

How can we work together
to reach big shared goals...



...while caring for our individual projects?



#OpenVillage Festival
Collective Report

#OPENVILLAGE

12 December 2017, <http://festival.edgeryders.eu>

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 688670.



Table of contents

Purpose, Questions, Who is involved

What we have learned from one another

How we are solving common problems together

Which new collaborations are starting

Calls to Action !

Purpose of this report

Synthesise

Revisit questions and how sessions at the festival contributed to our learning

Redefine our Common Priorities

Collect input about how projects can benefit from OpenVillage and the wider Edgeryders network

Find Collaboration opportunities

Figure out our next moves and committing to each other



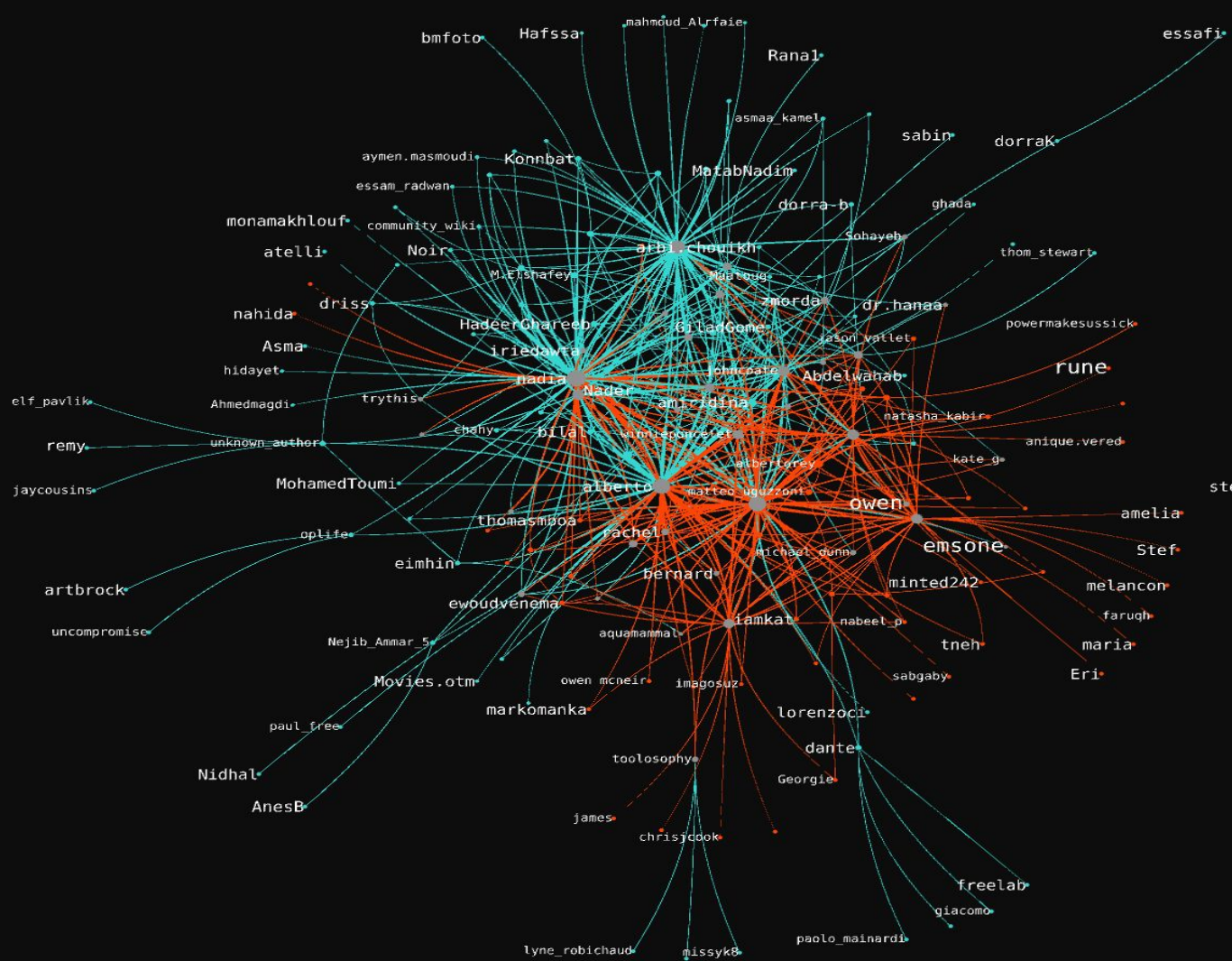
Photo credit: Henry Farkas



Who's in the Community?



