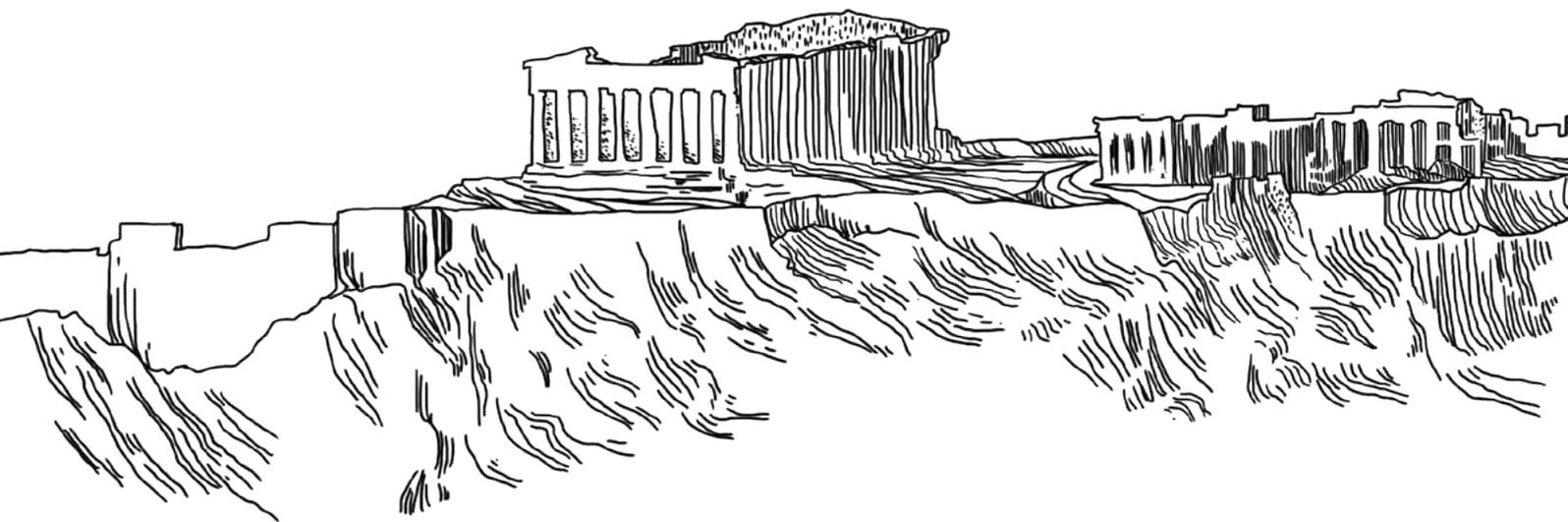


**Art of Participatory Leadership**  
**Athens-Impact Hub**  
**17th-20th of April 2015**



Calling Question:

As citizens, leaders and professionals, what are the ways of working that will allow us to collaboratively address the challenges in our cities, communities, organizations and society?

## WHY THIS TRAINING? WHY NOW?

Greece's Democracy is in the hot seat, as are many of our local and global systems, governments, communities and institutions.

Since 2010, Greece has been the center of attention worldwide for several reasons: economic crisis, austerity, citizen movements, social innovators, corruption, the future of Eurozone and more. With the results of the recent elections, Greece once again draws attention to whether the new government will bring hope and change or if the economic situation will get worse. It is a question that reflects not only the future of Greece but also the future of Europe.

Underneath this is a question about what we mean by "*democratia*" - the power of citizens to collectively define and create their lives and steward the commons with the interest of future generations in mind. We believe that the main differentiator that will make this new "era" successful is how citizens are engaged in new forms of governance, forms that are based on participation, dialogue, self-organizing, diversity and true consultation.

We invite you to this 4-day training to explore together:

**As citizens, leaders and professionals, what are the ways of working that will allow us to collaboratively address the challenges in our cities, communities, organizations and society?**



## WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

During these 4 days, we will learn and share participatory leadership methodologies and mental models as a way to work in self-organizing patterns and we will explore new forms of governance and ways of engaging citizens in large-scale consultation. In addition, we will focus on how we can bring these forms and tools to our everyday lives, our institutions, our work and our organizational structures.

