

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**EUROPEAN
ALTERNATIVES**

IMAGINE, DEMAND, ENACT

CONTENTS.

PAGE 4. FOREWORD

PAGE 5. ABOUT EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES

PAGE 7. OUR NETWORK

PAGE 8. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN A NUTSHELL

PAGE 10. MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2016

PAGE 16. THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

PAGE 17. EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES IN THE MEDIA

PAGE 18. PUBLICATIONS

PAGE 20. VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

PAGE 22. RENEWED GOVERNANCE

PAGE 23. FUNDERS

FOREWORD.

The year 2016 has made clear that now, more than ever, is the right time for citizens to reclaim the future of Europe. The far-right movements across Europe and beyond are channeling the fear, anger and despair against the most vulnerable, the refugees, the migrants and the unemployed. This is not our vision of Europe. The Eurosceptics are seeking for more influence in the European Union in the year of Brexit, Trump and populism; in the year in which referendums in the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands, were clear signs of rejection to the establishment.

At European Alternatives we refuse to choose between the establishment and nationalism: we believe that there are alternative ways to construct a different narrative for our continent. The status quo will not be changed until citizens feel empowered to be the owners of their destiny, with the strength to imagine, demand and enact the Europe that they want, rather than live in the one that is being imposed.

Back in 2007, we started arguing for a structural counter-proposal to the establishment, and a reinvention of the limits of European space. These needs, however, can only be fulfilled through alliances and synergies between social movements, NGOs, trade unions, civil society, activists, artists, and political representatives at different levels. After a decade, our position remains immutable: it is only by re-imagining, redefining and re-telling the meaning of Europe, and who its people are, that we will be able to shift the feeling of disengagement and distrust which is so dangerously prevalent among younger generations today.

In our effort to bring Europe closer to its citizens, in 2016 we worked on mobilising our members, partners and citizens via debates, open events, international seminars, online and offline articles, video productions, social media campaigns, and more, always with the aim of changing people's apathy towards Europe, and fighting nationalism.

In this report you can find out more about the projects, publications, events and campaigns we have led together with our partners and networks in 2016. You can also read about what objectives we have set ourselves for the coming year, and ways you can get involved.

ABOUT EA.

European Alternatives works with the conviction that a transnational renovation of our political imaginations, institutions and actions needs to take place to adequately understand and address the crises Europe is facing. We need to act as individuals, as organisations and movements, and through political institutions. The inadequacy of our current political institutions to take account of the transnational dimension is a crucial element of the crisis pushing towards authoritarianism.

Our **vision of an alternative Europe** would include and emerge from:

- creative **cultures** which question and go **beyond boundaries**
- **critical awareness** of Europe's connections with the rest of the world, its global role and its **colonial history**
- informed and **critical transnational publics** that are engaged with systemic change
- practices of political, social and cultural activism which take account of the ways **key-issues cross geographical borders** and combat social injustice
- **alternative economic models** which are socially inclusive, decolonial and anti-oppressive, foster equality, and promote solidarity, mutual care and responsibility
- **transnational democratic institutions, political parties** and forms of governance which are citizen-led, focused on the common good, and enable participation and expression of all parts of society
- a political **European citizenship**, respect of human rights, fundamental rights and civic space, genuine free movement, and a critical engagement with legal principles and norms and their suspension or infringement

Mission.

European Alternatives works to promote democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state. We imagine, demand and enact alternatives for a viable future for Europe. We are doing this through:

- **Inspiring** our members, partners and public to co-create an alternative European imaginary
- **Building** the capacity of our members for new forms of transnational activism
- **Promoting** the critical engagement and influence of civil society in transnational political institutions
- **Helping** shape new forms of governance that directly connect the local to the transnational
- **Innovating** with forms of media promoting connections between publics and a common progressive agenda
- **Expanding and sharing** knowledge of and reacting on crucial transnational trends

Values.