OpenCare
research
and
OpenVillage
community
interactions
on Edgeryders



I. What did you learn from your session discussions before and during the festival?

II. How are we closer to solving common problems as a result of the festival?

III. What collaborations do you want to start or continue, with help from the network?

I. Learning from experiences

The following sessions contributed...

OpenCare ethnography: findings

Technology alone is not a cure-all for health and social care problems. But we can design some pretty amazing technology to improve accessibility.

Value of the social: the best work we can do is bring people into contact with one another, so they can share their approaches and offer support.

On a methodological level, **network science and ethnography together** can reveal connections that we couldn't see before.

Care comes from communities. Self-care can only take us so far, and institutionally-based care can only take us so far. If communities are the locus of most people's care practices, we must invest time and energy into community-building.

Photo credit: @Barbel Maessen



Care as citizen science: Complexities of water

Art is an access point to people and making science accessible. Incorporating fly fishing into school is effective as it links science, art, literature, and getting students outside into nature. Water sampling during the Urban games was attempted.

Key Outcome

Alberto wants to partner with the Edgeryders organisation to develop new projects and ventures.

Microbial plates from water sampling were a bit too full of bacteria, and we lacked proper 'negative' controls - but at least only environmental samples had *E. coli*...



Care as citizen science: DNA damage testing

Quantitative assays are key for drawing conclusions from biological assays, like staining for micronuclei.

Key Outcome

Some went home with 'origami' microscopes, and all gained from the experience. A toy microscope gave the only counts with the hemocytometer brought from Hackuarium!



Care as open science: Breathing Games

Different approach to see death, disease and wellness. Right now we treat the disease, but instead we can invest in awareness education and prevention. In order to have a device that works well you have to test it regularly (in medical environment it's a daily routine)

Key Outcome

A mixed revenue system needed, like designing a kit that could detect your breath and give you breathing data (if you don't have illness). There is a very active movement that is into breathing eg. mindfulness. Use jams as a way to improve with big steps your development process (useful also for OpenVillage).



Dunbar numbers

Key Learning

Key Outcome

Coordination around Emergency Mutual Aid

Delivery of care is problematic when large donor organisations are focused on preventing people's move across borders. The work is caused by some other unmet needs.

Key Outcome

Shared online resources as well as a website and podcast.



Photo credit:
@Barbel
Maessen

II. Solving common problems

The following sessions contributed...

Building healthy and productive online-offline communities

In OpenVillage we are developing a network of houses with an autonomous network affiliation. The online/offline is authentic pioneering work. They blend seamlessly into each other, depend on each other, need to be connected.

Key Outcomes

A toolkit by John Coate to improve our likelihood of success!

We are turning this talk into a training and webinar format to be delivered on demand to many edgeryders collaborators!

Photo credit: @Barbel Maessen, Ramykim



Open Insulin

An organisation needs to ultimately be accountable to diabetes patients. It can't be a misalignment like we have now with the large producers that mainly have a large profit motor. In terms of global collaboration, we have more support out there than we can effectively engage with so far, so should pursue all we can.

Key Outcomes

The concept of a patient-owned cooperative governing the production and gains from production of the open insulin was explored and put into concrete next steps. Formalising the global collaboration into a global foundation is fundamental.

A new biolab is being set up in Cameroon and a fundraising campaign across the network where community members would help by shipping in relevant equipment ([source](#)).



Policy Making in Care

A policy failure can be disruptive and equally able to achieve its purpose. It takes a flexible approach that overcome public administrations' silo mentality and opens to a larger and deeper engagement with urban stakeholders.

Key Outcome

Suggestion to use shaming rather than blaming for those who didn't comply with open design standards
Suggestion to document the de-construction and re-construction of the entire process.

The most inspiring debate was about open access to urban places, including technical and physical devices should be considered public good and start thinking about it as such.



Infrastructures for Collaboration

In democratically organized structures, how do you deal with the emergence of “natural leaders”? How do you keep a group accountable after its organizational structure is in place? How do you make sure that everyone has a voice without being overly rigid?

Key Outcome

Power literacy and regular self-assessments of a group, project, or organization are important to preventing the emergence of unbalanced power dynamics.



Ethics in Open Science and Data Protection

The new GDPR in Europe is paralysing but also paves the way for more transparency in how our data is being used. Small organisations or citizen science movements are especially liable, you must identify why you are collecting your data, and monitor the infrastructure you are using.

Key Outcome

Some of us are now thinking if there a way to broker in a market way the data. When you are running an activity make sure to be transparent that you commit to protect the data from risks that can be now or in the future, in a transparent process.



