

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

The IKI-GAIA project is entering a phase where the focus is also being put on energy sovereignty, that is, one of the main pillars of the project. Don't miss all the advances and designs that are being implemented to have central heating systems in all the 1,400 square meters of the farmhouse. Efficient heating systems to heat spaces of 60 square meters with a pellet control and automation systems water turbine...

CENTRAL HEATING

Since December we are also planning and progressing with the installation of the central heating, the extension of the ACS (sanitary hot water) and black water lines of the farmhouse. We plan to have heated in the 1st phase all the facilities that can already be used plus the new kitchen. The 2nd phase would include the adjacent buildings and halls.

In this phase, solar thermal systems will be implemented to support heating and domestic water.

DUAL BIOMASS BOILER

The heating system will be articulated through a professional dual biomass boiler that can be operated independently with wood chips, pellets, olive pits, or firewood. With the biomass generated of the environment and the pruning and with our own biomass plantations that we are planning. We will be able to be independent. Raul is already designing the chipper to transform the prunings into wood chips to be self-sufficient from next winter.



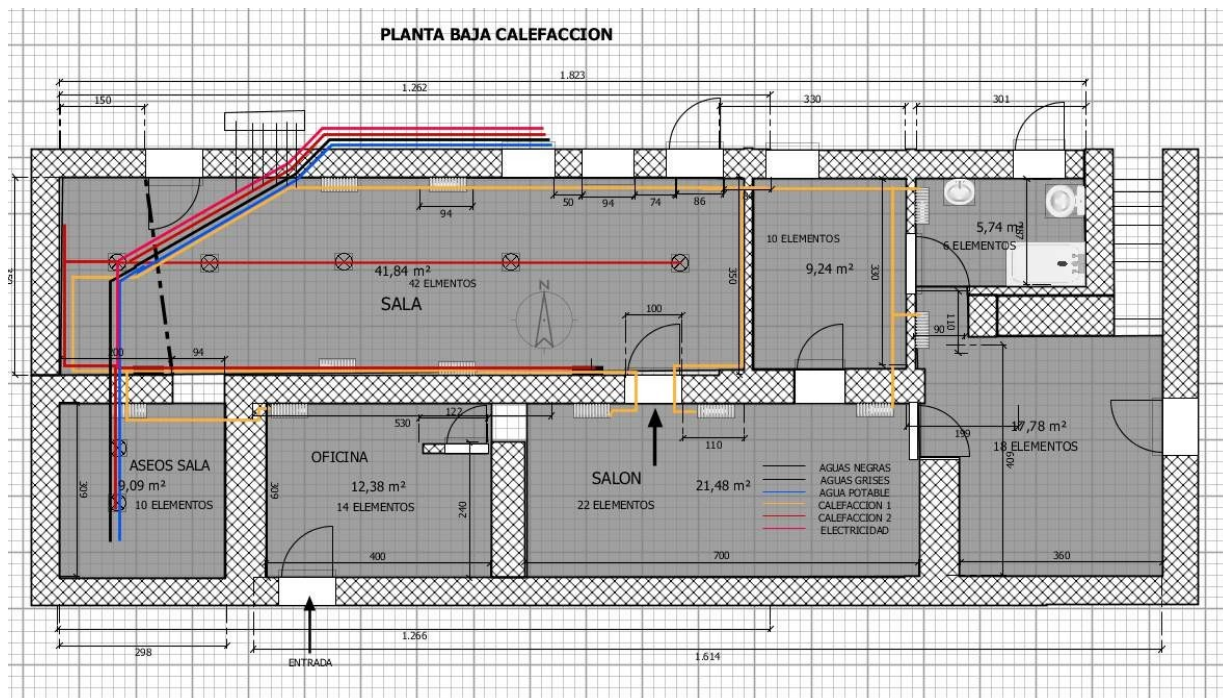


The dual boiler, which costs around 6.000€, has all the necessary elements to distribute the heat of all the buildings. So radiators, pipes etc. in phase 1 have been financed for the amount 10.000€ based on Rakel's action plan. The vision is that next winter, more pioneers can live in the farmhouse and seminars can be held in this space.

We estimate 2 more months of work, for central heating in the seminar room, dining room, and scholar rooms that have been finished.... and to increase comfort in all rooms and spaces that are already in use.

HEATING SYSTEM PLAN

Below you can see the plan that Raul has designed to calculate the square meters that are going to be heated.



SURFACE TO BE HEATED IN PHASES

In red 1 phase (292 sqm, and in yellow 2nd phase: 354 sqm)



RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Wind turbines, solar panels, waterfall or water turbine...

WATER TURBINE

We will take advantage of the existing difference in between water tank levels, that were placed above the cistern, near the cistern next to the house. A closed-circuit water turbine system has been designed.

