

ECVET earth building
Learning across Europe

Pathways to clay



Learn**With**Clay

A circular color wheel with 12 segments in shades of yellow, orange, red, and green. Two hands are holding the wheel: one at the top right and one at the bottom right.

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LearnWithClay

Introduction

Dear interested party in LearnWithClay

With this brochure “**Pathways to clay – ECVET earth building**” we are addressing craftspeople and all who like the idea of becoming a craftsperson in the use of earth, whether young or old, experienced or a beginner, and those for whom access to training is difficult.

We would like to show you learning routes or pathways by which the world of natural construction can be opened to you, and to encourage you to learn sustainable building methods - working with building materials which do not place a burden on the planet or on future generations. Clay, a locally-accessible building material, requires little energy for its extraction and transportation and we can return it to the earth at any time, without causing environmental contamination. Together with insulation from renewable raw materials, it creates energy-efficient buildings and exceptionally healthy interior climates.

The brochure presents the results of a two-year European project undertaken by a variety of educational institutions, vocational schools, companies, associations, initiatives, chambers and authorities who have combined together to promote training in earth building and to re-establish clay as a building material in vocational training. With **ECVET earth building**, a new opportunity for learning in Europe has been created, enabling individual learning pathways across Europe. Units of learning outcomes acquired in one country can be recognised in another country, in the same way that professional qualifications are recognised and transferable across Europe. Life-long learning and trans-border mobility (which simply means that you can take different units of learning in different European countries if you so wish), are therefore made easier.

Section 1 introduces you to the subject of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET). It explains how the ECVET earth building (learning) units work, introduces the six learning units evolved so far, and looks at the content of those units.

In **Section 2** you will be given an overview of the ECVET earth building training offered by the various LearnWithClay partners. The partnership currently includes ten organisations from Bulgaria, Germany, France and United Kingdom but is open to new partners who are happy to sign the partnership memorandum.

Section 3 profiles seven people who have been inspired by clay as a building material, and who present their own learning routes / pathways to clay. They would all like to, and some already do, earn their living by working with clay and clay plasters.

Section 4 gives information on promotional opportunities for training residencies in Europe.

The LearnWithClay partners are working to ensure that **ECVET earth building** will open up new opportunities for you to train throughout Europe, and to come to know the wealth and diversity of European earth building techniques.

We hope that this brochure makes you curious, and encourages you to find out more and to learn about earth building and clay plasters with us and our European partners.

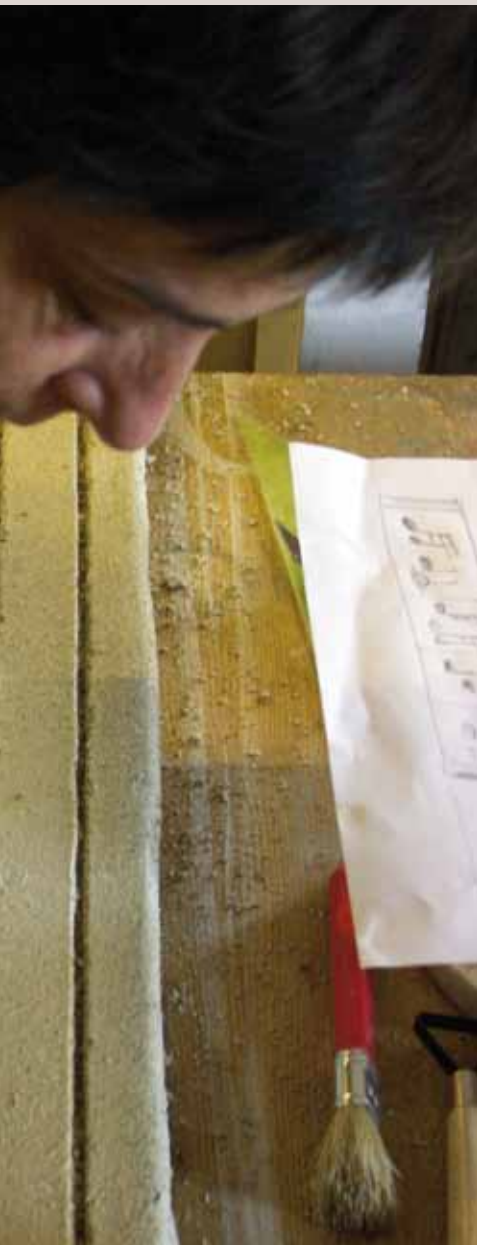
Uta HERZ

Association FAL e.V.

European Training Institute for Earth Building



ECVET earth building



Learn and travel – a journey in Europe

As early as the Middle Ages, craftspeople/builders learnt new techniques in far-away places, as journeymen and women. Whoever wished to become an independent crafts master in the Middle Ages first had to have worked in a variety of regions far from home for a prescribed period as a journeyman or woman. The church constructions from the Middle Ages still bear witness to this high level of training.

Today young people interested in earth and strawbale building are again learning on construction sites across the whole of Europe. They call themselves Natural Builders. They participate in courses and meet together to exchange experiences. They wish to build with materials which are carbon neutral, which come from local resources, are renewable, recyclable, pleasant to work with and with which they feel comfortable. They wish to create a world which will also be worth living in for future generations.

