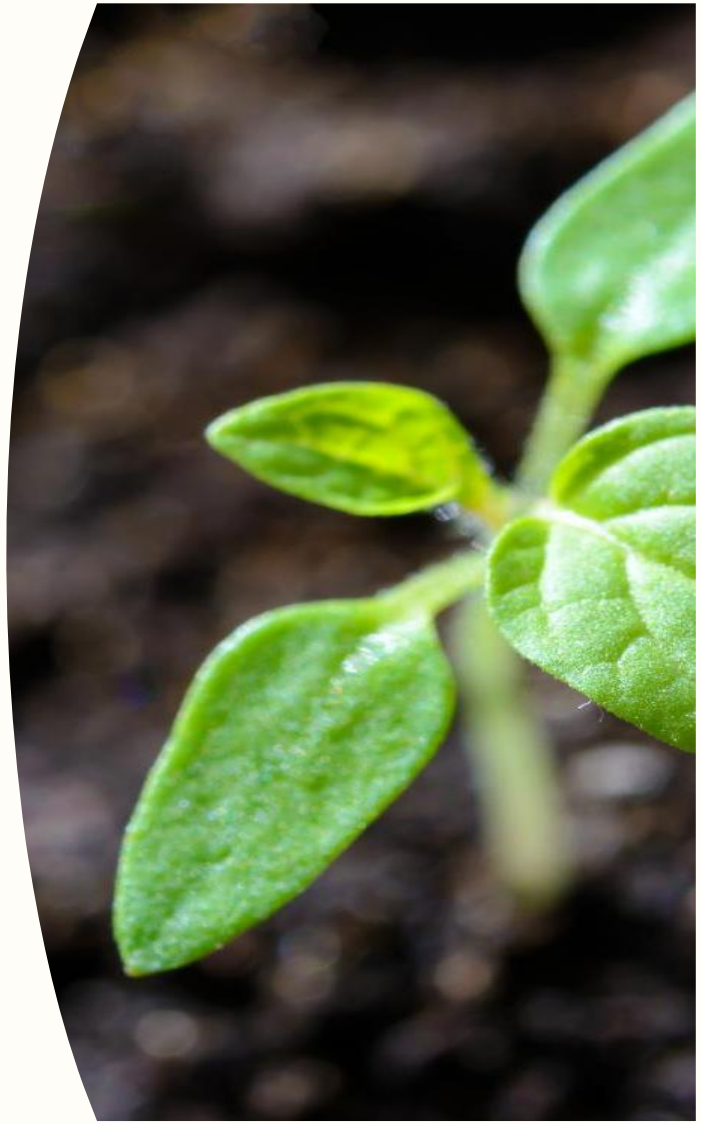
WP 2
CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING



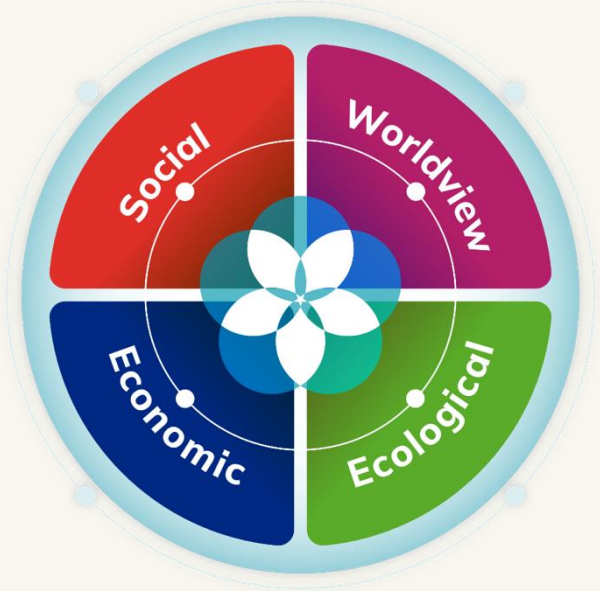
Presented by Sally Bogale – sally.bogale@gaiaeducation.org

Co-CEO of Gaia Education

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Brief Introduction to Gaia Education



21 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Online and face-to-face training; tools, resources and projects supporting people, communities, organisations and ecosystems to thrive regeneratively.

