

Title:

**School councils using the Sociocratic Circular Method: traces & insights**

Panel Presentation related to:

- Educational commons and socio-political transformation
- Alternative pedagogies, heterotopias or real utopias in education: advancing freedom and equality
- Peer to peer learning and governance
- Active listening and conflict resolution in educational commons
- Active social inclusion via informal and non-formal learning pathways

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**Abstract**

This panel presentation will describe the processes and outcomes of a series of interventions in two private schools in Northern Greece; the first of a pre-schooling education and the second being a first grade school. The interventions in the first are related to the creation of the 'House of the Forest' and are targeted to students of four to six years old, while the ones in the second are supporting the 'Humanity Upgrade Council' and are applied to students of the sixth grade. Both aim at the (self)governance of the students by using the Sociocratic Circular Method, which contributes -among others- to the students' inclusion through school circles and the decision making by consent. Within this panel presentation, we will shed light to the various transformations of the two groups regarding: i. the practices of education that become a 'common resource' and the ways they are collectively managed, ii. active listening and the culture of communication and facilitation, iii. equal participation in 'circles', iv. distribution of personal roles and collective tasks, v. decision making by consent. Following that, we will share our insights for the contribution of the SCM as an impactful tool in educational commons, focusing on the students' inclusion, equality in participation as well as personal and collective governance. Finally, we will contemplate whether the tool can open pathways for socio-political transformations and emancipation actions.

Key words:

educational commons, school councils, school circles, Sociocratic Circular Method, equality in education, governance, active citizenship

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