

Discover Newrope (in Athens)  
12 August 2019

Dear Student,

We plan an explorative odyssey, a journey by train, ship and on foot – to go to, through, around and into Athens. Coming from Switzerland, we slowly approach Athens and mingle among the locals until we become their personal assistants and accompany them in their everyday lives.

Athens is key to our understanding of democracy and an important part of the historical narrative of Europe. Today, Athens also appears as one of the most agile ‘rehearsal stages’ for the transformation challenges European cities and regions are facing. Questions of housing, social security systems, productive capacity, ecological sustainability, migration and climate change are subjected to re-negotiation in Athens today, all together rebalancing the geostrategic role this city can claim in today’s world. The development and discovery of new strategies for the collective and constructive handling of these challenges become an existential question for individuals, their communities and a democratic future of Europe.

Using a Performative Action Research perspective, we attempt to discover step by step the diversity of the city’s urban challenges and how to cope with them, not only in an abstract way, but also as possible personal engagements. Hence we invite interested and curious students to join this explorative journey and to discover people and projects in Athens.

Organisers: Ben Pohl & Charlotte Schaeben  
Professor: Freek Persyn  
Date: 19–27 October 2019

Participants: 16 maximum  
Cost: Frame D  
Contact: schaeben@arch.ethz.ch

Sincerely,



Ben Pohl