



The TEH start up programme has been a very interesting experience. It answered our need to connect in an international level, as we were seeking of know how that does not exist in Athens. Before the open call we could not imagine that a network of people with our exact mission and function existed.

The scoping visits were the first pleasant surprise, as we were expecting two 'consultants' to come. Irena Boljuncic Gracin and Chris Keulemans were down to earth, really insightful and fast in their understanding. They made us feel trust and think that something interesting was about to start.

Being in our first steps, we might occasionally not have consciousness of the value of our decisions. The feedback we are getting from Chris and Irena in the Skype consultations has been very supportive and gives us confidence in our steps. We feel they are both genuinely interested and supportive in our efforts, providing advice and suggestions as friends.

The conference has opened for us a door to a community of cultural actors we didn't know that existed. This is the first time that we feel we have real common grounds with the a network's peers and philosophy. We feel we are now connected to like minded people who have had similar experiences to ours. We can share our insights and gain perspective while connecting. We were very happy to meet the other two start ups of the programme, as well as with our new connections that we are looking forward to develop.

Our workshop with Gabriella Riccio was equally successful, as she was very willingly present in our team. She connected to us, read through us very quickly, provided advice that promoted the team. The scope of our workshop was to create our manifesto, the principles and values of our organisation. The mission was fulfilled and we now have concentrated in a clear form everything that describes us so far. We are ready to share this information and, most importantly, develop on this basis.

In the remaining part of the programme we are about to work with Chris on our programme. I was happy to learn that he is very experienced in that, even more so if you think that we didn't know that programming was an actual task. This is where we are gaining perspective. In our final 3 months, we are very enthusiastic to create our first programme which we expect will

direct us to our funding options. This is how we will eventually begin our journey as a socio cultural center.

To conclude, the TEH start up programme came exactly at the moment we were crystallizing our form , when becoming an association after 2.5 years of being an informal team. We didn't know how demanding this process would be and we were lucky to have the support and advice of experienced people while going through it. And being a part of the network now, supports even more the optimism of what we can fulfill in the new circle that begins.

We are thankful to your taking this initiative to invite us to your world and happy to meet people that believe in their work and are confident enough to do it in their own way. This is the kind of example we needed!

With warm regards,  
On behalf of the Communitteam,

Natassa Dourida  
President of Communitism