The Edge of Funding

OpenVillage as collective property

We can easily create agreements that break down land as a commodity. If you have a piece of land and you develop it (work, fertilizer...) then you get returns and distribute them. The way that we have been scaling this has been through companies with shareholders. New models: limited liability partnerships, asset partnerships.

Key Outcome

A blueprint for investment in locally productive land ownership. This needs to be low risk and high reward, and includes:

- a) Negotiate an underwriting agreement - an openbook phase with needs and wants, and profit margins only when the project is complete
- b) Go to capital partners - alignment is very important, so that people are in it for the right reasons



Digital security

Google is building advertising profiles of us all. In addition to that, our data is constantly sourced, mined, sold to third parties and so on. What is digital care and how can we train ourselves to protect our online identities and information? Digital care means defending ourselves.

Key learning outcomes:

How to secure your personal communication: files, cloud documents, desktop messages, voice calls etc.

How to secure your google account from google and marketers

Basic hygiene means turning off personal information and installing software to run privacy and security checks for you. There are many places online offering free technical assistance.

More info: <http://bit.ly/2o0JyF6>



Revolutionary Care: Building Health Autonomy

How are we then to live in this world? We want to laugh over good food, to have the time and mental space to enjoy a sunset, to feel good about our children's future, to take care of our loved ones, to commune with the natural world around us. And we must be clear, these desires are inherently revolutionary because they cannot be compatible with the dominant capitalist world view. The question is not why, it is how. How do we build a life with those around us?

Key learning outcomes:

- Learning from comrades in the ZAD about the role of building health within an occupied territory
- Working towards manipulating existing infrastructure
- Continuing to devalue institutional models while working to continue decentralizing and de-professionalising “care”



OpenVillage Roadmap

An ecosystem solution with 3 elements:

- 1) **Network of houses** for affordable co-living & co-working
- 2) **Collective intelligence platform** and
- 3) **Annual festival** to showcase projects & mobilise support.

They need to work in a decentralized way and localised, which means each house will host a community working peer to peer and consistently exposed to mentorship and training to ensure the projects are visible and sustainable.

Our path forward i.e. the first house in Morocco, is to prioritise and nurture projects that are good in themselves, but are also creating positive externalities for other projects and people.

Updates on openvillage.edgeryders.eu !



III. Plan New Collaborations

The following People & Projects contribute..

Collaboration Wall

Community Building & Coordination

Hazem, Zmorda & Yosser:
organising an [OpenVillage camp](#)
in Medenin, Tunisia, 26-30 DEC.
Next up: moving in the Open
Village house near Essaouira!

Nabeel: [Active & Direct
Collaboration](#) with Edgeryders
who are working on similar
themes or find ways to link
projects.

Natalia, Alex, Thomas, Nabeel: up
for joining the [2018 Festival team!](#)

Fundraising & Sales

Noemi & John Coate: now
developing a [community
management
training/webinar package](#)
and would like to partner up
to deliver it to cities,
organisations and groups
from all over. Do you know
someone?

Nabeel: Consider ways in
which collaborative projects
can be [funded](#) (Edgeryders
receive funding as an entity
to run these collab projects)

Organisational development

Anique Yael: Weaving in
across Edgeryders projects
and networks to forge more
resources and mobilization
onsite, online and strategic
levels of OpenVillage. Also
gather a community around
urban horti/permaculture for
The Reef at BXL.

Natalia, Alex, Anique, Alberto
Rey: up for joining [Edgeryders
board of directors.](#)

Business & Product Development

Natalia: prototype a working
scenario for an office of
[Edgeryders in Oakland](#), possibly
ready to be deployed end of
2018/early 2019. I'd like to work
on a model that would allow us
to create a space for us in the
USA as well, and contribute to
the OpenVillage/ Reef
construction process across
the globe.

Other

Hazem: Working on a [proposal
with Madyan for public spaces](#) in
Hurghada city in Egypt,
integrating an OpenVillage node
as a later stage for reusing
unused spaces/ buildings.

What do you want to start or continue in the next six months, with help from the OpenVillage and Edgeryders network?

Collaborations under way!

