

PRESS RELEASE

Civil Society Dialogue and Technology of Democracy

Nicosia, July 11th 2007—Dr. Aleco Christakis, one of the founding fathers of cybernetics science, will be returning to Cyprus this month to support local pioneers in the application of the Structured Dialogic Design Process methodology which they use in their efforts towards social change. Dr. Christakis will offer a public lecture at The Fulbright Centre on Thursday, 12 July at 18.30, followed by a reception. The lecture is organised by the Civil Society Dialogue Project.

Dr. Aleco Christakis visited Cyprus last April to share his expertise and offer an advanced training to interested facilitators in cooperation with the Civil Society Dialogue Project. He is a co-founder of the Club of Rome, elected President of the International Society for the Systems Science and also a Founding Board member of the Institute for the 21st Century Agoras, which promotes structured dialogue as an instrument for democracy.

Those facilitators who underwent this advanced training on the methodology and Structured Dialogic Design Process (SDDP), have already begun organising co-laboratories on particular topics through the summer. In addition to supervising and conducting some of these sessions during his stay, Dr. Christakis will also attend some TV and Radio programmes to talk about SDDP, its principles and how it contributes to solving complicated problems with a heterogeneous group of stakeholders. In the coming year, the trained facilitators will support other local pioneers and agents of change by offering more training and facilitation.

The Structured Dialogic Design Process (SDDP) is specifically designed to help groups with diverse views, backgrounds and perspectives to deal with complex issues. Besides encouraging focused communication, the SDDP promotes participants' ownership of and commitment in the outcome. After completing the process, which is based on reaching a consensus collectively through democratic means, participants leave with a shared vision, a root cause map and an action plan. The SDDP methodology proved to be very useful in many other countries as well as in the context of Cyprus, where participants may have different sensitivities.

The Civil Society Dialogue Project is supported by Action for Cooperation and Trust.
(www.undp-act.org)

For more information visit:

<http://www.globalagoras.org>

<http://www.blogora.net/page/Cyprus+Civil+Society+Dialogue>

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