ECVET earth building offers you the opportunity to take examinations and collect qualifications in small accessible units of learning outcomes at various levels, across Europe. The aim is for these examinations to count towards existing vocational qualifications in the countries of the European Union.

ECVET What is it about ?

The European Union, via the newly-created instruments EQF (European Qualification Framework) and ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) wishes to make vocational qualifications more transparent, accessible and easily translatable across Europe. They act as a type of “translation aid” between the different national training systems in each European country, which often stand in the way of a trans-border exchange of experience.

ECVET is a system of uniformly defined units of learning outcomes. A “unit of learning outcomes” is the smallest appraisable, collectable and transferable package of knowledge, skills and competencies. The units describe learning outcomes which correspond to a defined field of vocational activity.

ECVET makes it possible for learning outcomes acquired in one country to count towards a qualification in another country. Learning outcomes from different countries are therefore more easily comparable.





The ECVET earth building units

The LearnWithClay Project has worked out six ECVET units for the sector “clay plasters”, based on the qualification “Designer for Clay Plasters” from the Chamber of Crafts in Schwerin, Germany. Further units for potential future qualifications in rammed earth building and adobe walling in France are planned.

The ECVET clay plaster units are described in detail for levels 1 - 4. The definition of the levels corresponds with the recommendations of the European Commission¹.

For example, level 1 of the ECVET unit “Manufacture of clay plasters” corresponds to an entry level which can be learned as an introductory course. The recipient of a certificate for Level 1 can carry out surface preparation, apply a plaster layer under instruction, and list the necessary stages of work.

In Level 3 however, one must be able to recognise the properties of a normal plaster substrate, be able to select a suitable plaster composition and be in a position to recognise and report problems.

Level 4 means, amongst other things, that one is able to offer independent advice to customers and supervise and co-ordinate teamwork.

To achieve level 4 (the highest level) across all six ECVET units is the equivalent of gaining the qualification “Designer for clay plasters (HWK)” currently issued by the Chamber of Crafts in Schwerin (Germany).

The ECVET earth building certificate

The ECVET earth building certificate is awarded for defined, accessible units of learning outcomes in earth building. Each unit consists of a package of knowledge, skills and competencies which are necessary for vocational activities. LearnWithClay training institutes offer courses and training in these units. Each of these six units can be individually certificated and examined. If the examination is passed, an ECVET earth building certificate is awarded.



Who recognises the ECVET earth building certificate ?

The establishment of ECVET is a recommendation of the European Commission¹. The member states can voluntarily participate in ECVET. Currently they are investigating the establishment of a Credit System in various sectors, and in unison with existing national training systems.

ECVET Earth Building however, is the result of the work of a European project partnership. The LearnWithClay partners mutually recognise the ECVET certificates and have pledged to do so in a voluntary partnership agreement.

The partners are also working together with the Chamber of Crafts in Schwerin on a new continuous training examination directive for the qualification “Designer for clay plasters”, which envisages the recognition of ECVET earth building certificates which have been obtained in other countries.

The ECVET clay plaster units are arranged in such a way that they can also count towards other recognised examinations, e.g. towards qualifications such as plasterer, bricklayer, or painter and preserver of historical monuments.

¹ See RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning and of 18 June 2009 on the establishment of a European Performance Points System for vocational training (ECVET)



The 6 ECVET Units

from the Earth Building Sector

The vocational field “clay plasters” includes six main fields of activity, each requiring specific competences.



UNIT 1

Preparing clay plaster



Knowledge of the properties and the role of the different constituents, aggregates and additives forms the basis for the preparation of best quality clay plaster. The clay specialist has to calculate quantities and proportions and handle different mixing techniques. He/she is able to adapt the recipe according to the plaster layer, the application technique and the surface quality. Understanding the interaction between the clay binder and the other constituents enables the craftpeople to prepare raw earth or work up different batches of plaster material to create high quality plaster for different areas of use.



UNIT 2

Application of clay plaster



The execution involves three steps : preparing backgrounds, application and final surface finish, of which different finishes are possible. Appropriate handling of machines and tools on the building site is essential for the correct processing of clay plaster. Application methods are similar to those for conventional plaster : Clay plaster can be flicked/thrown/harled onto the wall, applied with a trowel or sprayed on with plastering machines. The use of plaster silos is similarly possible. The specialist must be able to assess the background, improve the adherence if necessary and decide on the plaster structure (number, thickness and quality of layers). He/ she will manage the technical detailing for fixing services and furniture, corners, second fix carpentry, openings and ceiling and floor joints. Additionally they must be able to organise the work site and ensure compliance with all relevant standards and regulations.



UNIT 3

Surface treatments, maintenance and repair of clay plasters



Lack of maintenance as well as incorrect application of clay plasters leads to a wide range of damage in both old and new buildings. Damage must be thoroughly analysed and the necessary remedial measures deduced, taking account of the duty of care to ancient monuments and historical buildings, issues of sustainability and building knowledge, as well as the wishes and expectations of the user. The use of paints, lazure, fixatives or other coatings have a protective and a decorative function and their use can be appropriate in new plaster work as well as in renovation.



