



Baltic  
Ecovillage  
Network

2014-03-05

# Invitation

to the Baltic Ecovillage Network's first Annual General Assembly 2014  
held 17-18 April in Esna Manor , Estonia

BEN is now turning one year old and it is a time to celebrate. This celebration is planned to be held at Esna Manor, about 100 km from Tallinn on the way towards Tartu. While this invitation should have come out two months prior to the meeting, the annual meeting in Estonia has been discussed more than 6 months and been explicitly mentioned in every board protocol since November. All our protocols go out to all BEN full members and associate members and then some. It is perhaps more important now to express how important that we all try to come to this meeting. The network survives using internet between physical meetings but we really need face-to-face discussions about how to develop our cooperation that just is not the same on Skype. Many exciting ideas have already been suggested and the annual meeting will give us time to discuss them.

The annual General Assembly is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of 2013 and then to muster strength for 2014. We will be electing a new board and all members are invited to nominate individuals that could contribute to BEN's work. I myself will not be able to continue as chair and look forward to the rotation of this post to another member network.

Shortly, you are expected to reach Esna on the evening of 16 April. We will begin the Annual meeting after breakfast on 17 April carrying out points 1 to 8 about operations in 2013. Thereafter we will have "open space" to discuss whatever is on your hearts, including our BEN cooperation ideas. Late morning of 18 April we will finish off the official part of the annual meeting and vote in the new board. After lunch we will celebrate with a "work party" at Sven Aluste's eco-farm nearby. After breakfast on 19 April we will say goodbye to Esna, and make an excursion to Lilleoru Ecovillage. After that there is just a short journey into Tallinn. So it is possible to leave Estonia in the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

TESTS project will fund travel, food and accommodations for about 2 persons from each BEN country. Kalle Randau at BEN Secretariat can answer questions on how many and much the project budget will cover. As TESTS pays the venue, there is a possibility for others to attend with a food cost at Esna Manor of around 70 EUR for the whole period and around 12 EUR/night for accommodations. To register for the Annual General Assembly in Estonia and thus get more detailed info from the organising host, Network of Estonian Eco-communitites, please fill out the following form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XZomE-3Sc03kfHuBKwlqnSBVJ8VLNoh0T1oCawW9Xrw/viewform>

Warm regards of behalf of the BEN Board,  
Robert Hall  
BEN Chair

Attached: Annual General Assembly Agenda