

To Stavros Niarchos Foundation

The topic: Empowering democracy and the young citizens

Methods used: Visit - A Guide tour and Role-plays - Improvisations



The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) is a symbol of Greek culture and resilience. It is one of the world's leading private, international philanthropic organizations, making grants to non-profit organizations in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. Since 1996, it has committed more than \$2.8 billion, through more than 4,400 grants to non-profit organizations in 124 nations around the world for projects that aim to achieve a broad, lasting and positive impact for society at large, and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also supports projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving public welfare.

The Canal is one of the iconic areas of the Foundation. It was designed in a way to redefine the relationship between the area and the waterfront, not only in terms of the view but also physically incorporating the element of water. Measuring 400 meters long, 30 meters wide, and 70 to 150 cm deep, it unfolds between and alongside the building complex and the Esplanade. On its opposite side, the terraced marble seating is perfect for hosting improvised performances, while the area nearby is ideally suited for a stroll with a view to Foundation's glass façade.

Let's enjoy www.SNF.org, our Role-plays and inspiring Improvisations based on official speech that the President of the United States, Barack Obama delivered here in 2016 (16/11), and an amazing Water show, the Dancing Fountains.



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Erasmus+ Programme
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The project "ACE II" ACTIVE CITIZEN in EUROPE II Active European citizens building

Tuesday, 12 November
to Stavros Niarchos Foundation
www.SNF.org



[At the Canal of the Foundation](#)

Methods used:

At the terraced marble seatings are performed in mixed groups:
Role-plays, Improvisations based on official speech that the President of the United States, Barack Obama delivered in 2016 (16/11), as part of the President's final State visit to Athens and of the administration. Interaction of participants, peer group discussions, exchange of critical thoughts and sharing of ideas, knowledge, skills and the analyses of participants on **the topics** of his remarks:

- a) he spoke about the importance of democracy,
- b) the ideals of "philotimo" and citizenship and
- c) the importance of supporting the youth as a means to development and progress in human societies.



Mixed group of participants

1st group

The President heralded Greece for its stance in the **refugee crisis** noting "nowhere have we seen that compassion more evident than in Greece. The Greek people's generosity towards refugees arriving on your shores has inspired the world" and Speaking about **the ideals of democracy**, President Obama noted "it was here, 25 centuries ago, in the rocky hills of this city, that a new idea emerged. Demokratia. Kratos -- the power, the right to rule -- comes from demos -- the people. The notion that we are citizens -- not servants, but stewards of our society. The concept of citizenship -- that we have both rights and responsibilities. The belief in equality before the law -- not just for a few, but for the many; not just for the majority, but also the minority. These are all concepts that grew out of this rocky soil."The President went on to explain "Open, democratic societies can deliver more prosperity --because when people are free to think for themselves and share ideas and discover and create -- the young people who are here, what they're able to do through the Internet and technology, that's when innovation is unleashed, when economies truly flourish. That's when new products, and new services, and new ideas wash through an economy."

2nd group

During his remarks the President Obama spoke also about **the role of citizenship** in upholding what is right, noting the responsibility and rights

each of us has in their community, saying: "In all of our communities, in all of our countries, I still believe there's more of what Greeks call "philotimo" -- love and respect and kindness for family and community and country, and a sense that we're all in this together, with obligations to each other. "Philotimo" -- I see it every day -- and that gives me hope. Because in the end, it is up to us. It's not somebody else's job, it's not somebody else's responsibility, but it's the citizens to bend that arc of history towards justice. And that's what democracy allows us to do. That's why the most important office in any country is not president or prime minister. The most important title is 'citizen.'"

3rd group

Concerning **the world order and the balance that needs to be achieved in societies** President Obama stated: "The same forces of globalization and technology and integration that have delivered so much progress, have created so much wealth, have also revealed deep fault lines...this global integration is increasing the tendencies towards inequality, both between nations and within nations, at an accelerated pace. And when we see people -- global elites, wealthy corporations -- seemingly living by a different set of rules, avoiding taxes, manipulating loopholes -- when the rich and the powerful appear to game the system and accumulate vast wealth while middle and working-class families struggle to make ends meet, this feeds a profound sense of injustice and a feeling that our economies are increasingly unfair. This inequality now constitutes one of the greatest challenges to our economies and to our democracies."

4th group

President Obama focused on **the importance of supporting the youth** noting "We know that we have to invest more in our people -- the education of our young people, the skills and training to compete in the global economy. We have to make sure that it is easy for young people who are eager to learn and eager to work to get the education that they need, the training that they need, without taking on huge amounts of debt." Referring specifically to the Greek youth and the challenges they are facing President Obama said: "The young people who are in attendance here today and all across the country need to know there is a future -- there is an education and jobs that are worthy of your incredible potential. You don't have to travel overseas, you can put roots right here in your home, in Greece, and succeed."