



**17 - 21 Apr 2024**

CENTRAL THEME OF THE EVENT

# **ATHENS WATERFRONT**

Participatory Design and the NEB

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The main theme of the event is 'Participatory Design' to inform and activate the community through science, art, play and co-creation in a two-way process that guides design choices in spaces and systems to ensure different than usual design approaches.

In this context, our team, under the auspices of the Region of Attica, based on the principles and values of the NEB, designed a participatory design programme for the Athens waterfront "ATHENS WATERFRONT", in order to demonstrate in practice a methodology and practice that can be applied more generally to the transformation of the Shared Public Space.

The project aims to involve in the participatory design process more than 6000 students, teachers and citizens in a planned three-stage process before and after the Festival, which is briefly described below and in detail on the project website.

On the Athens sea front, the Region of Attica is currently implementing what is perhaps the most important urban planning intervention for the city ever - the unification of its sea front from end to end. **The Athenian Riviera. A major project that paves the way for a participatory Waterfront project, through art and inclusion.**

**The focus of the event, as a value proposition of the Sea Front for the whole of Attica, will be the promotion of the Attica Region's project in the bay of Paleo Faliro, a project already funded by the New European Bauhaus.**

Globally, it should be noted that the subject of the integration of the Sea Fronts is a complex and difficult issue, as its completion touches on maritime spatial planning and special uses. In Greece, the first similar effort was made by Giamakos Architects in 1996 for the city of Volos, while in 2018 the project proceeded through a postgraduate thesis at the University of Thessaly to a resilience proposal for the city of Volos with a horizon of 2050. Today the same team, building on the experience of a similar participatory design project submitted for the NEB - 3D Art and Crafts awards, for the Athens Metropolitan Park, is implementing the ATHENS WATERFRONT project in the context, principles and values of NEB in Athens, with collective processes by and for the citizens themselves.



The groundwork, collection, processing and presentation for 14 focal points for the entire Athens sea front, including the



current situation and current studies and visions, in cooperation with regional organizations, active scholars and others, are planned for the days of the event, which starts in practice from January 2024 and culminates in the actual event period.

### HOW DOES THE EVENT REFLECT AND RELATE TO THE VALUES, PRINCIPLES AND THEMES OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS?

Our program as a project of participatory design through the art of technology and co-creation, is based on and promotes the three core values of the New European Bauhaus: Sustainability in the environmental sense, Inclusiveness in its various dimensions, and Aesthetics and Quality of Experience for people through design and emotional/cultural benefits and through the connection to the qualities of the Attica seafront.

Our event **illustrates the principles of NEB through the multi-level approach** of Participatory Design ranging from the Global dimension to the small projects of the Seafront, the **Participatory approach which is, after all, the purpose of our event and the Interdisciplinary approach** reflected in the Interdisciplinary University Professors Forum Committee of our event and the themes of our workshops.

Strengthening the sense of belonging through meaningful experiences and the integration of new durable cultural and social values in the sea front of Attica is the main thematic axis of Athena Waterfront.

### HOW DOES THE EVENT MEET NEB'S BEHAVIORAL VALUE?

The event involves civil society and people of all ages and in all their diversity, including women, young people, disadvantaged groups (disabled people) and minorities, and will take place in the Hermes' premises - a non-profit association, recognized as a Special Charity - **one of the largest structures for people with disabilities in Greece** created with the assistance of Lamda Development SA as a wonderful space characterised by its "green" and sustainable design, in full respect of the environment. The facility is Leed certified.



The inclusion activities of "Hermes" teach how inclusion works in practice: How young empathetic people take the initiative and set up a respectful and accepting society! Co-education with Greek and European organizations, Love



Meals, art programs and other events, are a small sample of the principles and values that the association promotes. The mission they have chosen for their presence in the world is **"to empower communities, protect the environment and promote equality and justice for all"**, a mission that is in line with the principles and values of NEB and the purpose of our organization.