UNIT 4

Interior design with clay plaster



Through supplementing the traditional colour range of hand-made clay plasters with that of industrially-manufactured high quality clay plasters and paints, interior design with clay plasters has gained in popularity. The implementation of acceptable and appropriate design solutions requires a broad and detailed knowledge of colour and room design. This includes knowledge of the effects of colours and contrasts, the influence of light, of surface division and accents, as well as options for the final surface finish. From the design to the execution, through creation of new plaster mixes and using colouring and texturing additives, craftspeople expand their range of ability in a creative way, and increase the breadth of design options they can offer in their work.



UNIT 5

Decorative elements with clay plaster



Decorative features, whether in the form of relief, ornament or coloured detail, have long formed a special branch of design. A convincing use of decorative features however, requires a high degree of creativity, design knowledge and craftsmanship. Craftspeople guide and advise customers in drafting designs, then manufacture tracings and stencils and transfer the decorative elements to the wall. They have to choose appropriate plaster structure and mortars, and will select special tools for the different decorative technique e.g. sgraffitto and modelling.



UNIT 6

The business of clay plastering



Marketing forms the basis for the success of a company, in addition to the quality of the expert craft work. In order to ensure survival in the market, accurate prediction is just as important as the capacity to conduct successful customer relations, and to be able to process orders reliably. Your own marketing strategy, if only for reasons of sustainability, should take account of the requirements not only of existing customers, but also those of potential future customers.

The **LearnWithClay** partners: what and where one can learn





Bulgaria



Pleven, in the northwest of Bulgaria on the Danube plain, is a modern, lively city, a good starting point from which to discover earth building in Bulgaria. In this country between East and West, around 20 % of the building stock still consists of traditional buildings made from stone, timber and clay. For the European earth building culture, this treasure of inestimable value is unfortunately - as elsewhere - threatened with decay. The country is proud of its traditional architecture and its external form is lovingly preserved, but lack of knowledge concerning the properties of natural materials is leading to the destruction of the original substrate of the buildings.

The **bulgarian-german vocational training center DBBZ** is one of the three largest vocational training centres in Bulgaria. In well-equipped workshops, adults learn classical construction and ancillary trades. With the use of clay as a building material integrated into the training for plasterers and bricklayers, the **DBBZ**, recognised partner of the Construction Chamber in Bulgaria, can help to increase the appreciation of clay as a building material at a national level. Violina Bibenova and Ivan Mindizov are responsible for instruction at the Centre. They themselves have taken advantage of the opportunity for further training at a European level and have undergone a course of instruction at **FAL e.V.** in Germany on the methods for teaching the course "Designer for clay plasters".



Germany

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

In the Mecklenburg lake district, close to the Müritzsee and the Plauer See (the two largest German inland lakes) lies the village of Wangelin in which can be found **FAL e.V.** - with the **European Training Institute for Earth Building** and the **Wangelin Herb Garden**.

In the neighbouring village of Gnevsdorf stands the first, and so far only, **clay museum** in Europe. In addition to tourists, walkers and nature lovers, those interested in natural building from Germany and Europe also find their way to this remote region. They attend the European Training Institute for Earth Building in order to add to their depth of knowledge in clay and strawbale building. Those who successfully complete all six units to Level 4 receive the certificate "Designer for clay plasters (HWK)" from the **Schwerin Chamber of Crafts**.

The European Training Institute came into existence as a result of the European training projects "Clay plasters"¹ and "European Earthbuilder"².

In close proximity to the European Training Institute the "**Morgenland**" (Morning Land) project has arisen – a FAL project: Young people from all over the world work and learn through construction of the planned clay and strawbale houses. For groups and individual craftspeople, **FAL e.V.** initiates and organises exchange and training residences with European earth building partners.

Berlin

Berlin shows itself at second glance to be a green city: Clay as a building material has again gained favour in recent years. On the former border strips in Bernauer Strasse, a modern rammed earth building has arisen, the Versöhnungskapelle (Chapel of Reconciliation) by Martin Rauch. A children's farm with goat and pig stalls of timber-framed clay construction is being built in the centre of the city on the grounds of the former Görlitzer Bahnhof and another is being built at the edge of the Pankow public park. People from different cultural backgrounds are transforming derelict sites in the city into inter-cultural gardens, with clay ovens and communal buildings decorated with coloured clay plasters.

Berlin is home to three LearnWithClay partners: The association **BAUFACHFRAU Berlin e.V.**, the **Knobelsdorff-Schule** and **LehmbauKontor Berlin-Brandenburg**.

The association **BAUFACHFRAU Berlin e.V.** has been qualifying unemployed women for over 20 years in the sectors of ecological building, earth building and the preservation of monuments, and in training female joiners in its own joinery workshop. The association initiates social construction projects to provide experience in disadvantaged areas of the city for children, young people and adults, with and without a background of migration. Examples in the earth building sector are

the community house in the intercultural garden of Lichtenberg and the clay oven in the multicultural neighbourhood garden in Neukölln, where introductory courses on clay plasters are integrated into the project work.