Our values guide how we work to pursue our mission:

- **Transnational and local:** we believe local and regional initiatives benefit from going beyond national boundaries and interests
- **Transdisciplinary:** we believe alternatives are generated at the intersection of disciplines and are enriched by diverse expertise and perspectives
- **Creative and experimental:** we believe in the power of the arts and culture to unlock imaginaries and in the necessity of acting and learning through experimentation
- **Open, inclusive and feminist:** we believe in a culturally open and equal society and in diversity as a precondition for sustainable alternatives to emerge
- **Empowering and participatory:** we provide the space for citizens to network and ensure our activities and events give space for co-creation and participation
- **Anti-eurocentric:** we believe involving other parts of the world in our reflections and activities is necessary to make new alternatives emerge

OUR NETWORK.

In 2016, we established synergies with various stakeholders, both formal and informal, at the European level such as **DiEM25**, for the Democracy in Europe event, or the **European Commons Assembly**, for their first meeting at the European Parliament. We are also members of **Civil Society Europe**, where we lead the Civic Space and Fundamental Rights Working Group, and we are part of the **Democratic Left 2018**, a process coordinated by Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung.

Our network includes committed individual members as well as civil society organisations and movements, who are actively imagining, demanding and enacting transnational alternatives to the current political institutions and economic models.

All members are charting the strategy of European Alternatives at the Annual General Assembly and online, in an open and participatory process, and are building spaces for transnational communities of people to engage in new forms of political and cultural engagement across the continent. We cooperate on programs, campaigns and events to influence politics and increase our capacity to effect change through meaningful action at the European level.

Current members organisations

mrn



ЦЕНТР ВІЗУАЛЬНОЇ КУЛЬТУРИ
VISUAL CULTURE RESEARCH CENTER

krytyka
polityczna



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
PRESS & MEDIA
FREEDOM



THE DOME PROJECT

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

1. Seeking strategies for an open, equal and democratic Europe.



We carried out actions to build transnational alternatives to politics-as-usual, at the Campus of European Alternatives. From artists to city representatives, and from journalists to activist networkers, we developed new collaborations and saw that transnational cooperation is key to overcoming the challenges we face in Europe.

2. Networking rebel cities in Europe.

We have engaged with the mayors of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and of Naples, Luigi de Magistris, both from cities at the forefront of the defense of the rights of migrants and of decent housing, and explored the possibilities of greater cooperation between “rebel cities”.

3. Connecting artists beyond Europe.



We have enabled the exchange between artists from Europe, Brazil and China through Transnational Dialogues, an on-going platform and nomadic residencies, to imagine artistic and cultural projects. The Transnational Dialogue journal reviewed artist perspectives on topics such as inequalities and racialisation of politics or the collaborative economy.

4. Empowering Western Balkans activists and civil society.



We organised the Civil Society Forum of the EU-Western Balkans Summit Series in Paris, which involved more than 100 activists and civil society organisations in having their say in the debate on the future of the Western Balkans. Together they made policy recommendations for the future of Europe and the region, which were subsequently taken to decision-makers.

5. Talk Real: alternative political and activist voices made visible online



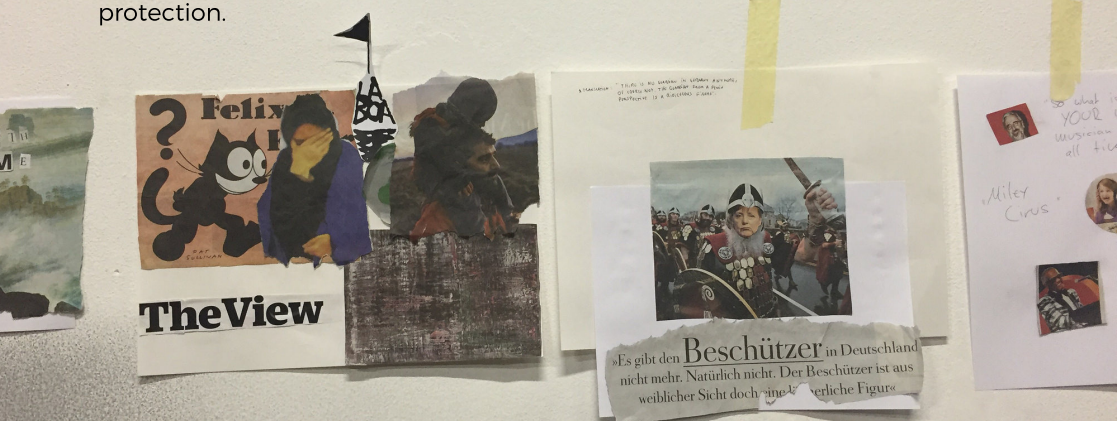
We brought together political and civil society voices to debate burning issues in Europe, and we organised talks at major alternative events. We covered a broad range of topics, from Brexit to activism in the Balkans. We were also present at high level events such as the launch of DiEM25 in Berlin and gave visibility to major drivers of change in Europe and beyond.

MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2016.

CITIZENRIGHTS

Starting in June 2015, through the Citizen Rights project run under a programme of DG Justice, we have been working with civil society activists to look at how, when and where people in the EU can individually and collectively protect and advance their rights. We also analysed where people are limited in exercising their rights, and how transnational collaboration can imagine and build a future where rights are actively protected. The project included several components: researching citizen rights in the EU, trainings for civil-society activists to improve their capacity to protect and extend rights, teaching about rights in schools and universities, and drafting EU policy proposals.

The first civil society training session of the Citizen Rights project took place in Berlin in June 2015, looking at the topic of digital rights. In 2016, the project closed with a two days training on the issues of Audio-visual media, Political Communication, Digital tools and Storytelling in Bologna (Italy) at the social center TPO; and a three days session in Brussels focussing on effective advocacy towards European institutions, citizen lobbying, and policy for rights protection.





TRANSNATIONAL DIALOGUES

EUROPE 中国 BRASIL

Born in 2011, Transnational Dialogues is one of our international artistic projects. Transnational Dialogues has been facilitating artists, creatives, professionals, intellectuals and writers from Europe, China and Brazil to come together for a series of offline and online exchanges. TD is an open and on-going cross-media platform, managing and imagining artistic and cultural projects with a focus on the new geographies of globalisation and the emergence of a multi-polar artistic and intellectual world.

In 2015-16 Transnational Dialogues took the form of a 'Nomadic Residency' in Europe, Brazil and China. Each residency was characterised by a period of research, accompanied by artistic activities and gatherings organised in partnership with local organisations. The residencies became, in this sense, a 'temporary / transnational cultural space', open to the city, where the work of production and research was accompanied by a thorough engagement with the local community and an approach of collaboration and co-production. The Nomadic Residency in Brazil developed across Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Recife, in March 2016; and the Nomadic Residency in Beijing, China, took place in June 2016. The residency explored three research modules:

- 'Marginalia': consisting of a comparative study of theories, artistic and social practices, as well as cultural and public policies, around marginality.
- 'Between Crowds and Empires': researching collaborative and sharing economies, examining its polarities and taking into account different perspectives and geographic regions.
- 'Hack Your Borders': focused on fostering people's capabilities for re-shaping borders and redrawing the social and cultural maps for how they live in cities, in order to fight against marginalisation in public space.

Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans Summit Series

The Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans Summit Series brings together more than 100 activists and representatives of civil society from the European Union and the Western Balkans to formulate recommendations for the future of the European project, and the integration of the Western Balkans countries.

The 2016 edition of the CSF was organised on the occasion of the 3rd intergovernmental Summit of Western Balkans and EU countries that was held in Paris on the 4th July 2016. It followed the Civil Society Forum held in Vienna in August 2015, and in Novi Sad and Belgrade in May 2016. The recommendations elaborated in Paris were built on the recommendations of Belgrade and Novi Sad Forum.

Migration, climate change and green growth, bilateral disputes and youth cooperation were the themes of the Forum 2016. The two days of activities were structured around workshops, dialogue with European and national parliamentarians, cultural activities and an open public citizen's summit on European solidarity. The Forum was also open to other topics, developed on the suggestion of the participants.