By means of a solar power pump during the day, water is pumped to the upper tanks which are 100 m high and at night this water is dropped to the turbine which is located next to the cistern. This then feeds the same cistern in a closed circuit (no direct pumping batteries are used).

This system is not new, the electricity companies have been using it for decades, so the turbine works at night when there is enough electricity and costs 0.061 cents kwh, and sold at 0.18, 0.15 kwh during the day time period.

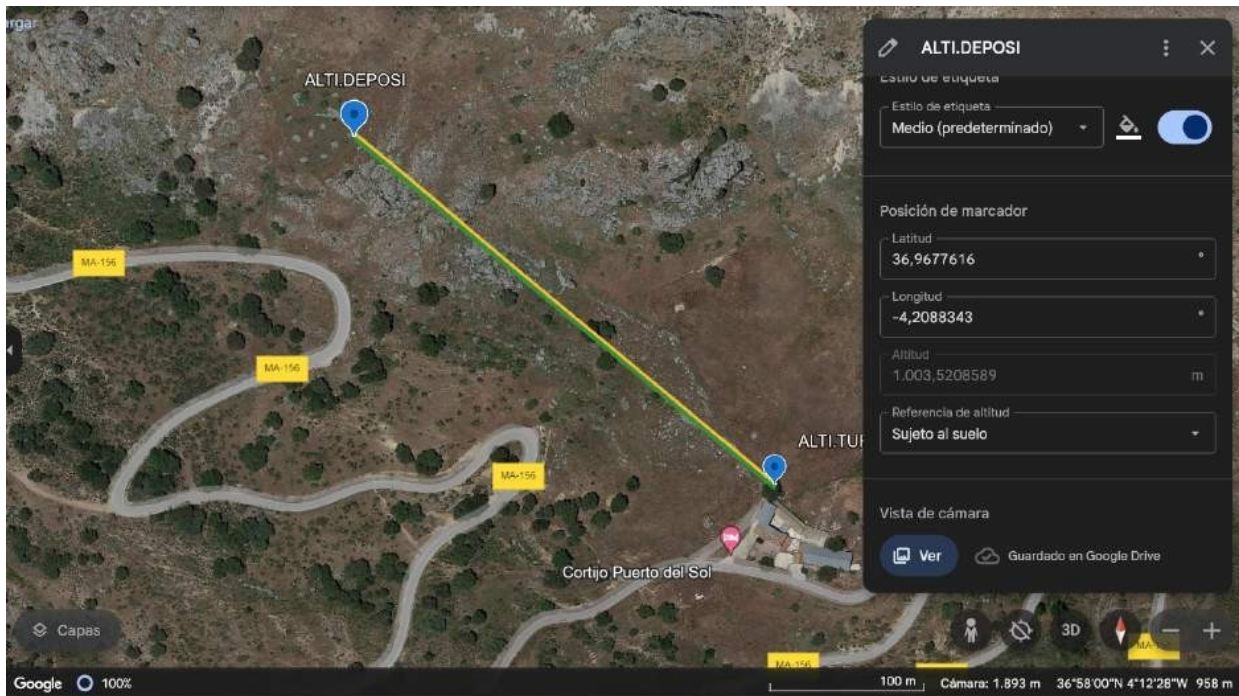
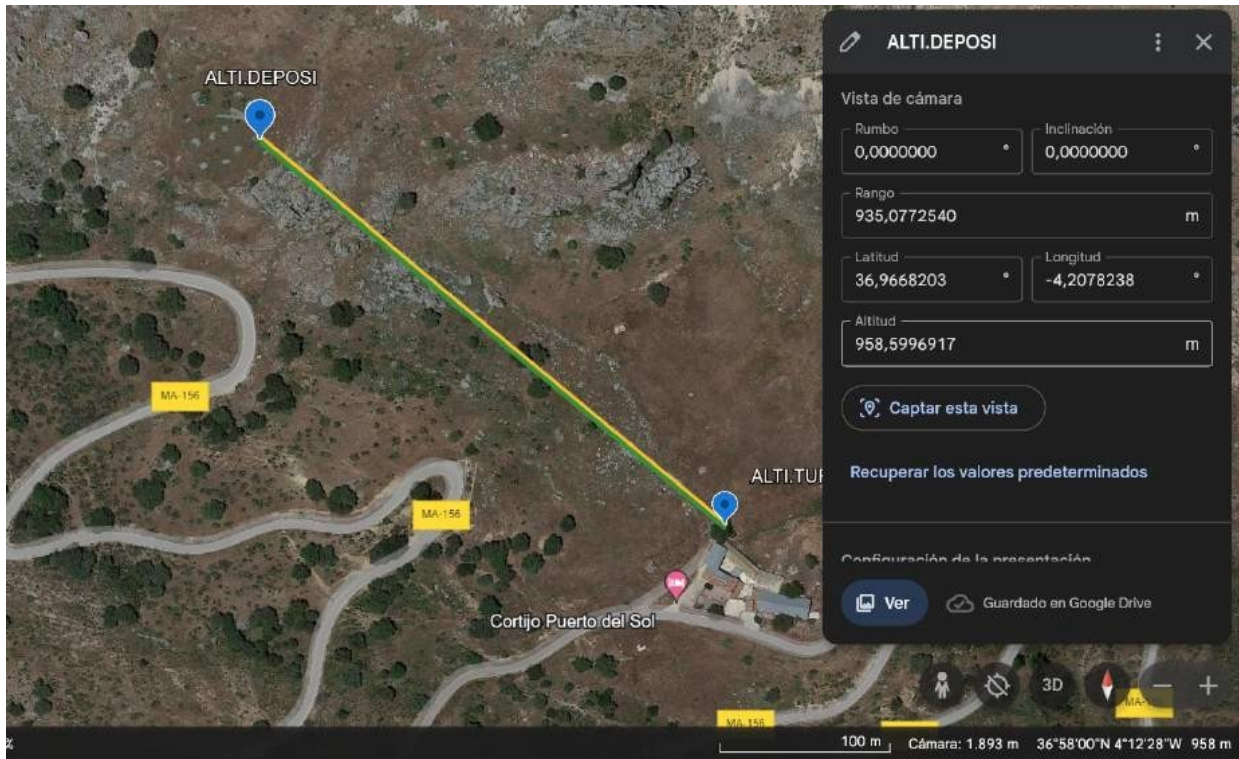
All these systems are being designed and implemented to achieve energy autonomy and to be independent of the electricity grid.

