

Towards MitOst Vision 2021:

Year of the Community

Vision 2021 will gradually lead us to a new organisational model: a network organisation. Common practices and projects in which we can meet and work together in meaningful ways are part of this vision. We call these the MitOst Commons. According to our Vision 2021, both people from the wider network as well as members shape the network organisation's commons as community members.

PURPOSE OF THE YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY

The creative power of people coming together is one of the founding ideas of MitOst. This is not all that is needed to work meaningfully in today's world, but it is the basic condition for any change. We believe in the enormous potential and beauty of connections that arise by nurturing a common space where MitOst as a whole comes together. And we know that as we as individuals and communities transform, we shape the future of societies.

With the Year of the Community, we invite all of us to not only act as a network (as we already do), but also to deepen our experience as a community. The Year of the Community is an invitation to further develop and promote being together and creating together at MitOst.

With the Year of the Community, we want to build on what is already there and invite what wants to emerge. Instead of talking about the MitOst community, this year's theme is about being and doing. It's, above all, nurturing the community in such a way that the community can develop its inherent potential.

CALLING QUESTION

But what does this space look like in which the whole of MitOst comes together? What mission and values guide us? Which collaborative practices help us thrive? How do we relate to the ever-evolving world? We want to explore these and many related questions more deeply, together with you. The central question to guide us on this journey is:

How can we nurture community in times of uncertainty and complexity and, together, shape new ways towards a just, sustainable and liveable future?

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP AS A PRACTICE

We approach community membership as a practice rather than a set of rights and responsibilities. By participating in the activities during the Year of the Community, you become a community member.

The purpose of the community membership is:

- To connect as an individual to the network organisation
- To foster and promote decentralised, self-organized activities that contribute to the network organisation's commons
- To cultivate P2P, co-creation, sharing, prototyping, experimentation, regeneration within the network

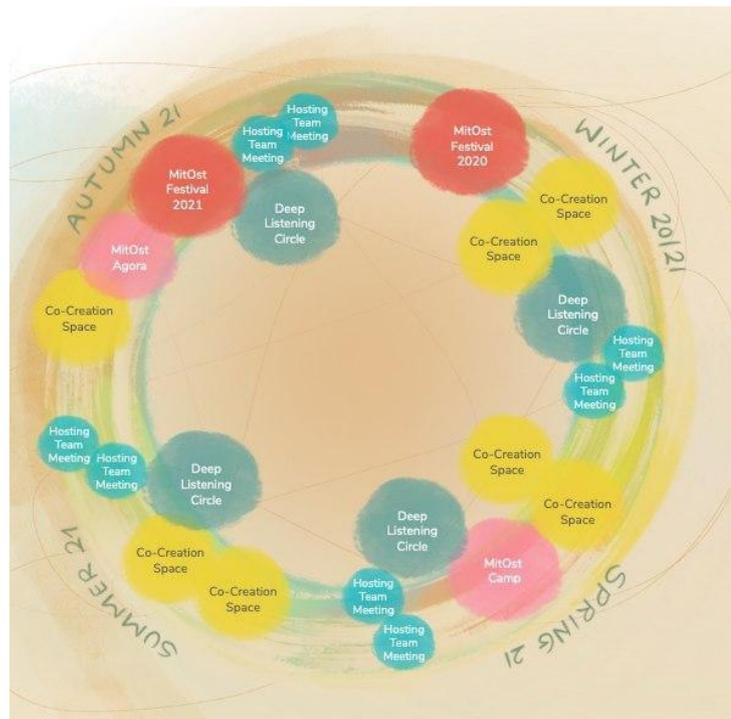
The community membership is shaped from the beginning by community members and is dynamic in its development (that is, its structures emerge in the process, and are needs-based).

MitOst members, as well as anyone who has a connection to the MitOst network (esp. alumni affiliated to MitOst and partners) can participate in the Year of the Community and therewith become a community member. Membership in the association of MitOst (e.V.) is not a requirement and payment of a membership fee is not mandatory.

HOW DOES THE YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY FUNCTION?

The Year of the Community is a year of experimentation. During this year, we want to lay the foundations of the MitOst Commons. We want to support each other in bold initiatives and at the same time focus on learning from each other.

During the 18th International MitOst Festival in November 2020, a Co-Creation Space will initiate an ongoing conversation. There is a standing invitation to everyone who resonates with our call to participate. After the festival, we will hold a monthly Co-Creation Space Session open to all, where you can join the conversations and prototypes that have been created, or start new ones. A second activity of the Year of the Community are Deep Listening Circles, which take place regularly. In addition, agoras and the MitOst Camp will be part of the year. Further structured invitations to participate will follow.



The conversation will last roughly one year. During the 19th International MitOst Festival in 2021, the journey of the Year of the Community will come to an end, and we will decide on future paths on the basis of insights and learnings.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

You can get involved by signing up for at least one Co-Creation Space session, either during or after the MitOst Festival. By joining the session, you are included in the e-mail list of community members and are invited to a shared platform, where you can have access to joint documents and work results as well as recordings of previous sessions. You also receive a newsletter with further information on the emerging commons, from which you can opt out.

There are 3 options for you to become part of the Year of the Community as a community member.

Become a co-host

- co-create the Year of the Community's journey as **part of the hosting team** of the Monthly Co-Creation Space
- participate in **two 60 min zoom calls** per month and in the Monthly Co-Creation Space

Become a co-creator

- commit to **actively contribute** according to your own time resources
- and **bring back & share** from prototypes and activities they may take part in.

Become a follower

- **sign up for the communication channels** and let us keep you up to date

HOSTING TEAM @MITOST OFFICE

The Year of the Community is hosted by the Network of Members and Alumni department team. The NMA team will:

- **invite** and host conversations. It will **build** a team of co-hosts.
- **provide** the financial framework for prototypes, but will not decide which prototypes will be funded.
- build a team of harvesters to **collect** learnings and **harvest** from the conversation and bring them back to the group.
- provide administration **support** to the Year of the Community.

FINANCIAL MEANS

Within the Year of the Community, financial means are available for the realisation of prototypes. Decisions on the distribution of these funds are made in the community (using co-budgeting, collaboration with the Project Advisory Board of MitOst). A part of the financial means will be invested to sustain a platform to serve as a space for knowledge-sharing, communication and exchange.

VISION FOR 2021

Our vision is that, at the end of this journey, we will be more connected as a community, while at the same time we'll have set in motion a decentralized flow of emerging prototypes that will help us make an impact and develop together. Our current guiding questions and learning edges are:

- Which topics do we want to deepen together by engaging with the constantly evolving world?
- Which missions and values guide us and how can they be brought into fruitful discourse?
- How do we use our inherent ability as a network and community to strive for societal change?
- How can we promote at different levels what we want to see more in the world?
- How do we work sustainably in ecological, social and economic ways?
- What rhythms of connection and collaborative practices help our community thrive?
- What structures and practices serve us to make decisions together?