- [OpenInsulin new lab](#) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, with support and donations from the existing network at CounterCulture Labs Oakland, Reagent in Ghent, and other labs i.e. Hackuarium in Renens ([source](#))
- Organising [OpenVillage Camp in Medenin, Tunisia](#), December 26-30 2017, to expand the edgeryders community in the region. Trainers recruited from the global community! ([source](#))
- Invitation to join new partnership in a project to [use urban games for city care](#), with the University of Amsterdam and cultural organisations in Berlin, Athens, Milan (ongoing submission to Creative Europe)
- Writing and fundraising for new research projects at the scale and impact of opencare in a [new Edgeryders Research Team!](#) ([source](#))
- Winnie, Ramy & co.: brainstorming session to design a workshop about [IP for youngsters](#)
- Ramy & Maria: help bridge/scale out/amplify and mycoremediation knowledge sharing with Maria in Ghent at the Laboratorium
- Michael Dunn and Georgie partnered up to set up an organisation [Emergency Mutual Aid](#) to provide resources & training

All collaborations above have spun from the opencare online and festival conversations during spring-autumn 2017 and are championed by community members.

CALL TO ACTION join the OpenVillage 2018 team!

We think of the Edgeryders yearly gatherings as collaboration engines.

Why? The unMonastery hackers' residency in south Italy (2014), the opencare research (2016/2017), the Edgeryders organisation itself (2013).. all happened because our brains got together in a trust based space.



Want to join the 2018 festival team?

The first step is to.. Email us at community@edgeryders.eu !

CALL TO ACTION for OpenVillage Academy



A 3 months program in which participants develop new skills, professional experience and networks by contributing to existing open source projects dedicated to the common good.

These are projects lead by peers with more experience, who in return for the contributions to advancing their projects, mentor participants – helping them to identify and develop the skills needed to be good contributors and colleagues. The program will take place in the first OpenVillage house in Morocco, in a calm and inspiring place close to Essaouira.

Start date: February 2018

To Apply / Spread the word: edgeryders.eu/t/mena-openvillage-academy-extended-deadline/7617

CALL TO ACTION from Rachel Aronoff

What should OpenVillage do for you?

I want to reach more of the public about prevention for public health (esp in regards to my ideas about genomic integrity) and opening up scientific research to all! I was so happy to meet the varied members of Edgeryders, and love the great community feeling and ideas. I hope you will also think I can contribute to its future, esp with project development! (more below)

Which skills for OpenVillage?

I have experience writing proposals for, participating in, and managing big eu projects (BACSIN, BRAAVOO and more), in addition to my academic research background; but I am especially keen to help build a world where we can stop the desire for profit from poisoning the whole planet. I am a keen editor (language polishing, we called it at SciProM) and list maker (esp when things get checked as 'done'), and with my association AGiR! and the public open lab, Hackuarium, I help run as co-president, would love to be part of a bigger project that gets more people aware of all these issues.



Get in touch with Rachel: edgeryders.eu/t/reflections-on-the-festival/7551

Personal reflections



Thomas

"It emerges from this beautiful experience that the feeling of belonging is the first care that can be given to the individual. Feeling surrounded, understood and considered is the basis of a sincere and strong commitment within the community. This is the first foundation of openvillage."

Nadia

"Over the years the five members have built deep trust and respect as well as shared understanding of values which are not so obvious to others outside the team. Our sensitivity to each person's idiosyncrasies. Designing projects around one another's aspirations, skillsets and needs. Giving each other freedom to go off, try new things, experiment because we trust that it is in service of the collective."



Winnie

"I can't imagine many would disagree with the value they have gotten out of it so far. Only now, while synthesizing notes several days later, it dawns on me. Everything that has been done, where Edgeryders took a leading role, has been the investment. Will we put to use what has been built?"

Personal reflections



Rachel

"I really would like to get more people doing citizen science, and especially help them become aware of how easily we might be able to help our cells avoid too much damage, also for future generations, I guess one personal thing I (re)learned was how difficult it is to push ideas onto people directly."

Ramy

"In a few short but intense days, I learned, we have the potential to advance and/or to expand our capacities, write new biopolitical narratives, imagine different cognitive maps, and restructure current extractive economic systems. And with that, I am impelled to action as an individual, and now someone who is part of the ER fabric."



Nabeel

"keep imagining the beauty that would be created if we were present in the same venue for a prolonged period of time. For now, that venue is the edgeryders.eu"

Add yours to <https://edgeryders.eu/c/festival> !



Thank you!



This collaborative report is authored by:

@NoemiSalantiu @PonWinnie @ @Ladyniasan @woodbinenyc @notwistgirl @ramykim @michael_dunn
@hazemAdel72 @owen @aniquevered

Thanks to all who contributed their experience in the festival!

@matjahu @alberto_cottica @johncoate @dfko_0 @Nabeel_p @freeflowcreativ @theworldsetfree
@chroma_space @bazarov23 @Ligu @markomanka @miahassoun @fabioballi @paw @asimong
@MattGemini @DJEDIDIZmorda @YosserBelghith

.. and everyone else!

*This work is licensed under a Creative
Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.*