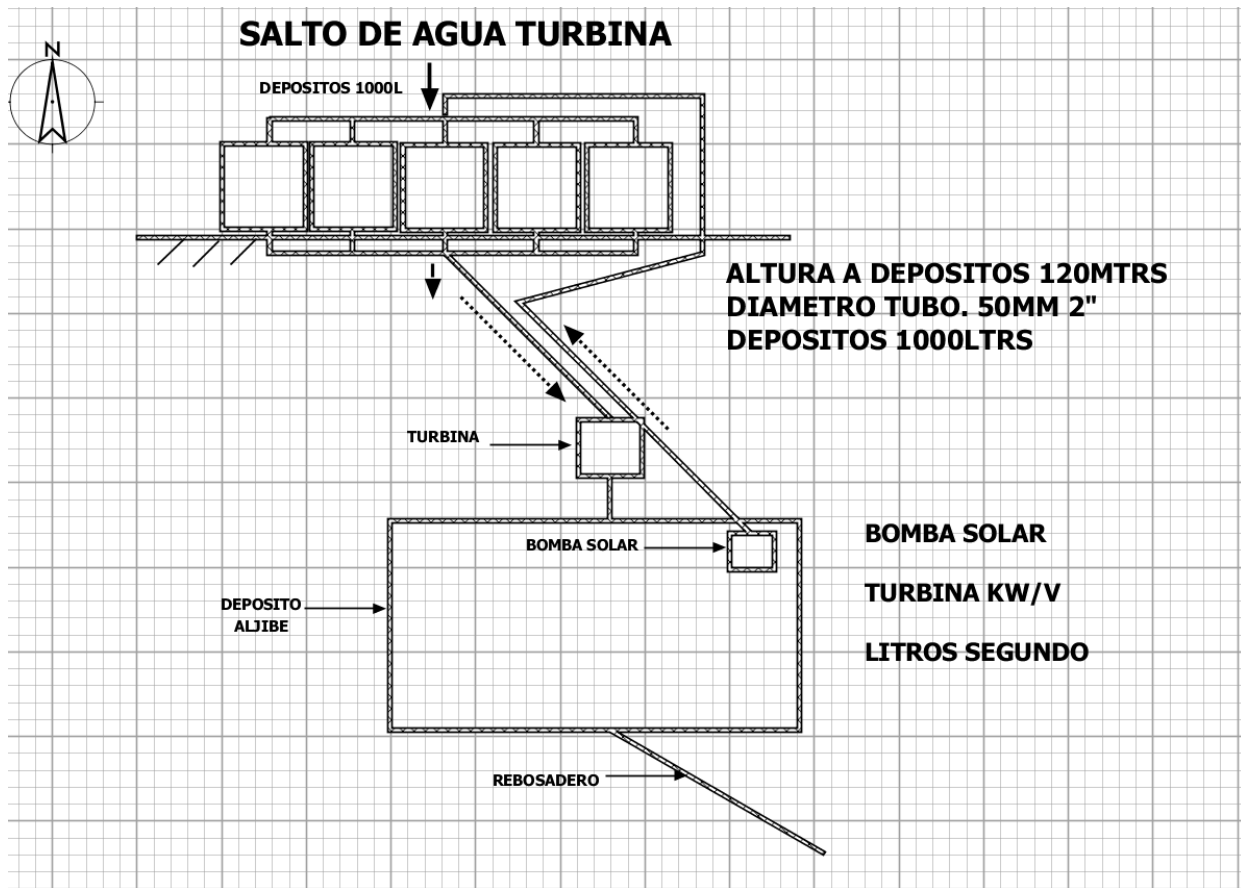
This process of accelerating energy can be driven forward if we can find funding.

