

Why is participation even more important now?

How can cultivating cultures of collaboration based on practising dialogue enable us to navigate uncertain futures?



Many of us are asking fundamental questions in these uncertain and complex times. How to enable our organisations to achieve results, yet still have space for meaningful relationships? How do we create a work/life balance that ensures our wellbeing, whilst also making a difference? We are seeking solutions to the multi-layered challenges we face, yet we often experience paradox daily. We know that we need to collaborate and share our knowledge to face multiple crises, yet we fear not knowing the way forward. We, therefore, often react by fragmenting and continuing to do what we know, even though it no longer works. We often lack the capacities to make sense and act wisely in these contexts of uncertainty and complexity.

On the other hand, these times also present many opportunities for meaningful change, new organisational practices, strengthened connections and letting go of outdated and even damaging structures and processes. As we slowly turn the corner of the Pandemic, we seek to reconnect and re-engage with others at work and in our communities. Many of us know that continuing to work with a predominantly linear, hierarchical and transactional approach will not enable organisations and teams to grow and thrive.

It is, therefore, an opportune time to explore the power of participation and collaboration. Dialogue creates the conditions for the exploration and discovery of new potential and solutions. Working with diversity in a positive way, shifts the “for or against” mentality which often blocks us from transforming our challenges into innovation. Working in partnerships (even with unlikely partners) enables us to successfully navigate increasing complexity by contributing different knowledge to create new collective intelligence.

Our training

We invite you to join our training on the question: How can cultivating cultures of collaboration based on practising dialogue enable us to navigate increasingly uncertain futures?

During the training, we will explore:

- How to create conditions so that different (and even opposing) perspectives lead to building something together?
- How engaging and building synergistic relationships enable us to transform systemic challenges?
- How to thrive in uncertainty through collaboration?

We are especially inviting people who are:

- Seeking a deeper understanding of how to plan and act positively in uncertainty?
- Wishing to create strong teams that have the capacity to work with complex challenges?
- Wanting to create meaningful spaces for community and stakeholders to collaborate and co-create?
- Looking to explore new ways of evaluating results?
- Curious to learn the underlying theory of collaboration and complexity?
- Ready to ask the question “Why” over and over again?

This training is for you if you are:

- Leading multi stakeholder projects and initiatives in the business or non-profit sector;
- Working in public service;
- Creating social innovations;
- Leading or part of grassroots movements and communities;
- Leading diverse teams;

- Already attended an Art of Hosting training before and want to refresh and deepen your practice;
- Anyone who is willing to inquire about new ways of leading, working and being together.

Our team

Our training brings together a team of people with over 20 years of experience in creating cultures of collaboration by working with conversational practices that create new results. They, themselves, are continuously inquiring and experimenting with creating meaningful work through collaboration. Together, they bring experience of working in International and European Institutions, large NGO's, private companies, foundations, small non-profit organisations, communities, as well as working with senior and middle managers, activists, community organisers, multi-stakeholders groups, etc.

More information on the team can be found [here](#).

What is the pedagogy of the training?

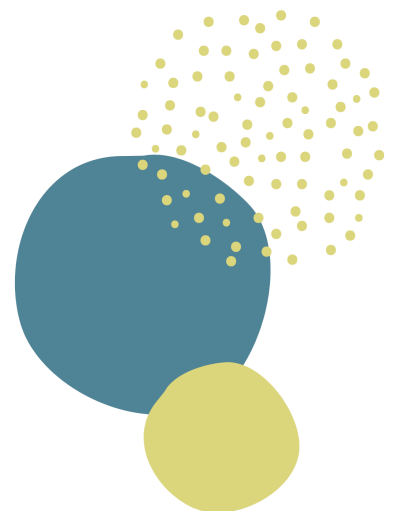
We have designed an experience that is:

- Both practical and immersive into mental models and theory on complexity and living systems;
- A laboratory for practising collaboration where you can bring your ideas, projects and challenges to work on, co-create with others and to find ways to apply the learning in your own contexts after the training;
- A participatory learning and practising space for meeting people with similar values and ideas and learning from their stories and experiences.

Practical information

- **When?** 30 September-2 October
- **Where?** Sofia, exact location TBA
- **Economy**

The full price of the training that covers all organisational expenses and compensation for the international team is 650 EUR (early bird) or 710 EUR after September 1st. We know that could not be achievable for everyone in the Bulgarian context.



That is why we offer a sliding scale for those who are working in the public sector, self-employed, non-profit organisations. If you fall in one of these categories please choose an amount you want to contribute with, having in mind that paying more helps others who cannot afford the full price.

- Regular fee (corporate, international organisations):
 - Early bird: 650 EUR
 - After 1st September: 710 EUR
- Reduced fee sliding scale (public sector, NGO, self-employed)
 - Early bird: 390-500 EUR
 - After 1st September: 440-550 EUR
- 10% discount for more than one person from the same team/organisation.
- Limited number of scholarships for people who are still studying, currently unemployed or are in any other difficult situation. Please let us know at anton@openspace-collective.com if you want to join the training and would like to receive the scholarship.

Register [here!](#)