Can the commons be mapped? Which is the new common wealth of the contemporary metropolis and how can it be located? What are the advantages and the risks of such a cartography in times of crisis? The paper will aim to present and discuss the concept, the process and the results of the workshop "Mapping the Commons, Athens" which was organized by the National Museum of Contemporary Art from the 1st until the 8th of December 2010.

A project by Hackitectura.net, Mapping the Commons, Athens was developed as a collective study, a contemporary reading and an online open cartography of Athens and its special dynamic. In a period that the particular contemporary metropolis seems restless and vulnerable at the same time, the workshop group sought for, examined and studied areas where alternative, autonomous and decentralised practices are being developed. Seeing beyond the “public” and the “private”, different types of commons were mapped based on collectivity, sociability, open and free access, gift and peer to peer economy. Two online collaborative maps and one blog were created presenting a different image of Athens which is formed by the potentialities of its inhabitants but it still is fluid and unstable.

This research has been co-financed by the European Union (European Social Fund – ESF) and Greek national funds through the Operational Program “Education and Lifelong Learning” of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) - Research Funding Program: Heracleitus II. Investing in knowledge society through the European Social Fund.