


**The utilization of the aesthetic experience  
with the scope of raising students democratic  
awareness**





This is a project based on the utilization of high aesthetic value pieces of art in order to critically reflect on democratic operations in educational environments.

More specifically, we used the sculpture:

**“The round table” of Chen Zhen**

which was built for the 50 years anniversary of the declaration of the **Human Rights**

Through this piece of art the following ideas emerged:



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**EUROPEAN  
YEAR OF  
YOUTH**

**DEMOCRACY  
HERE NOW**

A youth campaign  
for revitalising  
democracy.



# Analysis & Interpretation of the specific work of art

- The specific piece of art depicts a huge round table on the surface of which many different chairs are incised. In the centre of this huge table there is a round sign with Chinese letters on it
- The table is a strong symbol of the notion of sharing in a group. The different chairs stand for diversity of any kind-in language, culture, religion, opinions
- The fact that all chairs are incised on the surface of the table and stand on the same level implies that all members of the group are treated as equal
- All chairs are actually 'locked' on the table-an implication of the strong interconnection of different members within a group



## Connecting the ideas with the concept of democratic dialogue

- Groups develop commitment and cooperation. Every member has his/her own role and has a share of responsibility. The final result is a product of democratic dialogue. Prevalent features of this dialogue are consent, acceptance of diversity, rational arguments and inclusion.
- The fact that different points of view formulate a group can result in creative and useful ideas. So, in this case diversity is an advantage and not a problem.
- The different opinions and the assets of the members of a group come into foreplay. They are taken into consideration and this builds trust and stability in the group. Communication between different people is feasible and essential in the process of decision making, something which can build up exceptional professional bonds and, in some cases, even friendships.



# Democratic dialogue empowers Democracy

- Within communities of democratic dialogue people can shape aware consent and can make a joint decision about common actions.
- In that way democracy can be empowered against the cultural paradigm where individualism, rivalry and disregard to common affairs prevail.
- Consent is not always feasible. However, even if an agreement among members is not reached, the cause of disagreement can be understood, something that can stimulate the formulation of different opinions.



# Dissemination of the project

- ▶ A group of 11 students worked on the creation of the scale model of the sculpture. During this procedure they had the opportunity to critically reflect on the meaning of the specific piece of art
- ▶ The dissemination of the project involved the observation of the scale model which was placed in the entrance of the school by groups of students who had the opportunity to observe, interpret and critically reflect on the democratic notions of the piece of art





**EUROPEAN  
YEAR OF  
YOUTH**

**DEMOCRACY  
HERE NOW**

A youth campaign  
for revitalising  
democracy.



















**EUROPEAN  
YEAR OF  
YOUTH**

**DEMOCRACY  
HERE NOW**

A youth campaign  
for revitalising  
democracy.





# Follow Up

- ▶ During the follow up phase of the project a questionnaire is handed out to the students who take part in the activities involving interpretation of the work of art and critical reflection on the democratic notions in order to examine the degree in which their democratic opinions are transformed through the aesthetic experience



# Project Participants

- Karakou Maria, teacher
- Koufopoulou Dimitra, teacher
- The class of Civil Engineering Technicians

1. Sfakianaki Alik
2. Kokkini Eleni
3. Baha Samantha
4. Mamli Desilda
5. Tafilai Enriko
6. Fthenakis Michael
7. Faitakis Xenofon
8. Faitou Konstantina
9. Stavroulakis Michalis
10. Argirakis Stergios
11. Dantsov Thodoris



**Thank you for your attention!!!**