If you would like to collaborate with this team that is being created, and contribute financially for access to the resources, please contact us. We are looking for private funding and/or sponsors for these necessary projects!!

semilla@semillamontealegre.org or 0034 659109809

Below you can see an explanatory map and a simple visual scheme of the project that is being planned.





CONTROL AND AUTOMATION SYSTEMS

Control and automation systems for water irrigation and energy consumption are being designed and implemented to optimise and improve the performance.

This will be done using free hardware and free ARDUINO software.

This system is a very low cost and low maintenance system, and can be implemented for all our needs.

SECURITY

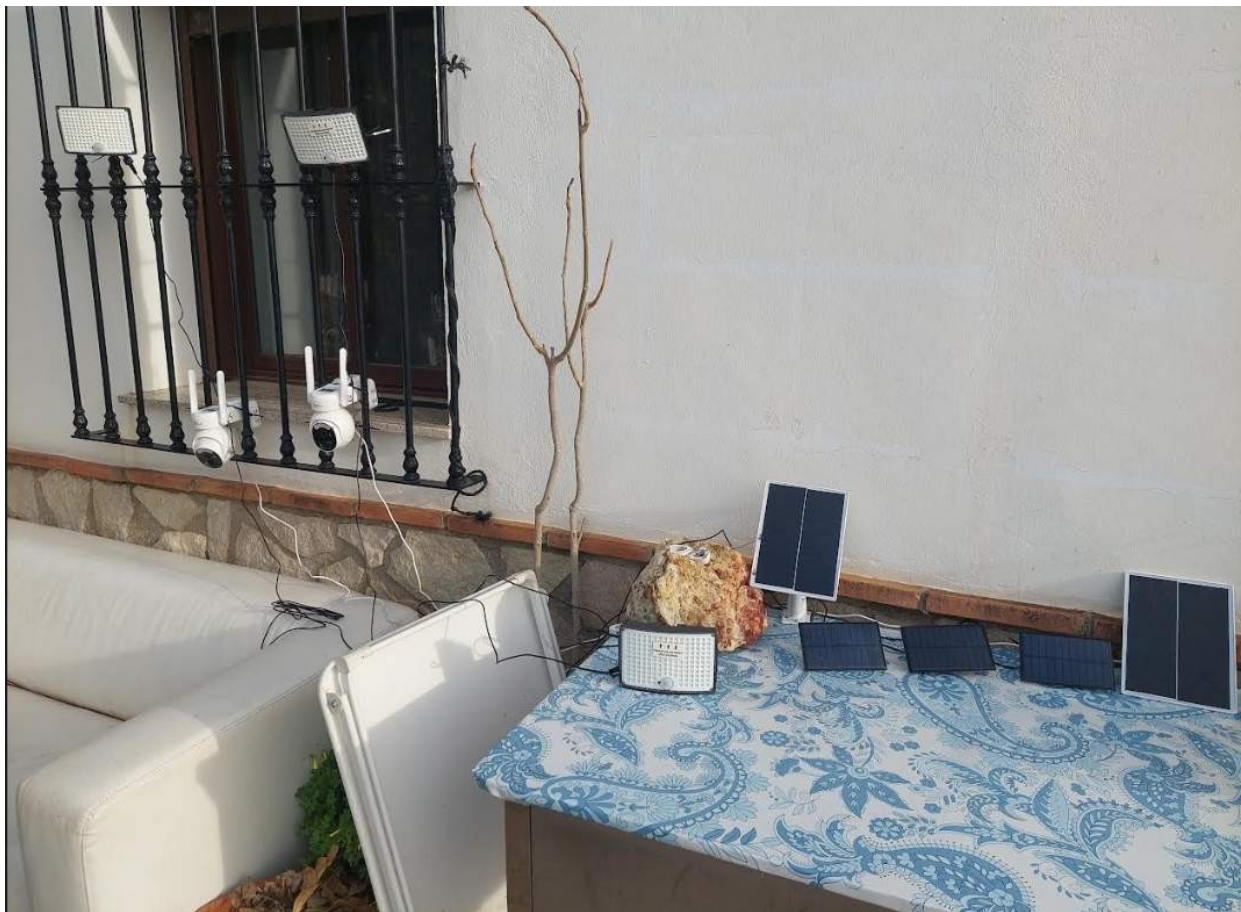
Given the characteristics of the buildings with the windows and doors spread over more than 1,400 square meters of the facilities, including 3 large warehouses where we have a workshop with tools and materials, it is also essential to invest in security.