This training is held by Stewards and Practitioners of the Art of Hosting Network, and is offered by SiZ- Hellas (The Systemic Innovation Zone-Hellas) which is a learning space on participation, collaboration, and systemic change where citizens come together to build a collective future. The SiZ is held by Living Wholeness Institute, Process Makers and Synergy who together are working on social change initiatives in Greece, Europe and globally.

Come and join us from 17th April to 20th of April (arrival on 16th of April).

This is the 5th AoPL in Greece since 2012. From the past trainings a Greek Community of Practice is emerging and this AoPL will give more space to that community to evolve. Our pattern of hosting the AoPL trainings is to bring together as Stewards for the trainings, our Greek core team with friends from abroad whom we love and trust and who bring different skills, perspectives, experiences, approaches and cultures to the mix.

Our hosting team includes hosts from Greece, including the core team of the SiZ and our wonderful friends from abroad:

Maria Scordialos (Greece), Odysseas Velentzas (Greece), Vanessa Reid (Canada), Nikos Rovakis (Greece), Maria Bakari (Greece), Giorgos Rombolas (Greece), Yitzhak Mendelsohn (Jerusalem), Anton Vaklov (Bulgaria), Matthieu Kleinschmager (Belgium/France), Kieron Concannon (UK/Ireland), Mark Taplin (UK), Jurgen Grosse-Puppenthal (Germany/Greece), Mary Thymioula (Greece), Sarah Whiteley (UK), Bénédicte Rousseau (Belgium).

# WHAT IS THE ART OF Participatory Leadership?

In a world that is becoming increasingly complex and fragmented, true solutions and innovations lie not in one leader or one viewpoint, but in the bigger picture of our collective intelligence. The Art of Participatory Leadership is a response to this global complexity, at a time when institutions and democracies themselves are failing to address the increasing chaos in our world. It is a testing ground for those seeking to find new effective and healthy patterns for organizing, innovating and interacting to create new forms that serve us all better. The training is part of a global family of trainings through the Art of Hosting network that are considered practice grounds for those who aspire to bring out the best in others. [www.artofhosting.org](http://www.artofhosting.org)

The Art of Participatory Leadership is essentially an expression of authentic ways of being with others and situations as they emerge. It is the artform of listening to what wants most to happen, what has life, and it is a practice of **creating the conditions for our collective intelligence to become visible to ourselves so that it can get to work**. The principles of self-organization, participation, ownership and nonlinear solutions are essential to both individual and collective discoveries – and actions.

This is an experiential training that is being applied in many contexts - community, private sector, academic, healthcare, and educational settings as well as social change efforts around the World. The training is also designed as a Personal Leadership practice to deepen your own capacity to effect transformation within yourself and in a complex world. Come join a global community of practitioners using integrated participative change processes, methods, maps, and planning tools to engage groups and teams in meaningful conversation, deliberate collaboration, and group-supported action for the common good.



# DURING THE WORKSHOP WE WILL PRACTICE AND EXPLORE:

The design and methodology of engaging yourself and others in hosting and harvesting transformative conversations

Exploring authentic collaborative leadership

Noticing and shifting personal, team and systemic behaviors and norms

Models and practices for working with complexity and emergence

Connecting with others who are practicing participation, leading change, innovation and system transformation in the Greece, Europe and worldwide

Translating your ideas and seeds of innovation into experiments and initiatives

## WHO IS INVITED?

This training is for people who are:

- ready to bring new life to a project, initiative or visions to create new forms of living and are ready to collaborate and explore with others;
- new and emerging leaders are asking HOW to move their visions forward;
- taking their ideas into action, based on who they are and what they believe possible;
- already hosting emerging movements, networks or systemic change initiatives and asking how to deepen them or scale them up.





## LOGISTICS

**WHEN:** We start at 9.00 am on **Friday April 17** and will to 5 pm **April 20, 2015**.

**WHERE:** This training takes place at the IMPACT HUB-ATHENS a multi-use space and place for social innovation in the center of Athens. It is located in the Psiri a neighborhood known for its unique atmosphere that still has a sense of the old Athens. Accommodation will be at nearby hotels or local Air B and B (<https://www.airbnb.com/?locale=en>) . Details and options of accommodation and how to get to our venue will be provided upon registration.

