

9th Network Meeting in Bled
Apr 2010

My feeling at the end of day 1 was “many voices”.
Day 2 my feeling was “too much noise”.

Day 1 I was trying to figure out, to give meaning and to understand: what are these voices saying, what is trying to be expressed here.

Day 2 I felt overwhelmed, distracted and disordered. I felt uncomfortable and was unable to figure out, not a bit.

I came to this meeting with doors open, good will and the predisposition to listen and to go into dialogue.

Then, the doors closed for a moment, it was too much, I wanted to get out of this.

At the end, doors opened again from the inside, when I took the chance to express my sadness and share it with you. I felt happy, secure and connected again.

So, fortunately, doors remained open and that enabled me to give time for my sight to clear up.

And I came to the metaphor of our network being a living system which is *maturing* and getting into the phase of *adolescence*.

We all have the experience, esp. parents, of our sweet, little babies “suddenly” being transformed into clumsy teenagers.

Full of legs and arms, which they do not always know how to co-ordinate in the room.

Full of hormones, drive and passion, that often tend to burst out in an explosive way.

We stand then with mouth open from surprise, not knowing what to say, how to handle this “new, unknown” person standing in front of us challenging and provoking.

We cannot recognize that “creature” and this abrupt pending between rising up to a sky full of optimism and power feeling and diving deep down into disappointment and despair.

Sometimes we try to make them “come to their senses”, i.e. to make them go into the “right way to be” – and of course “we know better” how things have to be “the right way”.

Sometimes we give up and withdraw and we just watch things happen, feeling incapable and inadequate to deal with the situation.

Sometimes... it is even scaring.

We feel lost and disoriented too. We also swing from one point at the edge to the other. It is a difficult, demanding situation of high complexity.

Need to open our ears, as well as our eyes (maybe close our mouth) and listen, watch, make silence for a moment.

Gently and with respect, appreciate the potential of life that is there, right in front of our eyes, trying to be expressed, in order to become the unique and special entity, which is their destiny to become.

Support this magical procedure of growing up into a self-confident young person with high self-esteem, an adult who has been helped to get aware of their strengths, qualities and possibilities and is, therefore, capable to take responsibility for their choices, confident that there is meaning in living with values and moving towards their vision.

So, I guess this is for me the way to see our network at the present and my dreaming of it for the future.

And this is my standpoint, which I fully take responsibility for: to see all this “noise” as the expression of concern and worry and to take a position of kindness and tenderness towards this high level of concern - thinking that, after all, we people are mostly concerned about issues that matter, issues that are of high value to us, very important issues.

With these feelings I entry into the preparation of our next meeting and with the doors of my heart, mind and soul wide open, I am looking forward to see you in our next meeting in Athens.

With warm regards,
Anthoula Athanassiadou