We are taking advantage of the fact that we have an electromechanical technician at IKI-GAIA who has worked for over 20 years in maintenance of industrial and building installations. Since December we have been installing a perimeter security system consisting of cameras, as well as exterior lighting for the IKI-GAIA installations.

People have come to try and steal on a couple of occasions while Rakel was alone in the farmhouse (they stole walnuts) and have entered the stables, which have doors open at every corner.

Many tools and materials have also disappeared from the workshop and the facilities.

SECURITY SYSTEM BEING TESTED



PLAN OF WHERE THE CAMERAS WILL GO



WORKS ON THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY, HOT WATER, HEATING, AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS

The local professional masons who come from time to time are helping us to open channels and cracks in very thick and difficult walls with very powerful drilling machines.

The most difficult masonry work, where holes have had to be drilled in very thick walls and having to cut through stones, is being financed by Tomtom, a friend of the project who has again donated €500 for masonry work in January.

We are looking for more funding and voluntary hands to help with this necessary project which will allow us to extend and channel the electrical circuit, ACS, heating and divert the waste water to a biodigester which we are looking to install.

INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN

We are taking advantage of the works to bring hot water to the professional kitchen that is being planned in the middle room so that we can have sanitary regulation of this essential part when working with the public, to be able to feed many people at seminars and events and the children who will participate in the educational project in the next school year.

Every month between 500€ and 1000€ will be needed to move forward faster with the masonry work that the pioneers of the farmhouse cannot do. If you can help us with 1-month contribution of this in 2024 to finance these works with 500€ (or by contributing 50€/month for 1 year, we would be very grateful.

Please contact Rakel so that we can coordinate and give you more information about the symbolic gifts we can offer you, in honour and gratitude for your support, depending on the contribution/donation you make.

There is also the option of a 5-year social loan. Becoming a social lender of the project (minimum loan of 10.000€) offers you many advantages in terms of being able to come and spend seasons every year for you and your partner or family, undertake a project with us and collaborate/learn and even reserve a place in the future campsite.

What are you waiting for? We already have 8 visionaries who have chosen this mode of participation who want to support IKI-GAIA, approach the project at their own pace and reserve a place in the future campsite.

For further information, please contact
semilla@semillamontealegre.org or 0034659109809

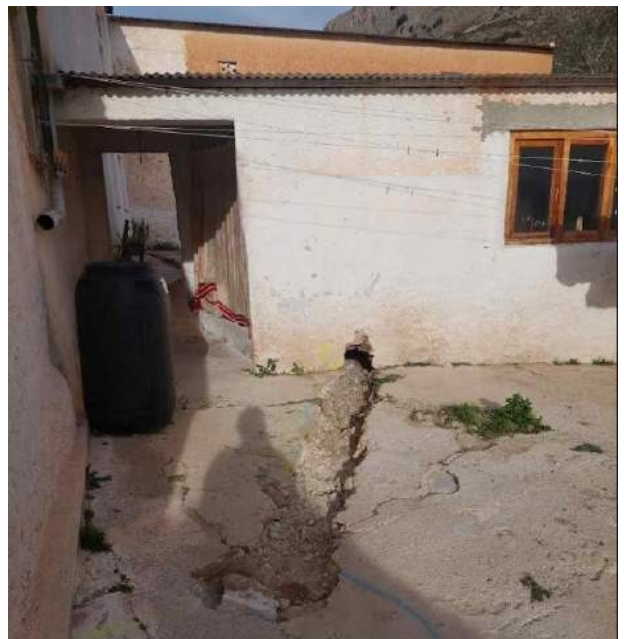


On the left channels already made in the courtyard going to the new kitchen and on the right channels and progress in the dining room.



Opening at the end of the dining room where the dual boiler will be installed on the west side of the living room.

Opening to the left will be used to bring hot water to the planned bathroom.



SOME OF IKI-GAIA'S LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE HELPING US AND WANT TO BE PIONEERS AND ENTREPRENEURS



Michael, a handyman with more than 30 years of experience in the ecovillage world, renovating damp areas inside the house.



Pedro, a sociocultural monitor and community facilitator in natural environments and a long term volunteer with a passion for scouting and nature activities with children who wants to train in the Schetinin pedagogy to support the start of an educational project in IKI-GAIA.



Martin filling the gaps between the bricks with lime, sand and marble.



Ulrike, Martin's partner, has helped us a lot with her enthusiasm, experience and desire to get this part ready.

The ISKA family with 2 children who spent 3 weeks at Christmas in IKI-GAIA helped us to finish plastering the living room with lime, sand and marble. They have built their own house.

