

*An opportunity to explore, discover and start practising
new ways of participation & collective action*



RHODES, GREECE 9-18 OCTOBER 2005

WELCOME - KALOS IRTHATE - ΚΑΛΩΣΗΡΘΑΤΕ!

You are coming to the Demos Community College in Rhodes, Greece.

You are joining a community that will remember ancient wisdom, will live and re-connect to the feeling of community colleges and will creatively shape the future!...

The journey is taking place on a Greek island and a city of more than 2.500 years of marvelous history. An island on the crossroads of 3 continents, the threshold of the East and the West.

An island that offered ground for one of the wonders of the world, Colossus, a symbol radiating Apollo's glory, a symbol of light, freedom and brotherhood. This island has offered home to hospitable knights and fierce crusaders, spoke about "the value of the 'middle way'" or how excellent is the well-balanced way through Kleovoulos, one of the wise philosophers of ancient times, sparked inspiration to many writers, poets and travelers by its beauty and its people... An island full of multicultural encounters...

This time the island and the city are receiving you...and are keen to hear your stories while you explore the deep meaning of democracy, you share notions of participation and set foundations for active citizenship...

This document is meant to provide you with a little bit of inspiration (adding on your excitement!) and information on what to prepare, logistics on the Community College itself, the flow and process as well as the content of this gathering, hopefully answer some of the questions that you might have been carrying while waiting to hear more...

-What does it mean to be part of the Demos Community College?

-What will we try to achieve together?

-What will I bring and what will I take with me?

-What story will I help co-create?

-Who else will be there?

-What is the weather like?

-Will I(re-)present my country?

-What if ...

"DEMOS means ... The Power Of The Collective"

**We look forward to seeing you in a few days time!.. THE DEMOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HOSTING TEAM**

Introducing Demos Community College

*“Conversation is the ancient way
we discover how to transform
our world together”
Meg Wheatley*

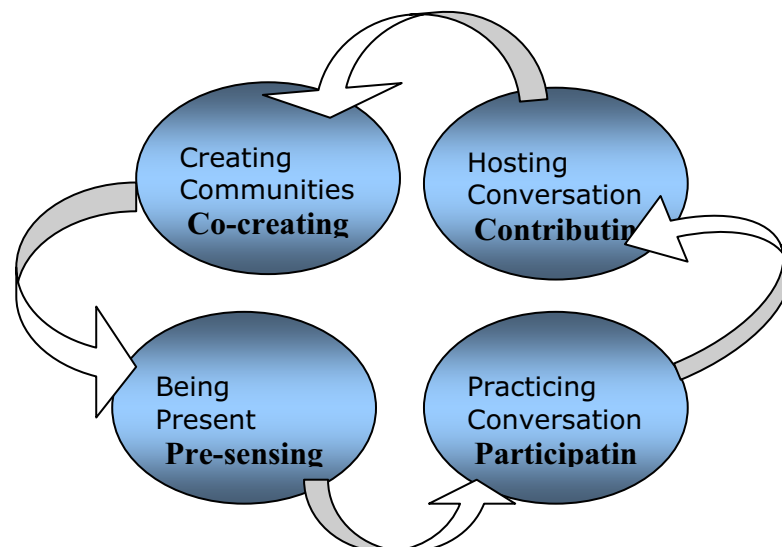
Demos is another Community College that the Association for Community Colleges is bringing into life... It is another invitation to learn together under one roof. It is however a little bit special this time. This time we're *organizing* in a different way and we are discovering *self-organisation*, less strict, pre-set structure, more flow... In building a learning community, as opposed to designing a more traditional “course” or “school”, the emphasis is not so much on pre-conceiving what will be taught and learned but on creating the conditions for us to engage in co-designing our learning process and the content of our learning, engaging in inquiry, story-telling and experience sharing around the questions, suggestions and initiatives that **we** bring.

And so we're exploring new ways of meeting as we taste “The Art of Hosting” so that we co-create hospitable, inspired learning spaces that enable and enhance authentic participation. While being introduced to the notion of hosting meaningful conversations we also have “Demos”, active citizenship in the centre of our time together. We will also learn through play...and fun in an art-ful way... close to nature. And through play we will see the bigger picture: Globalisation and Democracy through 3 dimensions: Challenges-Governance and Participation.

....What will we also do?

- We will meet each other and share what we know and want to know...
- We will share the story of ACC... and have a glimpse at the future in the context of Active European Citizenship...
- We will share the story of how Demos came into life...
- We will learn from the ancient wisdom that Greece can -still- teach us...
- We will explore the meaning of community colleges as learning spaces for democracy and active citizenship...
- We will be offered space and time to reflect on our individual and group learning...
- We will connect this experience with our local action and the project we bring along and inform our future activities...
- We will create a networked learning community in Europe. ..

