The *Codisco* reader *

Codisco was initiated by S P I N following a series of group experiments on the theme of co-learning, within the SpinOffs. So much of our approach to co-learning is marked by the educational system and the separations that come with it. What kind of encounters and situations can we create in order to engage with learning while avoiding reproducing what we have known all too well within the conventional education system? The work provided by a core team during the first half of 2020 made it possible to deepen the objectives, to better define co-learning and its theoretical foundations, but also to imagine a meeting format that would facilitate an exploration and understanding of what co-learning desires to be. It is in this phase that we came up with the name *Codisco*; « co » evoking the idea of knowledge as a common, « disco » meaning « I am learning » in Latin and it's also a nod to joyful dancing as a part of popular culture. In other words: learning as a celebration of the commons.

Codisco aims to be a pedagogical environment that is radically open. An environment where we try to undo the hierarchies between different types of knowledge, know-how and wisdom. Any kind of knowledge that a person wants to explore together with others is considered meaningful. Any subject that is brought into the space is considered the right subject for that moment and for those people. We aim at creating a space where there's no binary divide between learning and teaching, between the person who learns and the person who educates. A space where everybody engages in processes of learning and teaching, often simultaneously. We don't regard anybody as an expert in something but we regard everybody to be experts in their own life. We share, we exchange, we experiment, we explore in an act of embodied learning. We learn through excitement, because excitement means that you want to engage with it, that you want to live with it. We practice curiosity. We learn in order to practice freedom.

So *Codisco* can also be looked at as an artistic research on the theme of reinventing and experimenting with learning in a collective way, to renew its understanding and practice with decolonial, feminist, queer and radically solidarity values. What are the optimal conditions to make co-learning possible? What forms of collective organisation can be easily deployed to make it fun, effective and easy to practice?

Between October and December 2020, a group of co-researchers hack collective intelligence techniques and tinker with them to develop co-learning sequences. Their aim: to make co-learning a new social practice for building common ground, ecological and existential empowerment, new forms of enrichment, solidarity and emancipation. The creation is not focused on a specific outcome but on the capacity to set a group in motion and in effervescence while allowing individuals the greatest freedom.

We have thus decided to chop the open space technology to develop a first series of meetings. The research is far from over. The exploration of sensations, findings of what works or doesn't work, and of other emerging phenomena is only just beginning. In a more or less near but certain future, we wish to hack other methodologies of facilitation and collective intelligence until we can share more broadly, perhaps with more assurance and experience, some avenues for practicing co-learning, and experiment with them in a variety of environments with a variety of participants.

For the third day (4.12.20) in this series, we have decided to expand the group to anybody that shows interest.

Each day consists of a compilation of responses to the question: « what do you desire to learn and do together? » Everyone can respond to this question by proposing a session that automatically will become part of the program of the day.

In previous episodes, these were some of the responses to the question:

– a DIY health practice
– a method for turning one's back on something or someone weighing on us
– hunting for empty buildings or how to spot potential squats in our neighborhoods?
– a vocal warm-up
– a safe rave
– the basics of bokashi composting
– a lazy reading session
– online sound poetry in 18 different mother tongues
– the use of non-binary pronouns
– a score to talk about a place
– a sweatlodge

We talked, we danced, we sang, we walked, we read, we wrote, we made a fire and …
We listened a lot.
We did not barter skills to be more productive or to be better equipped in our professional environment. Instead, we made little pieces of a popular encyclopedia for our daily lives.
We have really experienced the non-hierarchy of knowledge.
We felt fluids and ideas flow through us in communicating vessels.
We felt less anxious, we felt stronger and more confident and we were laughing more.
We felt like we were moving and changing, we felt like we were training to become more free.
As if at the beginning of new possible worlds... transforming this world by naming other worlds.

We wondered: who wasn't there? who was very much there? who was gone and who will return?

* This text was produced by Anna Czapski, Hans Bryssinck and Laura Deschepper based on the experiences and conversations they had with many others over the course of the last few months.