

**INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY (PHASE II)
RESEARCH PROJECT: ECOVILLAGES AS INCUBATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
TRANSITIONS (EVIST)**

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Institution: University of Basel - Centre for Religion, Economy and Politics.

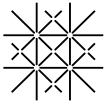
Project Website: ecovillages.theologie.unibas.ch/en

Thank you very much for your willingness to participate in our study!

Information on the research project

The EVIST project examines how sustainable innovations of ecovillages (e.g. permaculture, greywater re-usage, non-violent communication etc.) can be spread to their local surroundings. Understanding these diffusion processes is important for promoting ongoing transformations towards greater sustainability. The EVIST project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The purpose of the EVIST project is both to publish academic articles and to give back helpful insights to the ecovillage movement. With your participation you will help the project to gather important insights on the diffusion of ecovillage innovations.

Your participation in this project phase consists in answering a web-based survey that takes about 30 minutes. You will be asked questions about your ecovillage and how it works together with other people and organisations.



How we will protect your information

Pseudonymization

The data collected during the survey will be pseudonymized. That means that your name and the name of your ecovillage will not be used for the analysis or be mentioned in any publications. We only collect your personal data to be able to contact you concerning your participation, the results of the study or the prize draw. However, the country and region where your ecovillage is located and other characteristics of the community (number of residents, innovation activities, etc.) are of importance to our research results and will be used for analysis and publications.

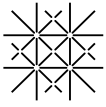
Storage

The raw data, containing your name and the name of your ecovillage will be stored on a secure drive of the University of Basel. There is a possibility that the project will move to the University of Oslo. Therefore, we will also ask for your consent to disclose your data to the potential new controller of the data: The University of Oslo. If you agree with that, your data will be transferred to a secured folder at the University of Oslo if the project moves there.

During the course of the research project, just the research team (including research assistants) will have access to this data. Before non-core team members can start working with the data during the course of the research, they will have to sign an agreement to ethically and confidentially deal with the research data. In addition, the completely anonymized research data (not containing the names of participants or ecovillages) will be made available at an open-access repository. That means it will be openly available to anyone.

Anonymization

Five years after the end of the project (2030), the document that links your personal data to the survey results will be deleted, which will make it impossible to track the respondents. Until this time, we may contact you to ask for further information or to invite you to participate in possible follow-up projects.



Usage of the survey results

The results will be published in academic journals, reports or conferences. We also intend to use the results to publish non-academic material that can be relevant for ecovillages and other actors interested in sustainability transitions. Your personal information, your name and the name of your ecovillage will not be revealed in any publication or handed to third parties.

Withdrawal from the participation or the consent

The participation in this research project is voluntary. You have the right to stop participating in the research project at any time, without giving a reason. You can withdraw your consent in written format (sending an email to rebeca.roysen@unibas.ch) or oral format (via phone call or audio messages to +41766380897). If you withdraw your consent, all your personal information will be completely removed from the EVIST research project. You will not experience disadvantages because of refusal or ending of consent.

Risks

Your name and personal information will not be revealed in any publication or handed to third parties. The survey contains questions about sensitive issues like values, religious orientation etc. There is no obligation to answer these questions.

CONSENT

If you participate in the EVIST survey, you are automatically giving your informed consent to the conditions mentioned in this document. We encourage you to contact us in case you have any questions or remarks about the research project or the survey.