Language: The workshop will be in English. Informal translation will be available if needed.

**PARTICIPATION FEE: A sliding scale participation fee for 350 to 900 Euros**

In Greece, there is a growing network of complementary currencies and alternative economies flourishing. This is due to the massive disruption to the “mainstream” economic system. We want to honor that there are many people in Greece and elsewhere who are working and living with these multiple forms of currency, and that in fact, cash and money is not always available, but other forms of currency are.

We offer a sliding scale participation fee for 350 to 900 Euros which includes the training and a light lunch each day. This fee does not include accommodation. We wish to make this training available to as many people as possible and do not want economy to be a barrier. Therefore we work on the value “offer what you can and little more.”

Should you have ideas about offering other forms of currency to this AoPL, please contact us with your ideas! Also if you wish to join us and can't afford to pay the lower price please contact Odysseas Velentzas: [odysol@gmail.com](mailto:odysol@gmail.com)

### REGISTRATION

Please contact Odysseas Velentzas to receive a registration form: [odysol@gmail.com](mailto:odysol@gmail.com).

\*For more on “What is the Art of Participatory Leadership”, click here (<https://sizhellas.wordpress.com/blog/trainings-and-workshops/art-of-participatory-leadership/>)

# Hosting Team

## Maria Scordialos



Maria invites people to have conversations that matter. Conversations where people can generatively engage with their changing contexts so that they may see new possibilities and choose appropriate actions that create systemic shifts. Through process design and hosting, Maria, in partnership with clients and colleagues, crafts gatherings, trainings, and longer term journeys of systemic change. Maria's practice of designing and hosting has emerged from her diverse experience. This includes working as a project manager implementing national level pilot projects and working at a strategic management level as a Corporate Director in Local Government in the UK, co-initiating a participatory leadership practice called the Art of Participatory Leadership, hosting both grass-roots and systemic level projects in different organizations and communities throughout the world. Maria has an enterprising spirit with a social consciousness that has moved her to co-found initiatives that are researching by prototyping new forms of living and working. These include the Living Wholeness Institute, the Systemic Innovation Zone (SIZ) in Greece, and Axladitsa-Avatakia a systemic learning centre in Pelion, Greece.

## Odysseas Velentzas



Odysseas Velentzas does transformative work on the edge of the systemic change. He is working with social enterprises and social movements by offering participatory methodologies to support meaningful conversations and strategic planning. Specifically his work includes incubating new ideas based on social challenges so they become realities, supporting emerging leaders and innovators and creating spaces of learning through Art of Hosting Trainings, Participatory Workshops, Learning Journeys and Café Conversations etc.

He is co-founder of the Systemic Innovation Zone, an expression of a small group of Greeks and Internationals who believe that participating in leading our own lives by digging to our roots, discovering our hidden treasures and finding our own new ways is the way systemic change occurs ([www.the-siz.org](http://www.the-siz.org)). He is a founder of Process Makers.

## Anton Valkov



Anton is a host and trainer in the participatory leadership methodologies in Bulgaria, working with fellow practitioners at an organisation called Communication Academy. Previously he worked as sustainability consultant involved in public consultations and dialogues on controversial environmental and social issues. Anton is interested in how change happens and what is the role of conversations in that, especially in the specific context of the Bulgarian society. He has been involved with The Art of Participatory Leadership (AoPL) community of practice since 2012 and is the caller of the first two AoPL trainings in Bulgaria in 2013 and 2014. Raised in a multicultural family (with Russian, Greek and Bulgarian roots) he has also lived, studied and worked in Sweden and Colombia.

