

Social centers as alternative forms of organization: the example of the Social Centre Patras

Presentation by Sotiris Lycourghiotis, Patras

Abstract:

The era we live in is an era of prolonged social and economic crisis characterized by a number of significant effects: (a) commercialization of all spheres of public space, (b) individualization, (c) the law of the strongest becomes the moral law, (d) social deprivation, (e) concentration camps for immigrants and (f) fascist gangs on the streets. As a consequence the creation of energetic and free social centers to defend life and human dignity is imperative.

At the social center of Patras one can find political activists groups, reading groups, self-education seminars, a playground, a library, a film and video library, a reading room, film screening groups, a dance group and language courses. The Social Centre is based on the principles of direct democracy, organized on an anti-centralization basis, is anti-commercial and independent from any kind of institutions. In 2015 the Social Center of Patras organized the first festival of social self-organization.

Sotiris Lycourghiotis: Born in Patras, Greece, political activist, oceanographer and professor at the Technological Institute (TEI) of Patras.