

## IRINI AMPOUMOGLI

### ARTIVISM'S EUROPEAN TIME ZONE CHAPTER LIASON

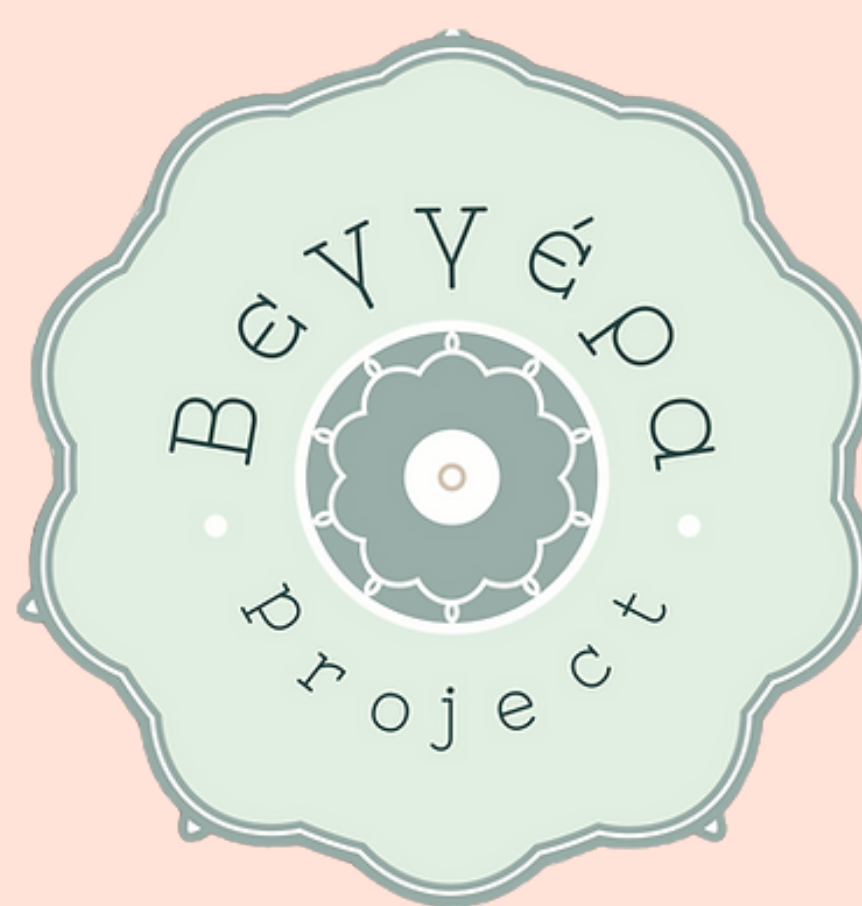
Hi Artists!

I am Irini Ampoumogli, an actress, theatre director, and current student finalizing my degree in Sociology with a focus on issues regarding feminism and gender equality.

My first contact with the Artivism initiative was when Professor Argie Agelarakis learned about my work with the women of Eleutherna, a small village in Rethymno, Crete, Greece. It was at that location that the **Veggera Project** started.

Traditionally, a **veggera** is a Greek social evening gathering of women that takes place at their doorsteps (image below left). The women discuss their daily routines in an effort to support one another without the patriarchal influence.

I complimented this tradition by incorporating sociological techniques through workshops, deeper guided intergenerational knowledge exchange, and expanding on tools to further explore women's leadership in everyday roles in today's society (image below right).



More information on this project can be found at:

<https://theveggeraproject.wixsite.com/mysite>



Since then, **Artivism: The Power of Art for Social Transformation** has been a point of reference for me. Its co-founders, Argie Agelarakis and Carolina Cambronero, extend virtual invitations to worldwide initiatives and projects that work towards finding new ways of thinking about social change through creative means. The idea behind the overall concept of artivism is very inspiring; it boosts your creative thinking towards social change, integration, diversity, and equality.

I believe that the addition of the Artivism European Time Zone Chapter adds the opportunity for in-person invitations and networking, aiming at monthly presentations by meaningful and inspiring local initiatives. This is just step one in creating more local chapters around the world for the same purpose: building a platform for artists to discuss, share, and work together.

The Artivism initiative helps us realize that we are not alone in the struggle towards social change. As the European Time Zone Chapter, we have already organized two presentations:

**The Traditional Cretan craft of "Desia"**, where Mrs. Eleni Voumvoulaki presented her work on macramé and its symbolic meanings.

Next, the **Lesson That Never Happened**, facilitated by Professor Eleonora Malliou, an artistic project where high school students dealt with school violence as well as violence and war in current times through painting and text. Several of her students that have participated in the project were at the presentation, expressing how this experience impacted their point of view.

As the EU Time Zone Chapter liaison, I hope to add my little contribution in sharing local initiatives with the world, with care and love.

I wish to highlight that small-scale projects in small cities, islands, and villages are transforming their context toward social change little by little, neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

Stay tuned for upcoming programs by visiting:

[www.adelphi.edu/artivism](http://www.adelphi.edu/artivism)