THE CAMPUS OF EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES

The Campus of European Alternatives brought together around 80 activists, journalists, artists and active citizens from different parts of Europe to exchange, reflect and find strategies together on how to build transnational alternatives to politics-as-usual. The **general objectives** of the Campus were to establish and reinforce networks with partners, to find best paths to combat the rise of the extreme right in Europe, and to share and exchange best practices in creating transnational movements. The outcomes of the Campus and the synergies established there will continue developing in 2017 and in the TRANSEUROPA Festival 2017.

After the first successful Campus #FixEurope in 2014, we wanted to proceed in fixing Europe, redefining and shifting practices, narratives and imaginaries for a more progressive, democratic and open transnational community. At this year's Campus we reflected, debated and questioned four main topic areas:



MEDIA. How can we disseminate content at a transnational level? How can we use media tools to shift the mainstream narrative? How can we reinforce ties between us?



CITIES. Are successful citizen initiatives able to reclaim democratic power over their lives? How do we support these initiatives to get their messages across and come to power?



NETWORKS. How can we mutually support each network to strengthen active citizenship and social movements?



ARTIVISM. How does activism work as a form of protest? How to best promote collaboration and trainings between artists across borders?

These are areas that we have worked on from several months to several years, and in which we have gathered new and existing networks and expertise to strengthen our outputs.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

European Alternatives organised its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August 2016 at the neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst in Berlin. It was a dynamic and lively gathering which inspired members, the board, and staff to continue working towards democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation-state. It also aimed to chart the strategic orientation of European Alternatives for 2017 and 2018.

The 2016 AGM was open to all, members and the general public, and had the objectives of:

- Informing the participants on the latest developments, priorities, and strategies of European Alternatives
- Providing the opportunity for individual members and member organisations to vote on the accounts, meet the candidates for two new board positions, and contribute with resolutions and amendments to the strategic roadmap for 2017 and 2018
- Allowing members to follow the General Assembly through a live-streamed video



"European Alternatives is one of the few platforms where you can go beyond the nation-state and experience a citizenship which puts into question the contradictions of our institutions"

GIANLUCA SOLERA

NETWORKING REBEL CITIES

Cities are pioneering new forms of politics and participatory governance throughout Europe. European Alternatives has long been committed to supporting social dynamics, citizens' platforms, and local governments in the construction of transnational networks and exchanges. This is why we hope that these ideas will be placed at the centre of the initiatives of other European cities, movements and institutions.



Città ribelli per cambiare l'Europa: with Ada Colau, Luigi de Magistris, Lorenzo Marsili, Gianfranco Bettin / July 2016

In 2016, we supported city representatives and citizens' initiatives across Europe in sharing their experiences and innovative democratic practices. We offered our experience of networking throughout Europe and discussed the establishment of an active network of cities with alternative and progressive governments and/or municipal movements. This would be a cooperation that would operate on at least two levels: it could organise, as a mutual learning ground, the permanent exchange between innovative local experiences – for example, regarding regaining public control over essential services – and it could also increase political pressure on national governments and European institutions. We organised different encounters and events in cities such as Rome and Messina, with the mayors of the cities of Naples and Barcelona, in order to promote the exchange of best practices between governments and activists, raising awareness of the importance that cities play in the international arena.

EA IN NUMBERS.

10	new Talk Real episodes
18+	cities of actions
70	activists trained in CitizensRights
79	times invited to speak at international events
80	activists networked in the Campus
100	activists gathered at the Civil Society Forum in Paris
14,000+	likes on Facebook
17,000+	supporters
85,000	visits to our website
88,000	views in our videos

EA IN THE MEDIA

One of our priorities in 2016 was to articulate sound positions and become a recognised reference point in the debate for an alternative Europe.

Our articles were published in national newspapers and our events appeared in more than seven countries including Il Corriere della Sera in Italy; El País in Spain; and The Independent in the UK.