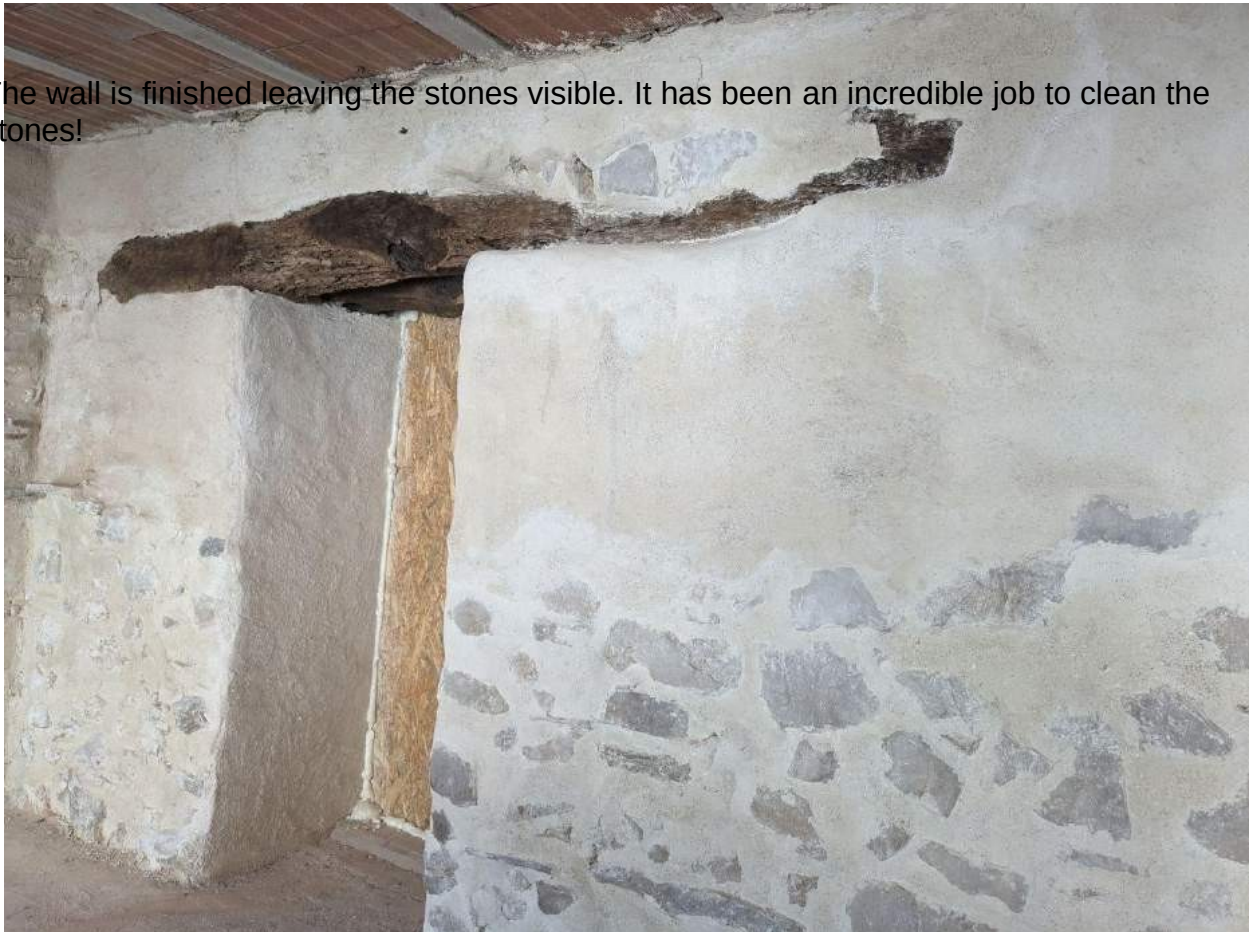
We are getting closer to open the door and connect the main living room with this dining room. This space will allow us to have meals for more than 35/40 people inside. It is essential to be able to host seminars in winter and to increase the number of pioneers and visitors during the cold season.

Next winter we will be there eating in a heated room.

Who would like to help us with the wooden ceiling and the remaining details?



The wall is finished leaving the stones visible. It has been an incredible job to clean the stones!