The **Knobelsdorff-Schule** is one of the major secondary education centres among the vocational technical schools in Berlin. It has played a pioneering role nationally in earth building: Young people completing their vocational preparation learn and work here





for a year under the instruction of master builder Andreas Joerdens, in the **“School’s Earth Building Company”**. They repair the infill of listed half-timbered buildings with wattle and daub and clay plaster, as in the old Remise in Berlin-Kladow. In the Berlin district of Pankow they are using half-timbered construction on the stall buildings of the children’s farm Pinke Panke. After one year (320 hours) they are awarded the qualification module “Manufacture of building shells using earth building

methods“, a qualification in vocational training recognised in Germany, and an ECVET earth building certificate for Units 1 and 2, Level 2. Trainees in other disciplines taught at the school, such as in timber and building conservation, bricklaying, joinery and technical assistants in heritage conservation, can attend a one-week earth building course and attain a certificate.

The association **LehmbauKontor** promotes and generates ideas in earth building for the Berlin-Brandenburg region. A main tenet of the association since its foundation, has been to learn with and from each other. Its aim is working to bring together the different experiences of traditional, crafts-based, technical-industrial and experimental earth building and to integrate earth building into vocational training for craftspeople. Members Irmela Fromme and Burkard Rüger, each with over 30 years of practical earth building experience, have developed definitive instructional materials for training in clay plasters and design. As lecturers, they teach earth building courses amongst others, for **FAL e.V.**, in addition to their on-site clay plaster work.

Leipzig region

Leipzig is not only the birthplace of Richard Wagner and the most significant place of activity for J. S. Bach, but also the location of the Monday demonstrations in the year 1989, from which the peaceful reunification movement in Germany developed.

Outside Leipzig in the village of Böhlen is the **vocational training center BSZ of the Leipziger Land**. The surrounding region is characterised by clay and half-timbered buildings. The planned Competence Centre in Earth Building will be open to everyone involved in building and those interested in earth building, and aims to revive the regional building traditions.

Dietmar Schäfer and Marcel Schweder, both teachers at the **BSZ Leipziger Land**, integrate clay as a building material into their instruction. Craft trainees in bricklaying and painting and those on vocational preparation courses get to know earth building techniques as part of their practical training for a trade. Clay as a building material is also dealt with in their regular instruction in building technology, paint technology and interior design.



1 www.clayplaster.eu

2 European Earthbuilder, <http://www.adam-europe.eu/adam/project/view.htm?prj=1503>



France

Embrun, situated in the French Alps, can look back on a history of over 2000 years. Hannibal is said to have come past the city with his troops. Richard Lacortiglia, joint founder and manager of **Le Gabion**, himself a trained carpenter, repaired the crumbling Abbey of Boscodon, an impressive example of Romanesque cloister architecture from the 12th century, and sympathetically rebuilt the missing timber elements together with a group of unemployed craftspeople. Every year, ten craftsmen and craftswomen learn historical building techniques at **Le Gabion** over a period of eight months, which includes a week of theory and practice in clay plaster work. They receive the diploma "Ouvrier professionnel en restauration du patrimoine" and the ECVET earth building certificates 1 to 3 Level 3. Based on the care of historical monuments, **Le Gabion** develops skills and expertise in modern natural building techniques. Every year, more people from Europe come to Le Gabion to learn strawbale and earth building techniques.

The **French umbrella organisation for earth building AsTerre** was founded in 2006. It promotes companies which are active in earth building and offers them a platform for exchange. A main objective of the interdisciplinary association is to integrate earth building into vocational training. **AsTerre** is a joint signatory to the LearnWithClay partnership. It supports and promotes research and development of the ECVET earth building units in France, and further ECVET units for rammed earth building and

clay infill are planned. In the introduction of the ECVET earth building in France and through the development of a European earth building standard, **AsTerre** sees an important opportunity for the promotion of trans-border mobility and lifelong learning.





United Kingdom

Close to the great industrial cities of Manchester and Leeds lies Todmorden and Hebden Bridge, nestled in glacial valleys amongst the hills of the South Pennines, with a combined population of around 20,000. Home to **amazonails**, in the centre of a rural, though old industrial area, cotton and wool mills along the canal reflect the role of this area in starting the Industrial Revolution. Good infrastructure however, in canals, river, rail and road, as well as the proximity of the university

