ideology of using traditions and the cultural landscape for the future – maybe rebuilding an old fisherman's hut in the National Park where I work. I really liked to experience Romania and see how a traditional building is made. I liked the Romanian landscape and the people – their easy-going culture.

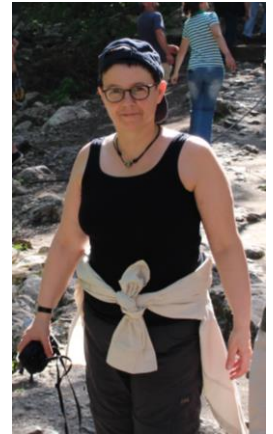


Jón Rafnar
Romania

From Iceland; after traveling to

I was there to take pictures and to make drawings But I also did a lot of digging and labour work and took part in the building of the house. I learned the making of the house and the importance of good communications on the site – also some new and different crafts. For my work I learned about working on site and having better

understanding of dividing tasks and planning. I liked the whole experience – but especially the making of drawings of the house at different stages, making measurements and such.



Ragnhildur Sigurdardottir
Romania.

From Iceland; after traveling to

I was participating in a workshop to build a traditional house with a cultural programme and guided tours to look at buildings, nature and cultural landscape. I have learnt to build a traditional house, how to live in the mountains, how a workshop on sustainable buildings can be, met new friends and colleagues. I liked the idea of building a museum in this traditional way, and the mountains, the people, the houses, the beautiful church, the flowers – to be able to take part in life that I thought had disappeared. I loved this time and will take a part of Romania home in my heart.



John Lloyd Thomas

From the UK; after traveling to Romania

As a builder who specialises in the conservation of traditional buildings, I have developed an understanding of the methods used in this part of Romania and can apply some to my own work. . I liked visiting a remote part of Europe where time seems to stand still, making friends from other countries and from the host country. I liked trying their food and gaining insights into their culture and experiencing the pleasure of a group project and shared goals.

David Watson
Romania.

From the UK; after traveling to

I can apply to my future work the way of group organisation and the sharing of labour; also various building techniques that I can use. I liked working with a team of like-minded individuals with shared skills and interests. Also an insight into new skills that can be transferred to my own work – and of course meeting local people. I would recommend this experience to anyone!

