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What do trainers in eco-construction do?

One of the things we have learned in this project is how the differences between how we approach things can be a strength if we are able to accept the power of diversity. What we hold in common – our goal of building a sustainable society – often appears in other people in ways that are unfamiliar to us and challenge our understanding and practices.

We wanted to develop a common understanding of what trainers in eco-construction do and so we gathered evidence from trainers in all the partner countries and distilled this into a table. 40 trainers participated in detailed interviews in the UK, France, Germany, Slovakia, Sweden and Austria. These interviews, lasting several hours, were an amazing and key step in our journey.

We found there are 5 things we teach in our training, which are shown as rows in the table.

And we found these were characterised by different attitudes in people that affect the training, by different ways of teaching, by different activities and achieved different learning outcomes in the trainees. These are shown as columns in the table.

In listening to a great diversity of trainers' voices, we developed an understanding that words have a limited ability to communicate meaning, different people understand words differently. We developed an awareness that that a deeper meaning can sometimes be communicated through images and metaphors which are clearer by being less specific.

Therefore, we created the Table of Branches & Fruit. This presents the distilled words of our trainers from their explanation of what they do, and it expresses how training is like a whole living thing of great strength, rooted in our natural world, with branches heading off in different directions towards the light, which grows and changes, and which bears fruit that will sustain us all in the future. That is why we are trainers and it is beyond words.