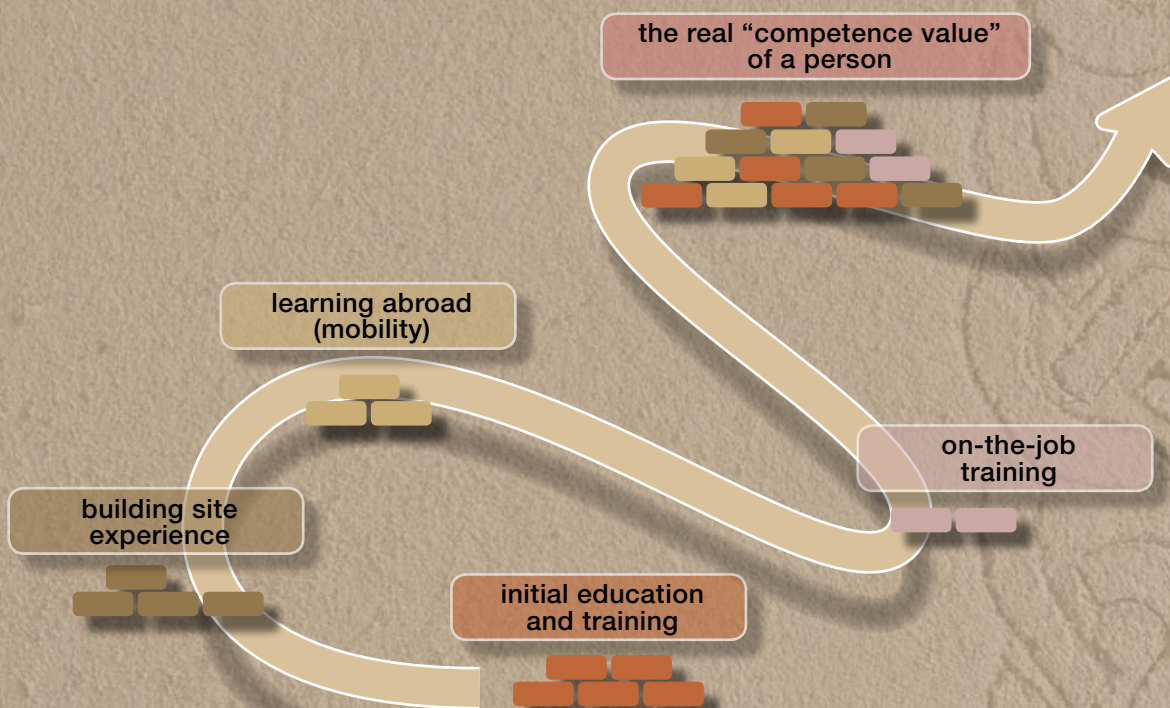
cities makes the region attractive to young people.

The non-profit organisation **amazonails** is the leader in straw bale and natural building technologies in the United Kingdom and is closely linked to the European strawbale construction world. Their aim is to empower people in construction through training and further education, as well as promoting energy-efficient, carbon-neutral and affordable construction through examples of good practice.

Their on-site courses in strawbale construction are highly regarded. Mixed groups of building professionals, beginners, plasterers and sustainable construction experts learn strawbale construction and clay and lime plaster techniques all together on site. Barbara Jones and Bee Rowan of **amazonails** are good role models for women trainees, and at least 50% of their course participants are women, keen to learn ecological building techniques.



ECVET learning paths a glimpse of the future¹



¹ The following professional paths refer to interviews. The named examinations, together with the ECVET certificates, assume a recognition of the ECVET certificates in the participating countries.



Mandy Köditz



But first, she will go on a journey

The dream of 20 year old Mandy Köditz is to build a house from the ground up, entirely of clay, every part from the floor to the roof ridge.

Mandy has just completed her training as painter/varnisher at the “**Berufliches Schulzentrum Leipziger Land**” in Böhlen near Leipzig. During her training she took advantage of the offer of a three-week foreign residence with the French partner **Batipole en Limouxin, Centre national de formation du bâtiment**, financed via the Leonardo da Vinci Mobility programme. The painter first came into contact with clay as a building material at their construction sites. “It is so lovely working with clay, holding it in your hands and modelling with it - it poses no health risks. The building material is a good humidity regu-

lator so is perfect for creating safe indoor climates in all rooms, which is really good for the well-being of people.” So says Mandy, who now happily uses this building material for plastering walls. This has led her to wanting to find out more about clay architecture, rammed earth and adobe buildings. So before she starts her own business, she first wishes to go on a journey - to travel, Europe-wide, perhaps worldwide, maybe even joining a Guild. She has no desire to learn formally through a succession of schools, but wishes to extend her knowledge and skills at private sites and in various different businesses. It is possible that she will find out even more about clay plasters and clay colour finishes in practice, in the plastering and painting business of **Sylvie**

Wheeler, whom she got to know as an instructor during her stay in France and whom she describes as the “top plasterer”. Subsequently, Mandy could take an examination at the LearnWithClay partners **Le Gabion** and obtain the ECVET certificate “Interior design with clay plasters”.

In order to become her own boss, she needs good marketing skills with excellent knowledge of successful customer relations. If she attends further courses with **FAL e.V.** including Unit 6, she will be entitled to use the title “Designer for clay plasters”. She would then be able to register her business, which is likely to focus on clay plasters. But first, she will go on a journey...



Many stones cleared from the path

The 36 year old has had to clear many stones from his path before he was able to launch his own bricklaying company. When Samir Outtar came to France 8 years ago, he did not have the correct diploma. His vocational experience was not recognised for an adult training place at AFPA, although he had already trained with his grandfather in Algeria in how to work with stone, clay and cement. He had also completed secondary education in Algeria as well as an apprenticeship as a precision engineer. An accident then interfered with his career path, but nonetheless, in France he was able to complete a training as bricklayer at **AFPA Saint-Etienne**, and undertook practical courses in rammed earth and clay plaster with **AKTERRE**.

The decision to make a career of earth building was

reached by Samir during his training in Algeria as he worked on clay houses which had already been occupied by several generations. The houses were now in need of renovation, but they suffered from a severe lack of skilled craftspeople.

This is what the bricklayer is planning for the future: To give old houses a new lease of life, to repair rammed earth walls – in France a great tradition - and to build new ones, to decorate interior spaces, extend buildings - always using clay. The building material is “almost like a medicine, especially for people with breathing difficulties. It reminds me of my homeland.”

