

Path to Athens and beyond

The **Immersive Learning Research Network (iLRN)** moves in a rhythm that begins each September and carries us together toward our annual conference. This cadence ensures that our work is not episodic, but cyclical, collaborative, and forward-looking. Each year we build momentum, guided by a theme that unites our global community in scholarship, practice, and purpose.

? The Annual Cadence

- **September: New Cycle Begins**
 - We reset the calendar, orient our teams, and align around the theme.
 - The iLRN Codex becomes the hub where goals, roles, and workflows for the year are captured.
- **Autumn to Winter: Collective Building**
 - Special Tracks, Chapters, and working groups contribute research, workshops, and initiatives.
 - The Innovation Garden nurtures seeds of experimentation; the Knowledge Tree provides grounding.
- **Spring: Refinement and Showcase**
 - Submissions are reviewed, projects mature, and programs take shape.
 - The Codex anchors accountability, ensuring clarity and consistency across the network.
- **Summer: The Annual Conference**
 - Our work converges in the conference, where ideas bloom and knowledge is shared.
 - Each year's gathering becomes both culmination and launchpad.

This cycle repeats, sustaining iLRN as a living, evolving community.

? Athens 2026: A Special Milestone

Our upcoming conference theme, **"From Plato's Cave to Open Immersive Societies,"** holds profound meaning for iLRN.

- **Plato's Cave** reminds us that immersive experiences are not new—they echo humanity's long struggle to distinguish shadows from reality and to seek truth together.
- **Open Immersive Societies** signals our aspiration: to use immersive technologies not for isolation, but for connection, co-creation, and the advancement of humanity.

This theme resonates deeply with the development of the **iLRN Codex**. The Codex is our tool to move from shadows (fragmentation, hidden knowledge, silos) into openness (shared knowledge, transparent processes, collective action).

? Codex as Our Path

As we prepare for Athens:

- The Codex serves as the **delegation hub**—turning individual requests into community workflows.
- It embodies our **commitment to openness**, ensuring that knowledge is captured, shared, and acted upon together.
- It strengthens our **identity as an association of immersive learning professionals**, ready to step into the light of global recognition.

By working in the Codex, we embody the very theme of Athens 2026: moving from isolated caves into a society built on shared vision, knowledge, and collaboration.

? Beyond Athens: Springing Forward

Athens is not an end point—it is a launchpad. Our collective efforts will:

- Establish the Codex as a permanent infrastructure for iLRN's growth.
- Position immersive learning as a **mature discipline** grounded in roots (Knowledge Tree), innovation cycles (Innovation Garden), and foresight (Searchlight & Lighthouse).
- Prepare iLRN for its next decade as a **society of professionals** shaping immersive learning for humanity and the world.

The **Path to Athens and beyond** is therefore both practical and visionary: a yearly rhythm of building together, and a long-term trajectory of advancing immersive learning as a force for good.

? Principle

We walk this path not as individuals carrying isolated burdens, but as a community. By aligning each September, working through the Codex, and coming together around our annual theme, we prepare not only for Athens 2026, but for the future of iLRN as an **open immersive society**.

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