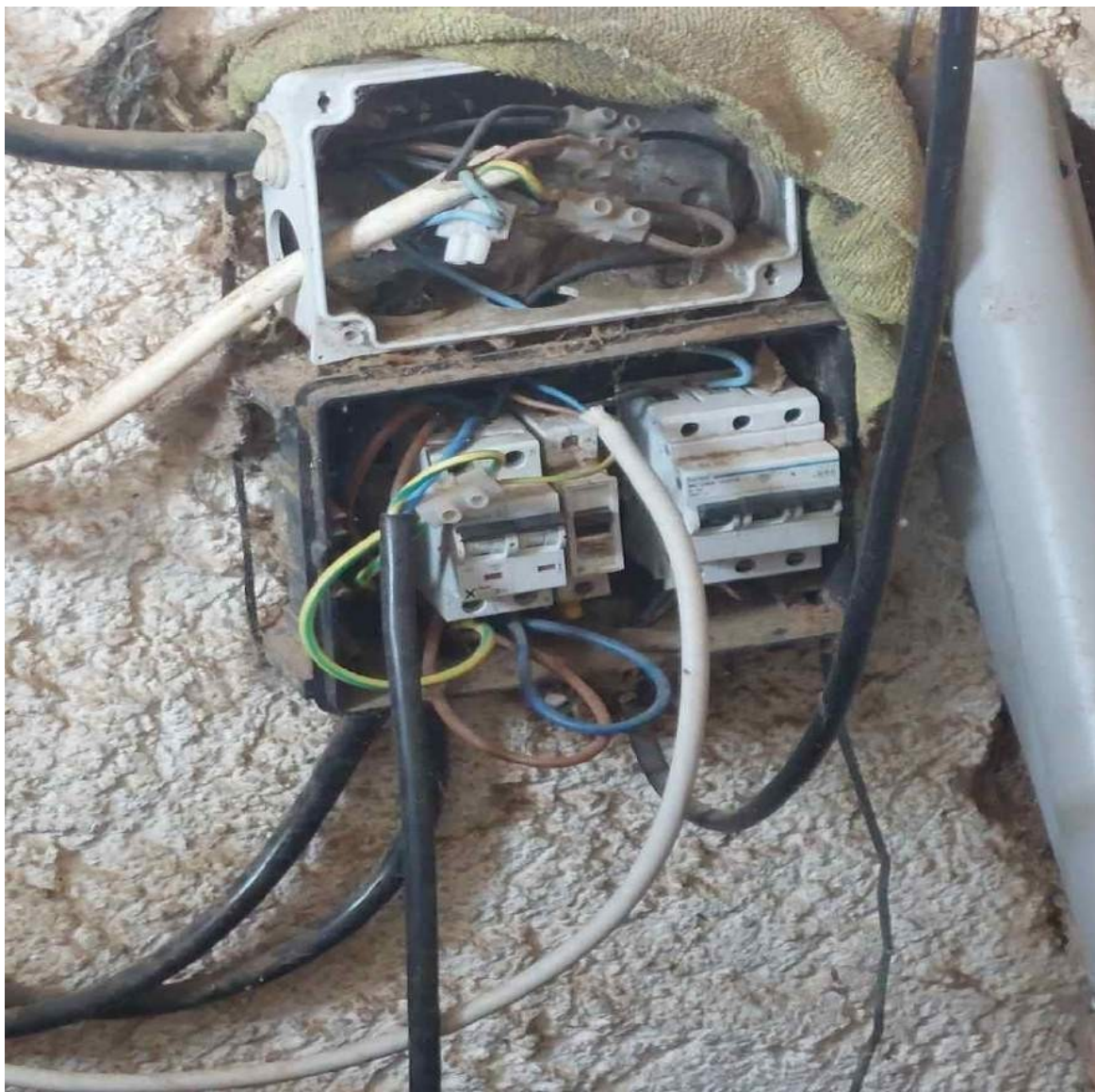


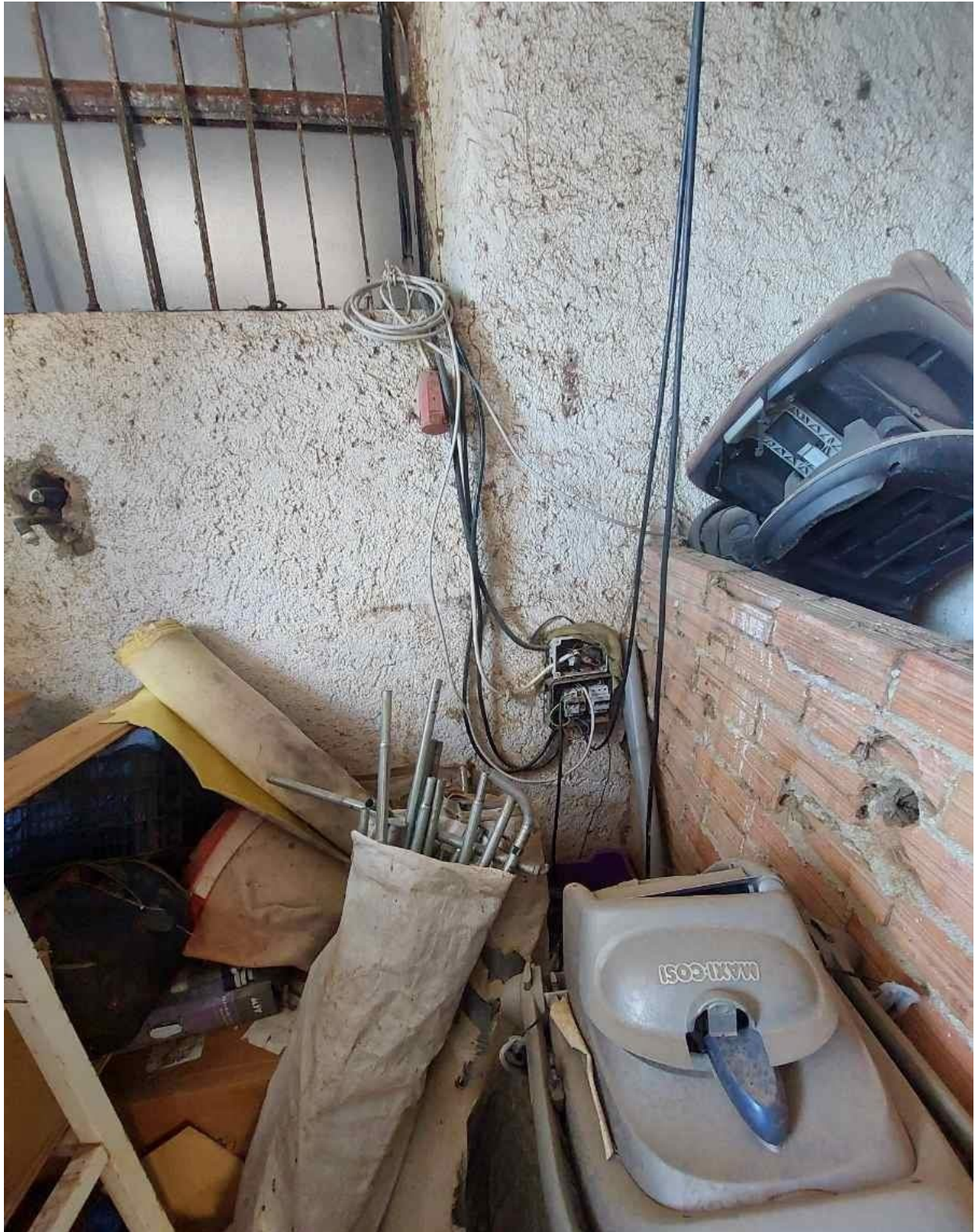
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

The electrical installation needs to be redesigned as serious anomalies have been observed, which could lead to system failures and possible accidents.

The action includes the replacement and renovation of the existing electrical installation as this was carried out without taking into account any regulations or safety considerations, making it unstable and unsafe.

The new installation will be carried out in accordance with the REBT electrical regulations that set the installation standards.





Makes you speechless, right?

IKI-GAIA, A SPACE FOR EXPERIMENTATION AND CREATIVITY

EFFICIENT HEATING SYSTEM UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE LITTLE SCHOOL



Here you can see 2 efficient heating systems that our “maker” Raul is building. They are gravity-fired cookers without the need for electricity and electronics and are very efficient. They only need a little bit of pellets and can heat a space of about 60 square meters.

And you? What do you want to create and promote in IKI-GAIA?

As you know IKI-GAIA is not a company where jobs are offered, it is a project in construction of ecovillage with a very innovative model of rural entrepreneurship endorsed by many founders of ecovillage projects.

An innovative rural repopulation and job creation project with a high probability of success and of being replicated around the world if agreements and contracts are respected and people respect that there are 4 requirements to reach the decision making in the ad hoc Board of IKI-GAIA and in this project, as in any ecovillage, there are basic values.

We will soon send you another newsletter with the progress of the educational sovereignty and the start of the educational project in September.

PERMACULTURE AND GARDEN COORDINATOR

We are very sad and affected that Nicole will no longer be coordinating the vegetable gardens. We understand her need to step back and collaborate with a team in harmony.

We are interviewing people interested in helping us with the vegetable gardens. If you know someone competent let us know. We have invested a lot of money in Permaculture and this venture and we are overwhelmed with so many open fronts in the farmhouse.

PS: We need to grow to a larger driving group who has the competencies, who takes responsibility and respects the path set out in the protocols to become a stable part of the project.

If you are not able to come in person, but would like to be more informed and contribute more closely to the development of projects that have to do with renewable energies or others, we will be happy to include you in the working groups.

SaLUZ and blessings for your contribution and trust to this project, to the open processes and conflicts that mirror us and make us release the layers that we have left over on an individual and group level.

Projecting positively with love and trust and accepting that everything takes a path and you only make the path as you walk.

Blessings and love from the visionary/ies of IKI-GAIA.