

pro action learning and meadowlark invite you,  
**The Art of Hosting: learning in community**



## Pro Action Café intensive: The Art of Hosting Questions to Action

We solve problems by dissolving them into questions. Our wicked questions become our friend, they generate open fresh views on our world. From this ground, wise action and elegant next steps grow.



## Salon 2.0 Hosting: The Art of Hosting spaces for transformation and wise emergence.

The unique style of "Salon-hosting", re-inventing the European Salon tradition. As a hands-on learning we offer the hosting opportunity of the "Open Salon evening" with a pro action café on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

*How do we host a space  
 so that it hosts us?*



Join us for Pro Action Cafe Intensive and Salon 2.0 Hosting

Workshop and Evening event.

**23 and 24 of  
 October 2013**

Riverwood Retreat Centre,  
 Albertville

22 Oct  
 Join in for the Design

60\$

23 and/or 24 Oct  
 Workshop

2 days  
 300\$

1 day (at your choice)  
 180\$

24 Oct - Evening  
 Salon with Pro action Café

60\$ \* (already included in workshop price)

Register at: [pro@pro-action.eu](mailto:pro@pro-action.eu)

# Pro Action Café intensive: The Art of Hosting Questions to Action

## A short introduction to the pro action café:

A group of people is invited to a session to explore concrete initiatives and projects around a common concern. The participants first focus on their own question or initiative they want to develop. Then around 25% from the group can invite others into development workshops at little café tables. The other 75% from the participants join the tables of their choice to form working groups of 4 people per project table. During three consecutive rounds of development, the projects are worked out into

concrete doable action steps. At each round, participants change to a new project table, while the project owners stay at their own project table.

As a result, many concrete initiatives are developed, with the mutual help from the various participants. The initiatives are already shared throughout the group, and often very concrete help and alliances are already negotiated throughout the rounds.

## A short introduction to Action Learning:

A special problem and solution finding circle process with little working groups of 5-8 participants. People are invited to focus on questions and assumptions, not just exchanging solutions and opinions. This peer-learning process, in total just 70 minutes, is held by several people taking different roles in the circle:

**The issue-owner:** Holds the central problem and issue of concern. They identify concrete action steps to follow the deliberation.

**Participants:** Help exploring the nature of the issue, related assumptions and hypotheses. They can redirect the conversation with fresh questions, otherwise will not intervene unless replying to a question asked beforehand.

**Scribe:** Will sit next to the circle and note the big picture arising, relevant questions, hypotheses and assumptions, concrete actions or options etc.

**Coach:** Only intervenes to maintain the quality of conversation. Will interrupt the conversations from time to time to have the group explore the actual quality of their dialogue, then lets them return to explore the issue.

**At the end of this circle,** the coach will invite the group to reflect on their learning and the issue-owner to identify and formulate at least three concrete actions.



## The Wicked Question Game:

The Game is all about deepening a question, turning it more wicked. It's played in groups of 5, three seating, two standing besides them. The three that sit have a conversation about their own questions by only asking questions. The two standing ones can intervene by taking one of the three seating ones out and take a seat. It's a great learning about one's own questions, unchallenged assumptions and world views. About how to host, and how to intervene. About to know, when it's enough.



# Salon 2.0 Hosting

The Art of Hosting spaces for transformation and wise emergence.

## Introducing Salon 2.0

In a time of mass entertainment and consumer culture, spaces have high season that are personal, in the safe space between public and private.

Salon conversations promise an interesting experience with committed people, away from small-talk as a bonding ritual.

What attitude does it take to host a space well? Both the attention for the physical space as well as the safe space will be touched upon. What

## The Story behind it

The concept of “Salon” for a European often provokes a sense of wellbeing for body, soul and mind, meaning that one will be well nurtured with food and interesting conversations.

*Paris, Vienna, Berlin and other capitals have a long standing tradition of “Salons”, mostly hosted by ladies from bourgeois or noble background. The activity of “Salonnière” offered an opportunity for women, who otherwise were not able to occupy official functions in the 17th and 18th century, and it became a line of apprenticing and mastership.*

*This concept became especially important for the Arab world, where women started to host literary salons in all major cities like Cairo, Damascus, Jerusalem or Aleppo. In fact the first salons were hosted in the Arab world even before Muslim influence.*

*Within the confines of the salon, the free-flow of conversation and reciprocity was encouraged, and a sense of equality was fostered. A few Salonnières in both Europe and the Arab World began to also invite guests from different backgrounds, which created an atmosphere for even more innovation.*

*Many of the Intellectual Salons in Paris paved the way to the French Revolution, artists, poets and musicians had a safe space to expose their works, before offering them to the wider public. The “safe space” concept was as important in the past, as it is now!*

speed to best adopt, for a more leisurely flow without having it run too loose?

In this workshop we will re-create together the important ingredients of a safe space, a well hosted space, and how to pamper one’s guests from welcoming them at the door, allowing long breaks for food between the more formal conversations in café style, to the late night drink after the convergence circle and official check-out.



It is exactly in this spirit, that the famous “Salons 2.0.” are being created fitting our times.

The more diverse the guests, the better the conversations, the more comfortable the environment, the more we are able to leave our “comfort zone”.

*This workshop is for who...*

...works on community building, gathering people who have not met before and offer a safe space, who want to give soul to a space or to a community. This style of hosting can also be introduced in organizations at senior management or other levels.

*Deepen your knowledge and practice on:*

- How to create an inviting and hospitable space
- How to invite people into their authenticity through listening
- How to design the conversation and the sequence
- The Presence of the hosts - Self Hosting

**As a hands-on learning opportunity we offer the hosting opportunity of the “Open Salon evening” with a pro action café on the evening of the 24th October, which can also be attended separately.**

# We from pro action learning & meadowlark would love to see you there

In this workshop the unique style of "Salon-hosting", re-inventing the European Salon tradition and pro-action café as an ideal operating system to get out the best of our being human come together. As our society is evolving and more consciousness enters into decision making, we are all seeking tools, methods and styles how to be prepared for wise

action on any level, be it for community, society and policy making or business. This workshop will very concretely show effective tools to show anyone at any level how to become more operational in acting out their visions while at the same time creating a cozy environment to make it easier to leave one's comfort zone.

*Join us for the premiere of the creation of the "Salon 2.0 spirit" combined with a pro-action café intensive, using wicked questions as an art form to bring out our highest potential.*



**Rainer von Leoprechting** co-invented the pro action café, hosted it over years in Brussels, Belgium and continues to steward this particular practice.

[More about Rainer here.](#)

[www.pro-action.eu](http://www.pro-action.eu)



**Ursula Hillbrand** has been stewarding the hosting in Salon style and building a community of such practitioners in Austria and Europe.

[www.bregenzersalon.eu](http://www.bregenzersalon.eu)



**Lena Maria Jacobsson** has given trainings in action learning, community building, hosting of generative questions and space over many years together with both Ursula and Rainer.

[More about Lena here.](#)

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