

Project:

Life Balance Academy of the Gioiadvita Foundation



This project is located in the commune of Gioi, in the National Park "Cilento e Vallo di Diano" (UNESCO Biosphere Reservation and World Cultural Heritage site), Provence Salerno, southern Italy.

Those responsible:

The project is under the jurisdiction of the Gioiadvita Foundation, recognised as a non-profit organisation in May 2008, with headquarters in Munich, Germany.

Executive board of the Foundation: Maecenata Management, Herzogstr. 60, 80803 Munich.

Project leader: Gina Gonsior, Destouchesstr. 65, 80796 Munich.

In October 2009, Gina Gonsior donated her 42,000 m² of real estate in Gioi-Cilento, southern Italy, to the Gioiadvita Foundation, for the benefit of the Life Balance Academy project.

Similar projects

Childcare Centre, Munich:

In 2009, the Foundation assimilated the childcare centre "Die Wolpertinger" with day care places for 75 children aged between 3 and 11 years old.

The childcare centre was opened in Munich in 1997 through the initiative of the Gioiadvita Foundation founder, Gina Gonsior, and which she has successfully run since then.

Vacation Camps, Italy:

Since 2003, on the Gioi-Cilento land in southern Italy, Gina Gonsior has organised a vacation camp in the summer holidays for children from Germany. Here, children between the ages of 7 and 14 are looked after by trained childcare personnel. Often for the first time without their parents, the children experience an exciting adventure holiday surrounded by nature.

In addition, every November families and young adults come here for the **olive harvest camp**.

Background to the Life Balance Academy Project:

Based on many years of experience working with children, adolescents and young adults, our intention is to create a project located in southern Italy for young people between the ages of 18 and 30. This project is a model future-orientated work camp, which we call Life Balance Academy.

The Project

Objectives:

The overall theme of the project is discovering direction and aims, particularly for young adults who upon completing their school education have been unable to find positions in further training or education, and are left in limbo.

These young people are perhaps not facing material crises, but mental and spiritual crises can have just as devastating effects, as clearly seen by the increasing violent and aggressive tendencies of these young people. The number of young people lacking orientation is increasing from year to year throughout the whole of Europe.



In addition to providing practical life-oriented skills, we especially want to help young adults discover their own potentials and strengths so they can develop positive life strategies.

The people we invite to provide courses and seminars are successful practitioners from all sections of society. The project should take into account all aspects of natural and environmental protection, and demonstrate the numerous possibilities for independent economical business opportunities. This should provide the impetus for urgently needed changes, ranging from altered awareness to sustainable lifestyles.

Such impulses should not only benefit the participants of the Academy, but also the local population.

Support from the local community:

The local authorities such as the mayor of Gioi, the district council, as well as the press and a large proportion of the active population, such as businesses, agriculturists and farmers, teachers, etc., already support this project. This is because we are not only providing important impulses, but also creating jobs in this relatively poorly developed region.

Over the last four years we have held detailed discussions, sought advice, submitted plans and recently received official building and operation permission from the appropriate Italian authorities.

The reason this took so long is because the project is located in the National Park of Cilento e Vallo di Diano, which has very strict requirements due to its designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reservation and World Cultural Heritage site.

Budget

Own capital and investments:

The Life Balance Academy has access to the assets of 42,000 m² of real estate belonging to the Gioiadvita Foundation, with 200 olive trees, a small forest, a fresh water spring and extensive organic fruit and vegetable gardens.

In addition, it already has the human resources of the people who are organising and running the project, as well as official building and operation permission from appropriate local authorities.

These assets cannot be measured or calculated in Euros or Dollars, since how can one put a value on nature in harmony, over 400 year-old olive trees, or people with self-motivation and personal responsibility?

When should the project start:

Since building permission and all cost estimates for the different construction phases have already been submitted by the chosen contractors, construction work could begin immediately as soon as the first funding is available.

We intend to organise each individual building phase (numbered in Table below) as a European youth work camp, so that young people can also benefit from being involved, and gain valuable experience from the construction work.

To realise the project the following infrastructure is required:

Planned building phases/infrastructure	Estimated costs in Euro
1) Kitchen, refectory and seminar buildings	400,000
2) Plant-based natural water recycling system	59,000
3) Reactivation of own drink water spring	30,000
4) Swimming pool with natural water recycling	70,000
5) Photo-voltaic system	175,000
6) Solar water heating system	37,000
7) Accommodation:	
a) For participants	480,000
b) For course organisers	93,000
c) Architect and construction control	50,000
8) Open air/sport facilities incl. adventure playground	30,000
9) Greenhouse for organic vegetable garden and reconstruction of collapsed garden terraces	35,000
10) Circus caravans to accommodate visiting school parties (Germany-Italy exchange)	6 x 12,000 = 60,000
11) Internal furnishings and equipment:	
a) Kitchen and seminar rooms	54,000
b) Living areas	32,000
12) Laboratory equipment for water purity monitoring and biology projects (children and adults)	100,000
Total project	1,725,000
Consultancy and assistance with grant proposal(s)	Depending on volume

Contacts:

Project leader: Gina Gonsior

Email: info@gioiadvita.de

Telephone: +39 097 499 1186, Mobil: +39 339 424 7584

Maecenata Management: Dr. Veronika Hofmann, Email: vh@maecenata.eu