We also participated in TV talk shows, like La Gabbia Open in Italy, and attended radio stations, like Deutschlandfunk in Germany.

SME

EL PAÍS

**il Fatto
Quotidiano.it**
non riceve alcun finanziamento pubblico



nd

**CORRIERE
DELLA SERA**

R.it

Le Monde

Rai

openDemocracy
free thinking for the world



eldiario.es
Periodismo a pesar de todo

**Süddeutsche
Zeitung**

CAFÉBABEL

LA 7

MicroMega

**FUNK
HAUS
EUROPA**  **WDR**

left

Deutschlandradio

LK


MEDIAPART

bnr
БЪЛГАРСКО НАЦИОНАЛНО РАДИО

**il ma
nife
sto**

PUBLICATIONS.

'A State of Democracy: Towards Citizen Rights Protection in the EU'

Within the frame of the Citi-Rights project, European Alternatives, together with the European Civic Forum, proposes that the way to address the democratic challenges and the threats to fundamental rights in the EU is the same: more participation, more dialogue, and the placing of the citizen at the heart of European policy-making.

'A State of Democracy: Towards Citizen Rights Protection in the EU' makes a number of recommendations to European institutions, under the following areas:

- Putting citizens' rights and the common good at the centre of European policies
- Becoming a driving force in creating a more enabling environment for participation
- Building a clear and structured framework for regular dialogue with civil society
- Putting respect and the promotion of the fundamental values of the Union, as well as the core European requirements of democracy and the rule of law, at the forefront of the institution's actions
- Establishing participatory mechanisms and tools to secure rights protection throughout Member States
- Protecting the rights – including the right to participation – of third-country nationals



Through the publication, we explored firstly the possibility for citizens to engage with the EU in defence of their rights. We then looked at the proposals that have been made to establish a mechanism that would go further than current mechanisms in holding EU Member States accountable for violations of EU fundamental values, before returning to look at active citizenship as a way toward further engagement. The publication also makes recommendations for reform.

Report of results and recommendations from the Civil Society Forum Paris

The Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans Summit Series had two main objectives: to have a say in the official political debate on the future of the Western Balkans; and to build further collaborations between civil society actors and activists from the region and from the European Union, a process that continued throughout the year.

The recommendations of civil society were presented and discussed with parliamentarians and European Ministers, including its Vice-President Ulrike Lunacek, Richard Howitt, Tanja Fajon, Alojz Peterle and Majlinda Bregu. Harlem Désir, Secretary of State for European Affairs (France) and Sebastian Kurz, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Austria). These representatives took the recommendations on and presented them briefly at the official Intergovernmental meeting with the Prime Ministers of some European countries in the Western Balkans.

After the CSF, we published an online report with the results and recommendations elaborated by the participants.

You can download the full report on our website: www.euroalter.com

Transnational Dialogues Journal

Since 2011, Transnational Dialogues has been developing its annual journal, which looks at different perspectives from China, Brazil and Europe. The 2016 edition mirrored the two principal thematic approaches of Transnational Dialogues for the year 2015-16.

The first section, 'Between Crowds and Empires', examined the polarities of collaborative and sharing economies, taking into account the different cultural perspectives from Europe, China and Brazil. It included contributions from Robin Resch, Pedro Victor Brandão, Felipe Duarte, Sun Siwei, Erik Rodrigues, Chen Yiming, Margherita D'Andrea, Corrado Gemini and Indy Johar.

The second section, 'Marginalia', dealt with the inequalities and racialisation of geopolitics, including contributions from Julijana Nicha, Iva Čukić, Noel Hatch, Man Yu, Ge Fei, Ge Lei, Jota Mombaça and Luigi Galimberti.

You can download the publication on our website: www.euroalter.com

VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.



Since 2015 Talk Real has aimed to create an informed, enthused and more connected public sphere throughout Europe; a public which has the confidence to act politically, socially and culturally for democratic change. This requires creating a captivating transnational broadcast, mixing talk-shows with shorter audio-visual productions that speak across Europe. Being a transnational and nomadic talk-show, Talk Real works with local camera operators and technicians. This work model helps to establish a transnational network of film-makers and camera operators around Europe.

