

How do we make a maker space? The start of Phygital in Cyprus Design Global, Manufacture Local in Greece, Cyprus and Albania



Workshop - University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF)

On the 11th and 13th of October 2018 UNRF organized a presentation, dialogue and workshop related to contemporary debates on hackerspaces and their potentialities as spaces of fostering social change and creativity. The event, whose title was *Making and connecting in a disconnected world: Hackerspaces as representations of techno-social politics in contemporary capitalist realism*, took place in the basement of the Lakatamia Community Centre that will host the makerspace being shaped in Cyprus. It was carried out by Dr. Leandros Savvides.

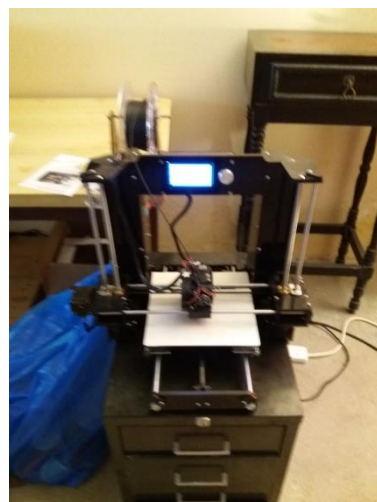
The workshop addressed the emergence of the maker culture, where technology and making are explored outside the professional lab, predominantly in Hackerspaces, Makerspaces and Fab Labs. Such spaces constitute important sites in the development of open-source hardware and software, and provide conducive conditions for the spread of locally created technology to and often beyond technologically informed publics. Specifically, this workshop will address the convergence of activism and the maker culture within capitalist realism. Drawing on the findings of his research Dr Savvides argued that the politics of Hackerspaces / Makerspaces and Fab Labs constitute sites that disclose contradictions and provide spaces for contesting the dominant paradigm and reflect the societies within which they operate. Users become developers themselves who simultaneously reinvent forms of consumption, processes of learning and re-conceptualizing the relationship between science and craft, productivism and play, authority and informal horizontal learning.



Dr. Leandros Savvides

Some images from the days of the workshop:





Some key ideas that arose from the workshop are listed below:

VISION FOR THE MAKERSPACE BEING SET UP

- Fab lab charter
- Free + open software, hardware
- Place to hang out , to socialize
- Art + Craft + Science
- Makerspace → access to tech, research
- Solidarity network
- Learn transferable skills
- Free from business sponsors
- Grow + Economic Sustainability

STRUCTURE “we need it!” FOR THE MAKERSPACE BEING SET UP

- General Assembly → mandate
- Elections (6 months , 1 year)
- Dominating (group or individuals)
- Admin
- Communication
- Economics
- Technical Support / maintenance
- Event planning
- Fundraising
- Basic constitution
- Do- ocracy
- Consensus
- Legal responsibility
- Use of tech soft + hardware to solve problems

MEMBERSHIPS & INCOME FOR THE MAKERSPACE BEING SET UP

- Standard fee
- Pay as you feel
- Donations
- Sponsors
- Membership for groups
- Free under 12 yr.
- Minimal membership + free donations + free snacks /basic com. Services
- Work for membership fee
- Workshop
- Merchandise
- Services
- Projects (EU, gov etc.)
- Collaborations
- Commission for commercial activities + prototypes
- Parallel currency

Some information on Phygital in Cyprus

Phygital is an Interreg 2014-2020 BalkanMed, EU-funded programme being implemented in Greece, Albania and Cyprus and involves the development of makerspaces – one in each country - that will work with the local community. In Cyprus, the project's work is being carried out by the University of Nicosia Research Centre in collaboration with the Municipality of Lakatamia/hack66 and will focus on social art practices exploring the melding of open technology, art and design.

The project operates on the basis of the 'design global – manufacture local' model which introduces innovative organisational and business patterns allowing an unprecedented booming of communities engaged in do-it-yourself (DIY) activities. It wishes to support and enhance these local capacities for innovation and utilise the opportunities the decentralised modes of production can create.

The Cyprus section of the project will examine the importance of makerspace culture in the advancement of contemporary social art and design practices. It will delve into the principles of open source projects, software-hardware freedom and bottom-up collaborative structures to explore ways they can be utilised - in line with social art/design practices - to address the needs of the local community.

PHYGITAL

Catalysing innovation and entrepreneurship unlocking the potential of emerging production and business models: Greece, Cyprus, Albania

Lead Partner

Open Technologies Alliance <https://ellak.gr/>

Partners

Peer to Peer Alternatives (P2P Lab) & Municipality of North Tzoumerka, Greece

Municipality of Lakatamia/hack66 & University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF), Cyprus

Open Labs & Centre of Folklore Activities, Albania