

Green Bridges in Pandemic Times

Exploring Change Touchstones & New Directions

Background

Developing The Green Bridges Project during & beyond The Covidian Intrusion & Impact

The diagram below created after the partnership begin to produce responses to the Cov 19 pandemic.

One member of Pathways described the ideas emanating during late April as a 'swerve', implying that the project had introduced some new, related, but quite different work from that which we had intended to be producing in early 2020.

The diagram both:

- recognises the reflective reports about the impact of Cov 19, received from partners
- provides a structured approach that links the aims and purposes of the project with the new directions and developments caused by the pandemic

It is a direct result (created during weekend of May 9th/10th) of the contributions from IT, RO, & LT & following an evaluation meeting of Pathways members.

More information regarding the development of this evolving situation was contained in the 1st Interim report.

The task, was to ensure coherence with project aims of new work created during the pandemic.

These aims & principles are summarised by the
Touchstone Statements
(created from the original statement in the application form.)

All project work should

**Deepen
Understanding & Appreciation
of the Natural World**

**Enhance
Human Relationships with the Natural World
by
Awareness, Reflection, Engagement & Action**

Exploring Change



TOUCHSTONES & NEW DIRECTIONS

*The elements displayed
here are explained in
following pages*

Green Bridges TOUCHSTONES

Deepen Understanding & Appreciation of the Natural World

**Enhance Human Relationships with the Natural World
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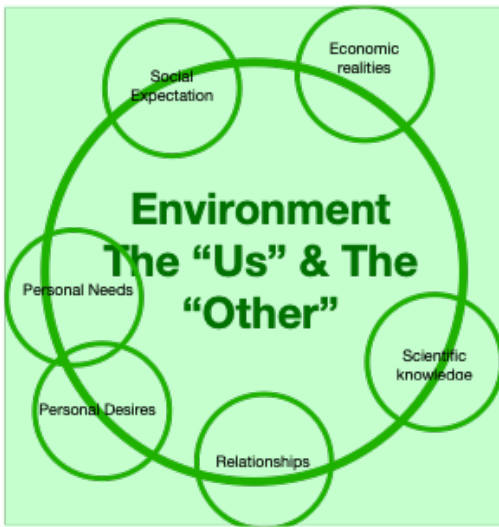
Exploring Change

Green Bridges is a project based on the principle that for a 'sustainable future', there is a need to change human attitudes to the environment & 'natural' world.

It is a small scale practical experiment managed largely by voluntary groups & occurring in several locations across Europe.

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has raised increased international awareness of this issue.

It has provided opportunities for the Green Bridges Partnership to respond to some of the personal & socially related environmental issues raised by the pandemic



Developing change requires considered practical action.

Some of the reflections produced during the pandemic by Green Bridges partners (and many others globally) have highlighted the need for a change in human attitudes towards the non-human aspects of existence.

The Us & The Other image provides a series of generic issues that form part of any attempt to introduce change. It is not intended to be definitive.

The terms 'us' and 'other' imply that 'relationships' are a significant for any change process. The 'us' may be a group, a family, a society, a culture - or even 'me'. The 'other' is therefore anything outside that group or individual... anything: animal, vegetable, mineral.. sensate or insensate.

For the Green Bridges project the 'US' is humanity; the 'Other' is the non-human aspects of existence.

This relationship is central to the Italian reflections summarised on page 4 of the English version by 'le Quarto Scuse' (The 4 Apologies)

The natural environment has to be the prime focus & without any sense of human exploitation of nature ("taking without balanced giving that benefits all 'ex ante' ")

The Green Bridges approach requires that all project actions focus on the Natural Environment before any other consideration.

Green Bridges TOUCHSTONES

The term 'touchstone' refers to the mediaeval testing of the genuine & quality of gold & silver through the use of a stone - fine grained black quartz (the touch-stone) - which left a mark when rubbed on the metal.

The Green Bridges Touchstone Statements test & determine the quality & genuineness of any element within the Green Bridges project.

They ensure that all actions & reflections relate to the Green Bridges project aims

There are two 'touchstone statements': any element with Green Bridges should be capable of relating to or satisfying one or both

The Natural Environment is the focus of the project
(before any other consideration)
& with actions whose primary purpose & function is to:

**Deepen
Understanding & Appreciation
of the Natural World**

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Green Bridges
Developing social cohesion & wellbeing by
creating routes & bridges between people, places, communities & the natural environment

Any activity or reflection within the project should to have a key environmental aim as expressed in the touchstone statements.

New Directions



The Green Bridges project has created and gathered a considerable variety of products that are of an observatory and reflective nature:

photographs,
notebooks,
sketches,
cartoons,
personal writings & opinions,
ceramics

and will eventually include stories, poetry & music.

Below are example of the types of activities that have been created during the period of isolation that all partners have experienced & which will continue through 'pandemic times' & beyond

ASIE's proposals for activities

Bridging inside & outside worlds during pandemic times

- Testimonials during isolation/staying at home: family members, friends, colleagues, neighbours, acquaintances
- A collection of most important MEMEs in English, native language or no words at all, topic: COVID 19
- Mutual photovoice: What do I see from my window?
- Virtual journey: choose a trail from point A to point B, document it; it could be imaginary or an older journey