In 2016 we produced ten Talk Real episodes in ten different cities, including Sao Paulo (Brazil), Skopje (Macedonia), and Prizren (Kosovo). Key speakers included Yanis Varoufakis, Marisa Matias, Celia Mayer, Jerome Roos, Juan Luis Sanchez, and many activists from around Europe and beyond. We achieved media coverage in Germany, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, including screenings of two of our shows on television in Germany, Italy and Portugal.

Towards the end of 2016 we launched a new format for the talk-show, including individual interviews, external footage from the cities and protests we visited, as well as more in-depth conversation. In November 2016 was began a collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, which will continue into 2017, with the aim of covering political and social trends in the Western Balkans.

Launching new formats for our video promotions and live-stream coverage of our events

One of our main aims is to promote European awareness among young people. Being aware of the crucial role that social media is playing in constructing imaginations and identity, we are seeking every day to improve our presence on social media.

In 2016 we launched new short clips for Facebook and Instagram, to raise awareness of civic activism and new municipalism, and to speak out against fascism. We also disseminated a number of short promos of our own video productions. With these clips we reached more than 88,000 viewers.

We also increased the number of events in where we use live coverage of the debates and discussions that take place. This is important because it allows our members and potential members to engage and participate in our activities even when they cannot attend physically.



RENEWED GOVERNANCE.

After the Annual General Meeting, members of European Alternatives voted for: the election of two new members of the Board, the approval of the 2015 accounts, a resolution for a membership fee system, and the amendments to the 2017 strategic plan. The result of the vote decided that Rui Tavares and Rasha Shaaban were to be the new members of the Board.

Rui Tavares



He is a Portuguese historian, politician and former Member of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2014. In 2013, he founded the political party LIVRE in Portugal.

“ European Alternatives is maybe one of the few organisations that articulates well what seems to me the biggest challenge of our times: bringing forward the ideals of cosmopolitanism, global citizenship and transnational democracy. ”

Rasha Shaaban



She is currently working at the National Museum of World Cultures and coordinates the Anna Lindh Foundation in Sweden, the biggest network of organisations involved in the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

“ I strongly believe in the organisation's vision and I am a strong advocate of its mission. I can share my expertise and knowledge of the MENA region and provide EA with access to my large network in the Euro-Med region. ”

The **Board of Trustees** of European Alternatives is now composed of Rasha Shaaban, Rui Tavares, Catherine Fieschi, Igor Stokfiszewski, Giuseppe Caccia, Noel Hatch, Srecko Horvat, Tony Venables, Ségolène Pruvot, Daphne Büllesbach, Lorenzo Marsili, Niccolò Milanese, Sara Saleri, Alessandro Valera, Guilhem Delteil and Luisa Maria Schweizer.

We also count with an **Advisory Board** composed of Etienne Balibar, Ulrike Guérot, Raffaella Bolini, Engin Isin, Tania Bruguera, Sandro Mezzadra, Sigrid Gareis, Igor Štiks, Gianluca Solera and Catherine de Wenden.

FUNDERS.

European Alternatives is a transnational organisation, but it is not possible to make a transnational legal organisation, nor a European association. Instead, European Alternatives has several legal entities which work together: a non-profit company limited by guarantee formed under UK law, and associations under French, Italian and German law.

European Alternatives is committed to transparency and accountability in the use of funding. It publicises the financial supporters of each of its projects in project related literature, as well as online.

In addition to donations from our members, our institutional funders in 2016 included:





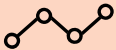
This report is available in digital format at www.euroalter.com



Get in touch with us on info@euroalter.com



Subscribe to our newsletter on euroalter.com/subscribe_newsletter



Join us on euroalter.com/join



Support us on euroalter.com/donate



Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/EuroAlter



Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/EuroAlter



Follow us on Instagram: [European_Alternatives](https://www.instagram.com/EuroAlter)