He is considering further training in Morocco, where French associations offer courses on arches, domes and covings. Completing a course in Germany he

currently sees as too difficult, due to the language barrier, although he would find it very interesting. First, however, he must get some orders for business and contract work, which he could learn to do effectively in a course with the LearnWithClay partnership. At present his negotiations with customers are carried out by a young woman, since as a migrant he is faced with prejudice, and therefore has less chance of success. Soon he wishes to employ another worker, and he ultimately wants to pass on his knowledge of clay to others. Trainees from the organisation where he trained himself, **AFPA in Saint-Etienne**, would be very welcome to learn with him.

Marjolaine Camus



Childhood connections

The interior designer Marjolaine Camus had her first contact with clay at a very early age, since it was part of her upbringing: her mother is a potter. Now 22 years old, she likes to use the clay unfired, as an ecological and decorative material which “comes from the earth, goes directly onto the wall and needs no transformation from extraction to building component”, thus making living in a house practical, interesting and pleasant. During her two years studying applied arts at the Paris College of Art, she learned to apply and work plasters, prepare substrates for lime plasters and to hone her skills in colour theory and room design. She knows how to put decor into its correct perspective and how to create a certain mood, can play with surfaces and designs her own decorative elements. “I want to work with clay in the same manner that I have learned with lime. The building material is natural and has wonderful aesthetic qualities - all those colours...”

The Frenchwoman has recently established herself as a freelance artist in the design sector, produces sgraffito, frescoes, mosaics and decorative plaster. She wishes to remain independent and creative, but can nonetheless

imagine herself working with others on larger projects. Although she initially wished to continue her studies in both heritage conservation and art, she decided in favour of practical work. She now wishes to take short courses to get to know the properties of clay and its behaviour. In the ECVET earth building units 1 and 4 she will be able to find out how clay plaster and mortar is made and how to use it imaginatively in interior spaces. And the Frenchwoman is not averse to learning this abroad, in different countries. In addition to her mother tongue, she speaks English and Italian. A residence abroad “opens up more new horizons, revealing the unexpected.”

Marjolaine uses clay intuitively, as she does all other building materials. For her, what is important is to meet other craftspeople in the course of her practical work, to watch their hands and learn new skills.



Funda Erdoğan

It was new to her as a building material

Funda Erdoğan's grandparents live in a Turkish hamlet with a population of 13. The ancient houses are still sound, and are built from clay, stone and wood. During her visits there, she found that clay equalises temperatures, keeping it cool inside, when it is hot outside. A wonderful property of this building material. The little house could do with some building work, and perhaps one day she will be able to do that herself.

In the past year, the 44 year old has attended an introductory workshop of **BAUFACHFRAU Berlin e.V.** at the multicultural neighbourhood garden in Neukölln, Berlin, in order to learn something new to do with her hands. It was a simple as that. And she was also able to improve her German at the same time. This was when she was introduced to earth as a building material, although she was familiar with clay, which can be rolled and kneaded. It made her happy to discover something new to her, which called upon the knowledge of our ancestors. She now hopes to also be able to use earth in her work with disabled young people. "Children and

young people love to play with earth. When they produce something with painstaking effort, it makes them proud and dissipates aggression." As such, working with earth on a small scale in this aspect of her work could be useful. If the Turkish woman receives a certificate for participation in an exam, this will increase her career and employment prospects as a child care worker.

Funda now wishes to take further courses in earth building in order to learn structural building as well as plastering. The LearnWithClay partnership offers courses abroad, which are sponsored as part of the lifelong learning programme. If a Turkish educational provider were to join the LearnWithClay partnership, she would be able to move closer to her dream of obtaining a certificate and at the same time being able to maintain her grandparents' house. And she could help to make earth as a building material known as a modern and future-viable building material in her home country, by passing on her experience as a role model and with practical examples.

Young people quickly make contacts

The 20 year old has already gained experience of international youth exchange, mainly in the cultural sector. However Milko Stefanov Vakov does not want to miss the opportunity to get to know other people and their cultures, and to find out more about the difference in their lives. So he can certainly imagine himself in a European country finding out more about clay, which seemed to have been almost forgotten in his homeland of Bulgaria, and has only in recent times - but still to a very limited extent - begun to be used again.

The trained drywall fitter and building technician would like to obtain a degree in architecture and he is preparing himself for the entrance exam at the university.

When he was offered a test course in clay plaster during his training at the Deutsch-Bulgarisches Berufsbildungszentrum DBBZ in Pleven, Milko was happy to participate, since he “found it very pleasurable to try something new, which was not anchored in the traditional vocational training.” Thus the Bulgarian will be able to acquire further basic and specialist knowledge of earth building, practical and theoretical, with the LearnWithClay partnership, both within Bulgaria and through the other member countries. There are six courses ahead of him, each with various levels, and each comes with a certificate. This equates to his concept of “a thorough, practical

training with other interested people and the learning of different techniques.” He would very much wish to pass on all of this experience to his colleagues in his homeland. He doesn't see language as a barrier, and he can already speak a little Russian and English. “Young people make contact quickly. They get together in an uncomplicated way. Gestures and body language are enough initially. And why not immerse yourself in the language on the spot?” He still does not know how such learning programmes are promoted but knows he can rely on his former trainers, who will be able to help him to organise finance and maybe find grant funding.