230+

partners across 56 countries

34,000+

individuals reached

2022

Luxembourg Peace Prize

RECOGNITION & PARTNERSHIPS

UN ECOSOC consultative status • UNFCCC COP delegate status • UNESCO & UNITAR partner

WP2 at a glance

Build the knowledge, skills and networks needed to co-design and deliver TMAs.

T2.1 Diagnose

Identify capacity gaps, technical needs and institutional barriers.

Needs assessment M1–6

T2.2 Design

Co-design a modular, inclusive, multilingual soil governance training.

Training design M1–12

T2.3 Deliver

Run five blended training cycles across 40 LRAs.

Training delivery M10–30

T2.4 Multiply

Train and certify facilitators for regional replication.

Facilitator programme M1–24

T2.5 Connect

Build a pan-European Community of Practice.

Community of Practice M13–36

T2.6 Sustain

Strengthen access to follow-up funding.

Follow-up funding M19–36

We would love the help of the LAGs!

Build the knowledge, skills and networks needed to co-design and deliver TMAs.

2.1 Needs Assessment

Help us reach 100 LRAs in 11 countries: share survey, connect us to land managers/ community grps for interviews, send us your local soil strategies. **Jan 2027**

2.4 Facilitator Training

Spread call for facilitators - LAG members connected to our 40 LRAs can trained during project. **Feb 2027**

2.5 Connect

Join our pan-European Community of Practice!

M13–36

2.6 Sustain

Capacity building help & Co-design LEADER/Erasmus+ projects to run SGT & TMA agreement processes in your area. **2028**

3.1 TMA TOOLKIT!

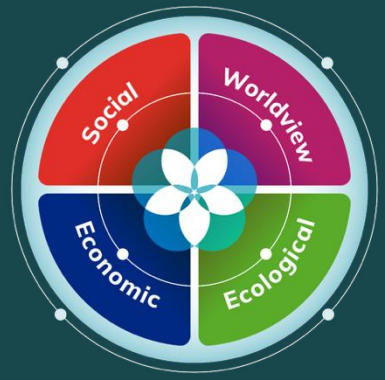
A toolkit to support the process for co-designing Territorial Management Agreements.

It contains:

- A **participatory toolkit** on stakeholder mapping, dialogue facilitation, and engagement methods;
- A **methodological framework** on legitimacy, transparency, and accountability, grounded in Social Sciences and Humanities, deliberative democracy, and Nature-based Solutions.

Including:

- A 4D Design Diagnostic Tool for assessing soil health across Social, Ecological, Economic and Cultural dimensions of the municipality and co-creating designs using these 4 dimensions



SOILSTICE · YOUR JOURNEY

From first conversation to a signed Territorial Management Agreement

The pathway every participating municipality follows, supported by training, local facilitators and a network of peers across Europe.

STEP 1 · OCT–NOV 2026

Get to know us

Share your introduction sheet, name a main contact and a potential facilitator, and join the monthly meetings.

STEP 2 · NOV 2026–FEB 2027

Share your needs

Take part in the needs assessment survey, interviews and focus groups, so the training fits your reality.

STEP 3 · IN YOUR WAVE

Learn soil governance

Mayors, officers and facilitators take the Soil Governance Training, built on four dimensions: ecological, social, economic and worldview.

STEP 4 · IN YOUR WAVE

Train a local facilitator

Your facilitator joins the central training with GEN Europe and works towards certification, ready to guide local workshops.

STEP 5 · IN YOUR TERRITORY

Co-design together

Your facilitator brings farmers, residents, landowners, scientists and officers together to set soil priorities and shape your commitments.

STEP 6 · WITH MENTORING

Draft your TMA

Mentoring, legal templates and a specialist training library help you turn shared commitments into a draft agreement.

STEP 7 · SIGN AND SHARE

Sign your TMA

Agree at least three soil health indicators, get formal approval, sign with your partners and share it on the TMA Studio.

THE OUTCOME

Healthier soils that last

Your TMA keeps soil care going beyond political cycles, backed by monitoring, peers and funding routes such as LEADER and Erasmus+.

