

Title: [Educational commons in public school: Students' empowerment through participatory planning & the Sociocratic Circular Method](#)

Panel Presentation related to:

- Educational commons and socio-political transformation
- Environmental, urban, cultural, political and digital commons and education
- Peer to peer learning and governance
- Active social inclusion via informal and non-formal learning pathways

Naya Tselepi, PhD Human Geography, Researcher & Project Coordinator, Facilitator in Sociocratic Circle Method, Adjunct Professor Hellenic Open University

Domniki Vagiati, Project Manager-Educational coordinator
mamagea.gr

Yannis Pechtelidis, Associate Professor in Sociology of Education at the Department of Early Childhood Education, at the University of Thessaly

Abstract

This panel presentation will describe the processes and outcomes of a series of interventions in a public school of Thessaloniki aiming at the empowerment of the active participation in the 'environmental school commons' and the (self)governance of the students. The interventions take place within an existing project named 'WONDER', an educational initiative of the Mamagea environmental organization, targeting to cultivate and enhance environmental education. The methodology used is based on the Sociocratic Circular Method, which contributes to the students' inclusion through school circles and the decision making by consent. We will attempt to draw the transformations of the school community regarding the: i. familiarization with concepts and practices of 'the environmental school commons', ii. strengthening of the participation in the management of the environmental school commons through participatory planning, iii. equal participation in 'circles' and decision making by consent, iv. training in active citizenship and (self-)governance. Finally, we will share our insights for the contribution of participatory planning and the SCM as impactful tools in educational commons, focusing on the students' personal and collective empowerment and the governance of the school community. Last but not least, we will contemplate whether the tools can contribute to an active social inclusion and a socio-political transformation.

Key words: educational and environmental commons, participatory planning, Sociocratic Circular Method, empowerment, (self)governance, active citizenship