Milko Stefanov Vakov



Julian Lenz



He is rather modern-minded

The 21 year old is happy to live in a high-rise building, and is “rather modern-minded - you know, more wallpapers and metal.” Nevertheless, Julian Lenz has decided in favour of clay at the Berlin **Knobelsdorff-Schule** in his career preparatory year. (He didn’t find the wood or concrete options anywhere like as interesting). He was astonished: “The things that you can do with it! The fact that the clay stays on the ceiling the way it does... that it can always be used again. That it can be worked thick or thin; corners or curves can be formed with it; that it can be coloured how you want... that clay is so versatile and that you can use your hands to build with it, something which is not possible with cement.. “

During the last year, Julian has caught up with his secondary school qualifications. For him, that was the most important thing. And through his practical training with a master builder, he has received certification for the qualification module “Manufacture of building shells using earth building methods”, as well as the ECVET earth building certificate “Application of clay plaster” for Level 2.

Over three years, he wants to complete his training as painter/varnisher, the rather finer type of building work, in his opinion. He will concentrate on that. Julian has skilful hands, which is important for painting and for working with clay.

However, he wishes to stay true to clay, through which he has quite suddenly found that his eyes have opened to seeing half timbered houses or pictures of mud huts in Africa quite differently, that he now literally sees the world quite differently. The same applies when he watches the progress of natural building work on the site of the children’s farm Pinke Panke.

Following his training, he could start work in a small Berlin painting firm, which sells ecological paints and clay plaster and where his knowledge of clay would come in very handy. He would also have the option of taking more in-depth courses with the LearnWithClay partners in France or England. Perhaps his company would be able to get him a placement there, within the framework of a Leonardo da Vinci mobility exchange for instance.



A large photograph of a woman, Kimberley Burgoyne, wearing a yellow hard hat and safety glasses. She is working on a wall, using a wooden tool to apply or smooth a material. The background is a textured, earthy wall.

Kimberley Burgoyne

Kimberley Burgoyne left school without qualifications in the South of England at a very early age, since her environment did not give her the support she needed for her dyslexia - and she became a herdsman. Day and night, she spent her time with goats. Even as a small child, she wanted to build shelters for them and for herself from straw - cheap, energy-saving and safe. "Animals are like people, when they live somewhere and do not like it there, they move. They need secure breeding places in which they can bring up their young, otherwise there are no offspring."

A practical course in marine biology gave rise to the wish to work in a zoo. She wanted to search for solutions for the better housing of amphibians and fish. "Working and living 24 hours a day with animals can be a little lonely", the 27 year old found, so she moved to Brighton, worked in "trendy bars and pubs" and decided that this "much too fast, too hectic and unhealthy society" was not for her either.

And so she emigrated to India. Coming back to the North of England years later, she next learnt at **amazonails** how to climb a ladder properly, how to

make houses weatherproof with lime, and attended further earth building courses with many other beginners.

She now wants to become a plasterer. With this training she can work in many places, since there is earth and lime almost everywhere. In the last few years she has always worked in the conventional manner and now wishes to see how far she can go with clay.

Next year she will take ECVET courses 1 and 2 at **amazonails**, and hopes that she can soon take the NVQ¹ courses 1 and 2 for lime and clay. In Ireland, together with practitioners from across Europe, she is currently learning how to apply clay plasters to strawbale and stone houses. Then it will be an earth building workshop in Italy, after which she wishes to build up contacts with Bulgaria, in order to be able to complete further ECVET courses in different places.

¹ The UK currently does not offer an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) in clay plaster, but as part of the UK partners' vision on taking forward the work of the LearnWithClay project, they hope to create a new occupational standard and qualification - NVQ Clay Plaster, similar to the NVQ in lime plaster (Heritage skills).

***There is earth
and lime almost
everywhere***



LearnWithClay – partners

The project LearnWithClay is a community project of 12 partners from 4 countries, promoted by the Leonardo da Vinci Innovation Transfer Projects Programme.

Project management

FAL e.V.

Am Bahnhof 2
D - 19395 Ganzlin
www.fal-ev.de



Partners

DBBZ

Alexander Stamboliiski-Str. 16
BG - 5800 Pleven
www.bgcpo.bg



BAUFACHFRAU Berlin e.V.

Lehderstr.108
D - 13086 Berlin
www.baufachfrau-berlin.de



Berufliches Schulzentrum Leipziger Land

Röthaer Straße
D - 04564 Böhlen
www.bsz-leipziger-land.de

Knobelsdorff-Schule Oberstufenzentrum Bautechnik I Berlin

Nonnendammallee 140-143
D - 13599 Berlin
www.knobelsdorff-schule.de



LehmbauKontor Berlin Brandenburg e.V.