## Vanessa Reid



Vanessa is a pioneering practice leader who brings her unique leadership and artistry to the field of civil society innovation. She cut her teeth in Canada as executive director of Santropol Roulant, a vibrant non-profit founded by young people that uses food as a catalyst for social change and inter-generational community. Ever since, she has been immersed in creating cultures - personal, organizational, societal - that are alive and deeply aligned with the natural cycles and transitions of living and dying. Most recently,

Vanessa has been living in Jerusalem, working in the Middle East and Europe, partnering on creating radically new systemic change initiatives like the Finance Innovation Lab-UK and transforming the “no” of protest to the “yes” of collective entrepreneurship. She is a co-founder of both the Living Wholeness Institute and SiZHellas, and a steward of Axladitsa-Avatakia. As an architect, she brings the essence of participatory design to create collective spaces of inner and outer transformation. As a poet, writer and former publisher of the award-winning ascent magazine, she brings a depth of reflective, body and awareness practices. And as a global soul, she knows there is a great journey ahead of us.

## Maria Bakari



Maria is an Organisational Psychologist, Coach & Process Host, passionate about listening actively and purposefully, articulating questions of resonance and fostering collective intelligence and creativity . She participated in the emergence of the Art of Hosting Practice & Community in the beginning of the 2000s while being involved in developing educational leadership & innovation programs in the U.K. and youth leadership work across Europe.

She practices coaching, counseling, social research and hosting in various organizational settings: family, community, active citizenship, entrepreneurship, companies and local authorities: always through a systemic perspective & strategy. She is currently coordinating individual & group counseling programmes and community workshops at the University of Aegean in Rhodes. Maria is the founder of Synergy, “a playground for collective creativity” (2009) and co-founder of the Systemic Innovation Zone-Hellas (SIZ-Hellas) (2011); an initiative for illuminating and co-creating the systemic innovation and the incredible stories of humanity & solidarity that are currently showing up in Greece. For the last 4 years now, she weaves these stories in a weekly radio show, the “Stories of the New Earth” that is broadcasted globally every Sunday morning from the “studio-womb” of Lihnari Radio in Rhodes.

## Nikos Rovakis



Nick Rovakis is a Graphic Facilitator, Graphic designer and Concept artist. His work includes the visual communication and harvest of transformative work in both social initiatives as well as business sector. With his artistic skills he is capturing the results of collective dialogues in Art of Hosting Trainings and Participatory Workshops. Apart of the systemic work he is an expert in social design, branding and typography. He is a co-founder of Systemic Innovation Zone, an initiative in Greece of creating a Community of Practice in the field

of Participatory Leadership, Graphic Facilitation and systemic transformation. He is a founder of Process Makers.

## Mark Taplin



Mark brings a varied and colourful range of experience to the AoPL. After an early career in the glamorous world of film and television production, he dropped out to pursue a humble and self-sufficient way of life in rural England, growing, harvesting, building, and make-do-and-mending, acquiring survival skills (material and intellectual) together with a passion for everything from bees to trees. His efforts are currently focused as a

facilitator offering trainings based on the Gaia Education Ecovillage Design for Sustainability programme, which he has taken part in from Scotland to Thailand, Italy and Germany to West Africa, as well as in Greece. Within training teams, he has found and enjoys a role keeping an eye on group well-being, and mentoring participants. Mark has had a long connection with Greece since his days as a student at the British School of Archaeology in Athens. He has been closely involved with Axladitsa-Avatakia for the past 6 years, and also offers Guided Walking Holidays in the Pelion Region.

## Dr. Yitzhak Mendelsohn



Yitzhak has lived in Jerusalem in the past of 43 years and is part of the professional psychotherapist landscape of the city. Since 2008 he is pioneering a new field of practice of “protection” which has emerged during his clinical practice, via dialogue groups between Palestinians and Israelis, as a co-founder of Art of Protection, and most recently as a psychologist and member of intercultural community created in Jerusalem after the National Protest in Israel in 2011. With his Jewish and Mexican identity, he has

developed mastery in intercultural relationships. In the last three years he has developed theoretical and practical tools for a better understanding of the essence of relationships, in particular those between victims and perpetrators, people and groups, as well as conflictual relationships. Yitzhak is an Elder of Living Wholeness Institute, a founding Steward of Axladitsa-Avatakia and a proud grandpa of Danielle, Jonathan, Itamar, Shira, Nadav, Ruth and Eran.

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**For registrations and info please contact  
To Odysseas Velentzas  
mail: [odyssol@gmail.com](mailto:odyssol@gmail.com)**

## Partners

