



Sharing Aikido Platform

The Joy of Aikido for the World

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(by Martin Švihla and Gaston Nicolessi, 15. 9. 2016)

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Vision

The aim of Sharing Aikido project is to establish a platform that interconnects the world Aikido community and brings inspiration:

- » on how to introduce Aikido to a larger audience
- » and how to organize and lead Aikido dojos.

We will achieve this goal by sharing mutual experience and best practices.

Though we have no instant answers to issues Aikido faces today, we are very optimistic about the future of Aikido. Because we are witnessing great initiatives to strengthen and spread Aikido throughout the world with interesting and inspiring happening both inside the Aikido community and around the world. And we believe that sharing and discussing these stories and experience and fostering cooperation can improve our dojos and attract new people, who could develop the art of Aikido in future.

Interesting Topics (examples)

propagation of Aikido

- » working with traditional and new (social) media
- » addressing young people
- » addressing women
- » public demonstrations
- » ...

Aikido meets the world

- » cooperation with other arts, science, interest groups
- » cooperation with municipality, grant agencies, NGOs
- » presenting Aikido as an art for modern life
- » Aikido applied for specific purposes (conflict resolution, business negotiating, health care, integration of minorities or socially excluded...)

classes for kids and youth

- » bridging generation gaps
- » attracting children and teenage students

leading a dojo

- » organizing and managing dojo
- » creating dojo community and engaging members in dojo life
- » teaching
- » making classes more interactive, understandable and joyful
- » bringing inspiration from other arts and disciplines
- » grading (exams), their role in Aikido curriculum and their benefits for students and teachers

Key Activities

Broadcasting regular webinars
(online discussions) on specific topics. During a webinar 3–4 guests (young Aikido teachers and students) discuss a given topic and shares their practical experiences with it.

Providing a content intensive website
with videos of webinars, article, tutorials and other resources on given topics.

Publishing a regular online newsletter
with news and selection of new content.

Social media presentations
(facebook, twitter, instagram) are the integral part of the of the project.

Active search for new contributors
and interesting projects in Aikido world.

The Platform will serve as an open online community of people interested, developing, exploring and spreading as well as teaching Aikido. To fulfill this goal we are providing the network and discussion channels with a clear and moderate view on where it is heading.

The platform will host and share stories and best practices from all over the world that are based on **practical experience** – we will interconnect Aikidokas who have big dreams and bring their dreams into reality by practical steps and daily work.

Webinar as a Meeting Place

Webinar is a live interactive seminar or discussion that takes place at Internet. At webinar, several people are having discussion or presentation while their audience can watch it in their web browsers, ask questions, etc. Webinars are usually recorded and published online for later viewing, too.

We would like to use the webinar technology as a main channel for meeting, sharing, exchanging and spreading ideas. Webinars would be regular events with given topic. On each webinar, 3 to 4 guests from Aikido community would meet online to talk about their experience with a given topic (see the list of possible topics above). Discussion would take approximately 1 hour, it would be moderated and guests would be invited due to their experience and/or innovative approach to the topic.

We aim to have practical, up-to-date and balanced discussions, also by giving space to younger teachers or dojo leaders and to women.

Core Values

Openness, cooperation and mutual inspiration are key values of this project. These principles lie in the base of Aikido practice and we would like to apply them in the Sharing Aikido project.

We introduce Aikido as **a modern art as well as educational activity** for the current world. Aikido has the potential to educate strong and free people who are able to communicate in an open way and are able to resolve daily conflicts constructively.

We share stories and best practices that are based on **practical experience** – we would like to interconnect Aikidokas who have dream big and bring their dreams into reality by practical steps and daily work.

And the last but not least – in this project we would like to **share the joy of Aikido** we experience on-and-off the mat. We would like to help the Aikido community to share this joy in the world of today.

Key Partners

We would like to build cooperation with a wide range of individuals and organizations:

- » **Contributors:** young and inspiring dojo leaders and teachers (mainly up to 45 years old but also older) from around the world, who by their actual work bring new and fresh approaches to the topics.
- » **Other projects** within the Aikido community with similar goals
- » **Major Aikido organizations:** Aikikai and IAF (not restrictively).
- » **Board of elders** and honor guests: selection of senior shihans with deep Aikido experience.

Target Audience

Inside of Aikido community

The main target group of the project are Aikido teachers and senior students, interesting in improving their dojos and attracting new dojo members.

Outside of Aikido community

The website and innovative approach to supporting Aikido community also shows Aikido as a modern art that has great potential in contributing to many aspects of our current world. That means the project will also give positive information about Aikido to general public, especially to people from other fields, who are searching cross-platform cooperation with Aikido community.

Key Resources

Key resources for Sharing Aikido project are interesting young Aikido teachers and students as well as Aikido seniors. Our biggest opportunity as well as challenge is bringing interesting contributors to the project.

Crucial point for the project is efficient combination of up-to-date communication technologies – web, video, online streaming, social media...

Big picture and future development

The aim of Sharing Aikido project is to foster cooperation and share inspiration among Aikido dojos around the world. We focus on these points:

- » bringing Aikido to public discussion and media awareness again
- » empowering young teachers and dojo leaders (both men and women)
- » working with young generation

Solutions to all these issues requires long term engagement and global cooperation. If Sharing Aikido project starts this cooperation, it can become a platform for further research, meetings and various online or real-world events.

Start-up Team

Martin Švihla, PhD. (4th dan Aikikai)

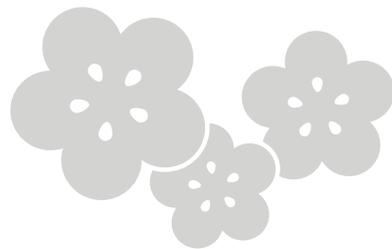
Aikido teacher and dojo-cho at Aikido Prague Vinohrady, a dojo with over 100 members. Responsible for international affairs in Czech Federation of Aikido. Founder, manager and lector in several projects of alternative education for kids and adults.

Gaston Niccolesi, PhD. (5th dan Aikikai)

Aikido teacher in Toulouse (France) and dojo-cho at Aikido Cugnaux. Elected member of the French Aikido Federation (FFAAA), as head of the Young Adults Committee which focuses on empowering young teachers and facilitating the generation transition in the teaching of Aikido.

By now, there is a few more people involved in starting this project. We actively search for coo-workers who share project values and would like to participate on this promising journey.

Feel free to contact us at: info@sharing-aikido.org.



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