Dr. Nadina Christopoulou

Nadina Christopoulou is the director and co-founder of Melissa Network, and has previously served as the vice-president of the Greek Council for Refugees.

She studied anthropology and politics at McGill University, in Montréal, Canada, and did her M.Phil and Ph.D. at Cambridge University. Her doctoral research focused on Roma storytelling and collective memory practices, based on extensive fieldwork with settled and semi-nomadic communities in Greece. Her subsequent research work focuses further on diaspora narratives, migration and childhood, as well as migrant and refugee women’s solidarity networks. On the basis of the latter, together with migrant and refugee women leaders in Greece, she co-founded Melissa Network, an award-winning organization with women members from over 50 countries. Melissa -the Greek word for bee- was envisioned as an open beehive of sharing and coexistence, bringing together women of diverse origins and providing a safe space for healing and learning. It works on developing pathways towards integration through education, art, advocacy, mental health support and community engagement, promoting agency, solidarity and the ethics of care. Melissa is actively networking with grassroots organizations around the Mediterranean and the Middle East, and has taken a leading role in supporting women human rights defenders from crisis zones, including Afghanistan & Ukraine.