In practice, for three months ( the preparatory phase), around 4000 pupils and students will be involved in our programmes with their disabled peers, while at the same time the disabled community is involved as a protagonist in carrying out the participatory planning for Athens WaterFront as well as, of course, in the whole event that will take place.

### HOW DOES THE EVENT RESPOND TO NEB'S VALUE OF SUSTAINABILITY?

The value of sustainability of the NEB is a challenge to the issues of participatory planning concerning the use and protection of natural resources, weather preparedness, and our values around the natural world and our relationship with the natural and built environment.

**With the participatory planning we want to highlight the problems** and change the short-term perspective on our natural resources, our consumption habits, our inconsistent sustainability efforts, our lack of a plan to adapt to the changing climate. Climate change will affect all of us, and particularly the most vulnerable members of our society.

Our communities need to focus on seeking to connect with the natural environment, to understand the impacts of our lifestyles on the natural world, including our contribution and responsibility to climate change. To collaborate in our approach to the environment. Coordinated large-scale partnerships and efforts to prepare, mitigate and adapt to the changes ahead. Priority on protecting the most vulnerable residents.

The objectives of the themes we want to highlight with the Festival are: Tackling Climate Change, Water Resilience in the city, the city's CO2 footprint, Air Pollution, Circular Economy, Clean Energy, Green City.



### BRIEFLY EXPLAIN HOW YOUR EVENT REFLECTS ONE OF THE NEB PRINCIPLES

(multi-level engagement, multidisciplinary approach, participatory process).



## Fourth day (20 April 2024) **3D ART & Crafts**

Using Art as a bridge, development of principles and rules of participatory design, understanding of future problems of **participatory** sustainable design

- Art activities
- Role play based on real data.
- Five thinking hats (pupils)
- Cards mapping characters and distinct roles in the community including disadvantaged groups whose voices should be heard (adults)
- Connecting with community members, municipalities and other stakeholders to exchange views and/or for new urban design project proposals
- What you would like to see the future of your place look like.

Workshop on conflict resolution through collaborative design and art processes

- Ways of management and participation
- Reviewing scenarios alongside relevant disagreements and jointly resolving through a collaborative approach
- Focus on the different perspectives of each group.

Workshop to clarify the rules in order to implement the most acceptable scenario, where the voices of the most marginalised parties are ensured to be heard.

- Reiterate with an invitation to complete the initial evaluation questionnaire.

### **EVENT THEME/S**

### **WHICH OF THE NEB THEMES IS THE EVENT RELATED TO?**

Our event is related to the three thematic axes of the NEB. Our participatory practice and workshops focus on reconnecting with nature, regaining a sense of belonging, mainly in the more disadvantaged areas of the seafront and the people who need it most.



### **The THREE PILLARS OF THE FESTIVAL**



Our events correspond to all three pillars of the main Festival in Belgium, namely Forum, Exhibition and Festival.

Answer

**FORUM** to exchange views and discuss issues related to the New European Bauhaus

**FAIR** - exhibition and presentation of works and original prototypes that reflect and support the values of the New European Bauhaus

**FEST** - a moment of celebration that brings together culture, art and friendship that celebrates freedom of expression with radical, innovative, subversive ideas and visions.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The programme includes three stages:

- **Preparatory stage (Feb - Apr 2024)**
- **Organisation of the NEB Satellite Event**
- **Post-event with mobile Art & Crafts installation in open public spaces.**

The preparatory stage works are organized in the "Hermes" facility (see NEB Inclusion Value) and include workshops for students and teachers of Technical Vocational Education (EPAL) of the event areas (coastal front of Attica) and Academic Institutions, in order to inform pupils, students and teachers on the process of participatory design, the principles and values of NEB and the emergence of tomorrow's Leader - community participatory design coordinators. The topics of the preparatory stage workshops are:

- NEB & PARTICIPATORY DESIGN
- "EYES THAT SEE"
- Evaluation of places
  - GIS geoinformatics applications
  - Collective mapping
- 3D ART & Crafts
  - Mock-up
  - Co-decision game (Role-playing game)



Activities include collective mapping by pupils at focus points in the Hermes facility, with the aim of familiarising them with modern technology but also the value of inclusion through their interaction with their disabled peers. The GIAMAKOS

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Architects team is preparing the background in ARC GIS and the corresponding signage applications that students can download from the internet via QR code directly to their mobile phones. The mapping process is presented to the students who apply the technology in the Hermes courtyard. Being now familiar with the technology, after the project is over, they can use it to collect real data in their neighborhood.

The event's website includes aids on theory and geoinformatics software.

The participatory design emphasises the process, the creation of relationships between participants, the shared vision developed through meaningful and democratic dialogue.

Techniques include Mock-up, Video, Plates with International examples, Photo-realism, VR Tours, etc.

## EVENT ACTIVITIES

### MAIN EVENT / DISCRETE ACTIVITIES 17-21.4.2024

First day (17 April 2024)

#### VISIONS / PREVIEW OF PROJECTS

The goal of the first phase is to preview the project in order to understand key issues and inform the community.

At the end of the first phase, the community is informed about the project, and first impressions emerge, manifesting the friction, conflict and contradictions that will be the focus of the participatory planning phase.

Day two (18 April 2024)

#### EYES THAT SEE

Empowering empathy in the local community with 'eyes that see'. The strategy shall aim at the appreciation of the space by the residents in a reflective way. The activity includes participatory fieldwork (GIS) accompanied by an event guide, with simultaneous automatic presentation of the recordings electronically at the event site, on pre-planned routes to the project sites. New project submissions from citizens.

This phase will end with the creation of an electronic thematic mapping of the community's perspective on how they observe their area of interest, what meanings they attribute to them, what places they attribute problematic qualities to, and what changes they think are needed.



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At the same time, new suggestions will have emerged that our team will visualize for the follow-up event.

#### Day three (19 April 2024)

### **PARTICIPATORY DESIGN**

NGT ("Nominal Group Technique") for free reflection on the future in the event space - objectives by section

#### Day 4 (20 April 2024)

### **3D ART & Crafts**

Using Art as a bridge, to develop principles and rules of participatory design, to understand future problems of participatory **sustainable** design.

A workshop on conflict resolution through collaborative design and art processes.

A workshop aimed at **clarifying the rules in order to implement the most acceptable scenario** in which the voices of the most marginalised parties are heard.

#### Fifth day (21 April 2024)

### **CONSENSUS GAME - CELEBRATION**

The Game at a pre-planned time for each planning proposal facilitates the co-decision process and negotiations among participants. The game continues until a proposal or intervention receives all votes "consent - green card".

All of the above will be included in the three pillars of our event and detailed on our event website.

### **HOW WILL YOU INTERACT WITH PARTICIPANTS DURING THE EVENT?**

The NEB Festival is, in our proposal, a festival of participatory design, art and public discourse. A workshop to clarify the rules so that there can be an open consultation on shared public spaces, designed from the bottom up.

A first step towards implementing acceptable scenarios by all parties in the context of processes and aspirations, in a way that ensures that the voices of the most marginalized parties are heard.

Using Art and Play as a bridge, we focus on interacting with participants, developing principles and rules of participatory



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design, understanding future problems from both the citizen and expert and governance perspectives.

The role of the facilitators is equal to everyone around the table. We coordinate, transfer information and try to listen to and learn from the community, capturing the real needs and anxieties of the community as well as science and governance. And finally, we all celebrate this moment of convergence of our thinking into one indivisible social entity. We are all one!

The New European Bauhaus is an amazing conception that arrives at a moment when bridging is not just another process of convergence. It is an imperative for adopting a different attitude to environmental and beyond challenges for the whole planet.



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