All along the way: facilitator mentoring · a specialist training library on the TMA Studio · a Community of Practice with peers across Europe

WHO JOINS WHEN

Wave 1 · 10 pilot LRAs · from Feb 2027 **Wave 2** · 15 LRAs · from Aug 2027 **Wave 3** · 15 LRAs · from Feb 2028

TMAS SIGNED

10 by Nov 2028 · **25** by Feb 2029 · **40** by Aug 2029

T2.1 – Needs Assessment

- **What:** A survey, interviews and focus groups to find out what municipalities and local groups need to manage soil well.
- **Who:** 100+ local and regional authorities in 11 countries, plus land managers, community groups and residents.
- **When:** September 2026 – February 2027.
- **Result:** A Needs Assessment Report (February 2027) that shapes the training

Challenge	Why it matters	How LAGs can help
Too few municipalities reply	The training won't reflect real needs	**Share the survey with your municipalities and networks**
Some countries or regions are under-represented	Findings miss local realities	**Help us reach the areas we're missing**
Hard to find people for interviews	Gaps in the stories behind the numbers	**Introduce us to land managers and community groups**

T2.2 – Designing the Training

- **What:** A training on participatory governance, soil monitoring, legal frameworks and community engagement.
- **How:** Co-designed in three workshops, with hands-on learning and storytelling. Free, multilingual materials on the TMA Studio.
- **When:** December 2026 – August 2027.
- **Result:** A training programme ready by August 2027, tested first with 10 pilot areas

Challenge	Why it matters	How LAGs can help
Training doesn't fit every local context	Less useful in some regions	**Tell us what works in your area**
Too few voices in the design	Training feels too technical	**With partner LRA, join a co-creation workshop or suggest participants**
Translation takes longer than planned	Delays in rolling out training	**Help check or translate materials into your language**

T2.3 – Delivering the Training

- **What:** Five rounds of blended (online and in-person) training across 40 local and regional authorities.
- **Who:** 200+ people: municipal staff, facilitators, young people and civil society.
- **When:** June 2027 – February 2029.
- **Result:** A Training Evaluation Report (February 2029), based on before-and-after surveys.

Challenge	Why it matters	How LAGs can help
Not enough participants sign up	We miss the 200+ participant target	**Spread the word and encourage local people to join**

T2.4 – Training Local Facilitators

- **What:** A train-the-trainer programme so local facilitators can guide soil agreements (TMAs) in their own areas.
- **Who:** A diverse group, balanced by geography, gender, age and background, chosen through an open call.
- **When:** Call opens February 2027; training April 2027 – April 2028.
- **Result:** A Facilitator's Handbook and certification for graduates (August 2028)

Challenge	Why it matters	How LAGs can help
Facilitator group isn't diverse enough	Inclusion goals are missed	**Share the call with under-represented groups in your area**

T2.5 – A Europe-wide Community of Practice

- **What:** A network where trained people share experience and support each other.
- **How:** Quarterly webinars, themed working groups and an annual gathering, hosted on the TMA Studio.
- **When:** Launches February 2028 with 100+ members; 200+ active members by August 2029.
- **Result:** A self-sustaining network that carries on after the project.

Challenge	Why it matters	How LAGs can help
Interest fades after the launch	The network exists only on paper	**Take part in webinars and working groups**
Members join but don't take part	Little real exchange	**Share your own projects and questions**

T2.6 – Funding to Keep Going

- **What:** Helping local actors find funding to continue soil work after the project.
- **How:** Workshops on LEADER and Erasmus+ for the 2028 EU programming period, plus cascade funding, philanthropy and national funds.
- **Who:** ELARD brings LAG and rural development expertise; GEN Europe shares Erasmus+ experience.
- **When:** March 2028 – August 2029, with a Funding Opportunities Guide by August 2029

Challenge	Why it matters	How LAGs can help
Funding rules change	The guide goes out of date	**Keep us updated on LEADER calls and priorities**
Funding is too hard for small local groups	Few applications	**Share tips and examples from your LAG**
Partners don't team up on bids	Little long-term impact	**Co-develop LEADER or Erasmus+ projects with us**

Case study: Healthy Soils @ Torres Vedras, Portugal (HuMUS pilot)

1-year pilot, led by the research institute INIAV and Municipality of Torres Vedras.

Focused on farmland and vineyard soils.

On 27 June 2025, farmers, associations, schools, researchers, funders and the council signed a Territorial Management Agreement for Soil Health.

31 actions to 2030 and 2040 to boost organic matter, water retention and biodiversity, cut chemical use, and raise soil literacy.