We will be developing as community through a four-fold practice:



Who else will be there?

We are expecting about 35-40 participants/young leaders from all over Europe. "Whoever come are the right people".

Your hosting team -part of which you will become at some point as we're all teachers and learners...

Toke Paludan Moller: Since the early 1970s, Toke has been pioneering in the fields of sustainable entrepreneurship, sustainable leadership, educational renewal, and social responsibility. He has also been an innovator in the organization, design, and hosting of interactive learning and self-organizing processes.

Sven Ole Schmidt: I support people in their courageous search for leadership in a caotic world. In my role as a singer and a bandleader I enjoy bringing skilled people together to create that swing. I am a storyteller and a gardener.

Maria Scordialos: Maria is an experienced process designer and dialogue facilitator, working with the principles of self-organisation and participation in order to create the conditions where both individual and collective learning and discovery can emerge.

Sarah Whiteley: Sarah is particularly inspired by nature, especially how much diversity can co-exist together. Sarah sees nature as our greatest teacher in self-organizing and believes that being in nature can open people to different perspectives so that new visions and actions can be taken on a collective basis.

Maria Bakari: Your contact point to this adventure. She has been talking and doing a lot for Demos, ACC and the purpose of it all and hopes that she will still have enough energy left to the point of launching the community to be active and alert!...

John Petersen: Is the committed chairman of ACC and courageous holder of its important mission-message to Europe.

Jacob Erle: Generous friend of ACC and host of the Glocal Game...our lenses to the Interdependence that underpins our lives.

Maria Papanicolaou, Antonis Ghikas, Maria Constanzou and co.: Precious local support team -members of another Demos as well, the Municipality of Rhodes.

Logistics

Arrival info

Athens

There are connections to the port of Piraeus in case you are taking the ferry to come to Rhodes. Blue Star Ferries depart from Piraeus to Rhodes at approx. midnight of the 8th of October and will bring you to Rhodes at about 13.15 on the 9th of October.

You can buy the ticket in Piraeus.

To get to the port you can use bus or the suburban railway and then metro.

Likewise you can get to the city centre if you have time to wonder around Athens.

Useful site on connections: www.aia.gr (click on Transport). The info desk at the airport would be able to assist you.

Should you need any help while in Athens, you can contact:

Manos Kantantonakis on: (+30) 694 4143794 (mobile), +30 210 9323689
or Nancy Lagouretou on: (+30) 6 932 932 433 (mobile) +30 210 2236456
+30 210 5223747

Rhodes:

We will make every effort to pick you up at the Diagoras Airport of Rhodes.

There will definitely be a meeting point signposted at the main arrival hall.

If that's not possible (we will try and let you know in advance), taxis are available and the fare to the hotel (10 mins) is 7-10 euros.

Contact people for any assistance:

Antonis Ghikas: (+30) 6977007406
Maria Papanicolaou: (+30) 6976777594
Maria Bakari: (+30) 6937107 443

VENUE

Demos CC will be hosted at the Rodos Palace Hotel occupying its "community-style" bungalows and utilizing its gardens and conference halls. The hotel is just 10 minutes from the Airport at Ixia on the western coast of Rhodes.

Address: Trianton Ave., Ixia, 85100 Rhodes - Tel.: +30 22410 25222

Website: www.rodos-palace.gr

Weather:

Weather in Greece at this season is mild. Some Northern Europeans may call it summer... Rainfall is not a surprise though. Bring light clothing but have alternatives for the surprises... Temperature can be 25-18 degrees... We can guarantee sunshine and blue skies as a regular "pattern" on this corner of Europe.

What to bring....

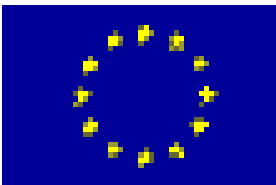
- Your whole self, your curiosity, your open mind and positive attitude...
- Your precious questions and good offers...
- Any material on your work/your community (written materials, photos)
- Books, readings or other things to share for the library/resource corner of the Community College
- Music, musical instruments, tools of creative work...
- Ideas of the projects you are involved in- ideas/dreams of projects for the future....
- Your digital camera!
- A journal/notepad for reflecting your own and the group learning (a guided one for the Art of Hosting will also be given to you here)
- Appropriate clothing + sunglasses...
- Anything you feel you definitely want to share and hasn't been mentioned here!

And one more thing:

Take a little time for yourself, away from the rush of your work or home life, and take another look at the place you call "home" just now.

Go for a gentle walk, listening to the sounds, noticing the light and the unique rhythms of this place. Keep an image of that place and bring it along. Reflect on what Demos and Democracy means for you and bring along an object that represents this for you. If it cannot be moved, remember the object and make a representation of it. Bring this along.

Demos Community College is supported by:



The European Commission The European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΡΟΔΙΩΝ

The Municipality of Rhodes