Am Hegewinkel 107
D - 14169 Berlin
www.lehmbaukontor.de



Handwerkskammer Schwerin Berufsbildungs- und Technologiezentrum

Werkstraße 600
D - 19061 Schwerin
www.hwk-schwerin.de



AsTerre Association nationale des professionnels de la terre crue

67, rue Pierre Tal Coat
F - 27000 Evreux
www.asterre.org



AKTERRE

1498 Route de Montaud
F - 38210 Saint-Quentin-
sur-Isère
www.akterre.com



LE GABION

Domaine du Pont Neuf
route de Saint-André
F - 05200 Embrun
www.legabion.org



amazonails

Hope Mill
Crescent St.
Tadmorden
OL 14 5HA, UK
www.amazonails.org.uk



constructionskills

Ashby Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 3GJ, UK
www.cskills.org



Where can I obtain information?

BULGARIA

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GERMANY

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UNITED KINGDOM


























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At the portal www.earthbuilding.eu of the **European Training Institute for Earth Building** you can find further contact addresses of training providers in earth building and natural building techniques from over 15 European countries.


The ECVET earth building offered by the **LearnWithClay** partners


You can find the current training and courses offered by the LearnWithClay partners at www.earthbuilding.eu and at the relevant partner websites.

Partner	Host establishment	Home establishment	Offers for teachers	Specialities	Levels of training and certificates you can gain					
					UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5	UNIT 6
DBBZ Pleven (BG)	  	  	Introductory seminars, child and youth education	Various European co-operative ventures in vocational training in the building sectors	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1				4 3
FAL e.V. Ganzlin (DE)	 		Courses for lecturers and trainers from european countries	Qualification: Designer for clay plasters (chamber of crafts), multi-lingual lecturers (English, French)	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1	4 3
BAUFACH-FRAU Berlin e.V. Berlin (DE)	  			On-site learning and building instruction by and for craftswomen						
Berufliches Schulzentrum BSZ Leipzig (DE)			Further training for teachers	Integration of earth building into conventional training						
Knoblesdorff-Schule Berlin (DE)			Further training for teachers	Certificated introductory module in earth building in vocational preparation Certified courses in building Continuous vocational training for craftspeople	4 3 2	4 3 2	4 3 2	4 3 2		
Le Gabion Embrun (FR)	  			Regional historical building techniques; gypsum/clay plaster techniques	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1	3 2 1		
AKTERRE Saint-Quentin-sur-Isère (FR)				Short courses available throughout France: clay plaster, decoration, earth building materials		4 3 2 1		3 2 1		2 1
amazonails Todmorden (UK)	  		Ambassador for strawbale building and natural building techniques	Learning natural building techniques on the construction site or in the workshop; mixed groups, accessibility to minority groups, customised courses, team building in the construction process	4 3 2 1	4 3 2 1				

The ECVET earth building offered by the LearnWithClay partners for:

 young people

 people in vocational training

 trades, craftspeople and professionals

Informations and links for foreign training residences

Learn Abroad

- www.ec.europa.eu/education/leonardo-da-vinci/doc1027_en.htm
- www.grundtvig.org.uk/n&langChanged=true
- www.ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=e
- www.leonardo.org.uk
- www.lawa-quality.eu/en/index.html
- www.euronaver.net
- www.deeep.org
- www.ec.europa.eu/youth/news/1618_en.htm
- www.europa.eu/youth/volunteering_-_exchanges/index_eu_en.html
- www.openhouses.de/english/start.htm
- www.bauorden.de/217-0-English.html
- www.uknec.org.uk/
- www.sequa.de/en/index.php?area=1&p=static&pape=programs_sesam

Word lists

- www.lawa-quality.eu/links_contentpool_sprachen.html
- www.dachverband-lehm

Information on EQF und ECVET

- www.ecvet.net
- www.ec.europa.eu/education/ecvt/index_en.html
- www.ecvet-projects.eu

Leonardo da Vinci Projects in Earth Building

- www.earthbuilding.eu
- www.lernpunktlem.de
- www.clayplaster.eu
- www.adam-europe.eu
- www.hlinarch.eu

You can obtain a full documented list at www.lernpunktlem.de

Materials



CD-Rom clay plasters and design

For teachers and trainees

Contains over 500 pages of teaching and learning materials for the training course “Designer for clay plasters” with the modules: Basic Principles; Design; and Marketing.

Available in the following languages: Bulgarian-English, German-English, French-English, Polish-English, Greek. From 2010 it will also be available in the Slovakian, Slovenian and Czech languages. Price: 29 € plus postage and packing, order address: FAL e.V.

Teaching film Les enduits en Terre

Free download from www.legabion.org



Handbook ECVET earth building

For training establishments in the languages: BG/DE/EN/FR

Includes amongst other things the ECVET learning units on clay plasters, explanations and documents for the examinations as well as information on mobility programmes, a specialist vocabulary list for exchange in the languages of Bulgarian, German, English, French and Polish.

Free download from www.earthbuilding.eu

Brochure Pathways to clay

“ECVET earth building – Learning across Europe”

Also available in the languages: Bulgarian, German, French
CRATerre editions, 24 pages

Order through www.amazonails.org.uk

Price: £5 hardcopy plus postage and packaging

Or download for free at www.earthbuilding.eu

Text

amazonails, AsTerre, BAUFACHFRAU Berlin e.V., Berufliches Schulzentrum Leipziger Land, FAL e.V., LehmbauKontor Berlin-Brandenburg, Tatjana Hofmann

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