Actions include a network of key farmers, a local quality brand, student “soil ambassadors”, a living lab at the agricultural school, a municipal soil-health monitoring system and agricultural plastic recycling.

Follows same journey SOILSTICE LRAs will take, and the local LEADER group was one of the partners.



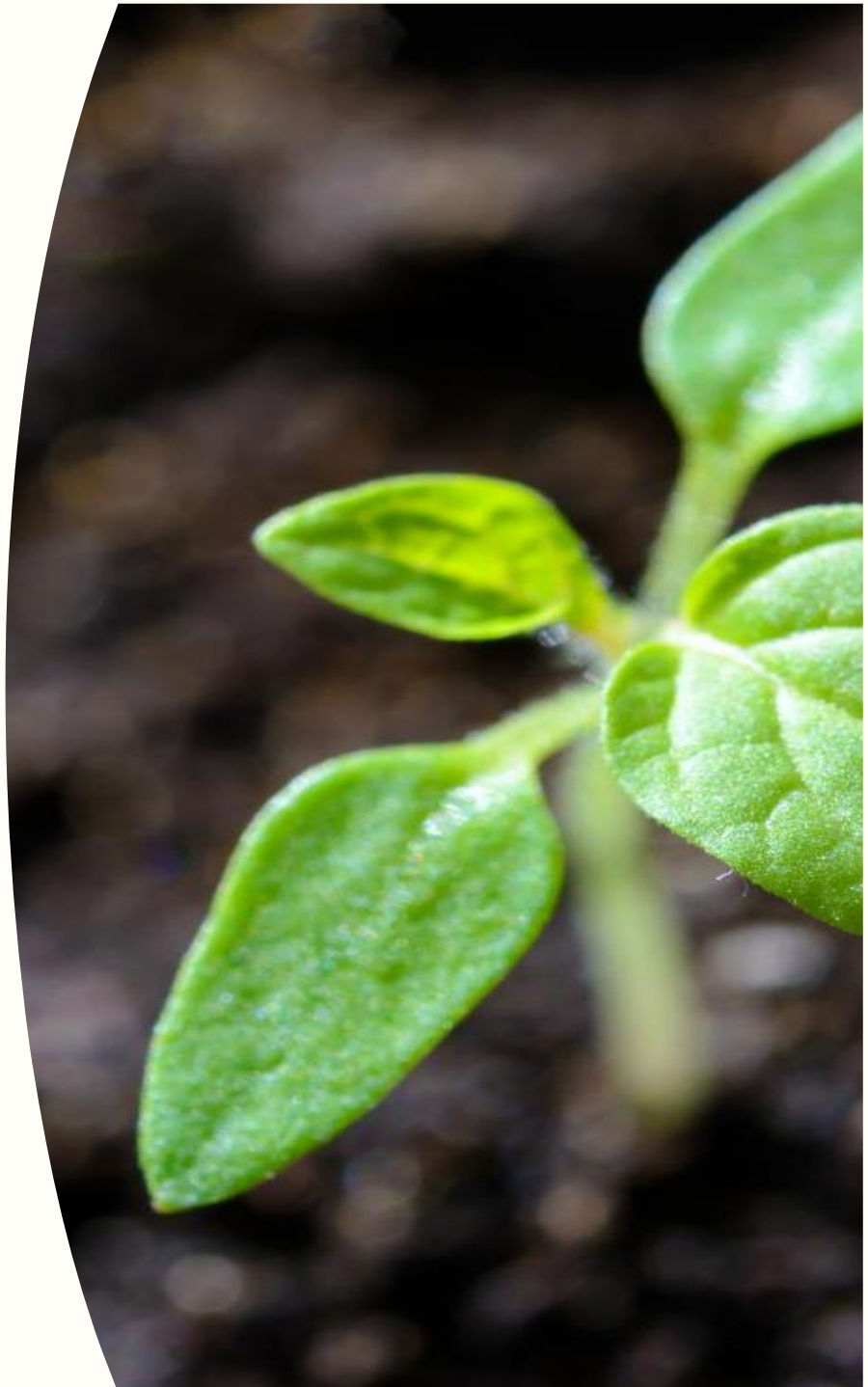
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SOILSTICE

Thanks very much!

Questions and Comments



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