

Biannual Report
2019-2020



EUROPEAN
ALTERNATIVES



Demand

Enact

Imagine

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Introduction

European Alternatives seeks to drive and facilitate the development of participation of citizens and civil society across borders, opening up the possibilities for cultural, social and political experimentation and innovation. The organisation acts in the belief that the most urgent political and social questions can no longer be understood or dealt with at the national level alone, and that new forms of transnational collectivity must be created to restore citizens’ democratic control over their future. Never more has this been true than in the most recent years of combined economic, ecological and health crises which all have transnational dimensions. In pursuing its mission, European Alternatives seeks to build a broader vision of a viable alternative Europe, as well as relaunch active citizenship and public commitment.

If European Alternatives sees in Europe and its various transnational institutions one interlocutor to address its transnational claims, we seek not to be Euro-centric in our vision of the world, constantly challenging our self-representations, including voices, individuals and organisations from beyond Europe's borders in the centre of our activities and reflections. Accordingly, European Alternatives does not limit its action to one theme, topic or geographical area, but endeavours to be generalist and transnational. Working through its various offices across Europe, European Alternatives has over the past decade developed innovative approaches to promoting European citizenship and fundamental rights by organising citizens' panels, campaigns, festivals and conferences, by using innovative online methods (multilingual websites, social networking, online videos, web documentaries) and by involving unusual or excluded groups in activities with a European

focus (migrant groups, local democracy groups, youth groups, artistic organisations). European Alternatives takes the feminisation of politics and civil society as a core part of its mission, and seeks to take an intersectional approach to empowerment and transformation.

OUR VALUES

Transnational and local,
creative and experimental,
anti-eurocentric and feminist.

Transeuropa Festival 2019 – BAM UberMauer in Palermo 2019.
Preview exhibition New Unions by Jonas Staal. Photo: Maghweb.



We sum up our approach in two slogans:

**Democracy, equality and
culture beyond the nation state**

describes the values and ideals
we work towards, the mission
of the movement.

Imagine, Demand, Enact

encapsulates the different
dimensions we work in,
stimulating a new Europe
to be created in the way
we understand the world,
what we call for from
institutions and society,
and the way we act.

In this report you can read about the projects, programs and
campaigns we have led with our partners and members in 2019
and 2020. You can also read about how we measure our progress
as we continue to build this organization, and what strategic
objectives we set for the coming years.



Team of European Alternatives in the Annual General Assembly in Berlin 2019.

Who we are

European Alternatives is an ongoing experiment in creating a transnational grassroots organisation, committed to participation and democratic functioning, and empowering its members to both influence internal decision making and take the initiative to propose and run new activities. Our internal structure is composed by:

transnational board of trustees

The Transnational Board of Trustees, which is legally empowered to oversee the running of the organisation, set its strategy and approve its work programme. It does so in dialogue with individual and organisational members, local groups and our partners.

advisory board

The Advisory Board includes leading thinkers, artists and activists from throughout Europe and beyond, who advise the organisation on its message, its strategy, on formats of activities, on partners and potential stakeholders.

staff

The Staff of EA is responsible for the implementation of the work programme, its communication and coordination of the membership. We have also recently included a steering committee and our collectives. The steering committee is responsible for overseeing the practical implementation of the work of European Alternatives. It consists of the staff of the organisation and of a select group of trustees that meet regularly.

EA's ecosystem

Since our foundation in 2007, European Alternatives has been working and networking with thousands of organisations, groups and initiatives around Europe and beyond to promote democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state. Our partners are ally organisations which we have closely collaborated with on projects, campaigns, events, training. Importantly, these organisations are of different sizes, specialisms and kinds, ranging from transnational civil society networks to universities, from national museums to local cafes. 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. Together, we are charting the strategy of the network at the yearly Open Assembly of European Alternatives, offline and online, in an open and participatory process. We cooperate on programs, campaigns and events to influence politics and increase our capacity to effect change through meaningful action at the European level. In cities across Europe, members regularly organise activities such as debates, exhibitions and workshops to think, reflect and act for a Europe beyond the nation-state.

We establish synergies with various stakeholders, both formal and informal, at the European level. Some examples of organisations we have collaborated with recently are Networking European Civic Education, European Democracy Lab, Fundaction Platform, Krytyka Polityczna, CIVICUS alliance, Institut Solidarische Moderne, European May and Another Europe is Possible. We are also members of Civil Society Europe, where we lead the Civic Space and Fundamental Rights Working Group.

In 2019 and 2020 we have established new cooperations with: Europe for the Many, Fondazione Merz, Cre.Zi.Plus, Maghweb, Citizens Lab, Civico Europa, Democracy International, Citizens Initiative, EUmans, European Civic Forum, Mehr Demokratie, New Europeans, The Good Lobby, Pulse of Europe, WeMove, Feminist Europe Platform, Fundació Aroa, Imagine Europe, We Are Europe, Arty Farty, WakeUp Europe, Die Vielen, ECIT Foundation, Summer of Solidarity, europeanconstitution.eu, London School of Economics, Institute for Human Sciences Vienna, Institute of Political Murder, Museum of World Culture, Athensyn, Avtonomi Akadimia, and more.

Highlights in 2019-2020

Over **80** stops and actions together with European citizens as part of the Caravans ahead of the EP elections 2019 developing alternatives for a mature democracy in Europe.

38 cities visited as part of the 5 Transeuropa Caravans.

Over **50** artistic and cultural events in collaboration with local organisations in Palermo, stimulating a genuinely transnational imaginary as part of Transeuropa Festival and the Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo.

278 activists trained as part of the School of Transnational Activism to develop campaigns and collaborations across borders.

76 video documentaries, interviews and more on topics such as youth precarity, transnational solidarity, European democracy.

Co-founded the Citizens Take Over Europe coalition engaging more than **50** organizations to demand a European Citizens Assembly.

Our 2019-2020 work programme

Towards the 2019 European elections: Transeuropa Caravans



With Transeuropa Caravans, a group of twenty activists travelled throughout fifteen European countries on board of five caravans meeting European citizens at their sites of struggle, connecting campaigns across borders, and championing fundamental rights.

Ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections, a group of young activists travelled throughout fifteen European countries on board of five caravans reaching out to places of struggle and resistance to defend fundamental rights beyond borders. They traveled to meet directly European citizens, connect their stories, and mobilize together to promote electoral rights and political participation throughout Europe.

transeuropacaravans.eu



25 activists

5 caravans

38 cities

11 days

+80 stops

1 mission:

connect struggles,
build alternatives

Team of the Central Eastern Europe caravan of Transeuropa Caravans demonstrating with Fridays for Future in Austria 2019.

Five caravans connecting struggles, building alternatives

On a Baltic Route, one across Central Eastern Europe, on the Visegrad region, all through the Western countries or around the Mediterranean: the many initiatives that the five Transeuropa Caravans visited told the stories of common struggles and victories. Initiatives that share a sense of community, spirit of solidarity; from resistance to fascism to innovative ways of local participation at municipalist experiences. From the protection of the environment, to the opening of walls and welcoming initiatives for migrants. It is that growing network of interactions across borders, which is motivating people to find alternative ways for building a just and sustainable response for Europe. Looking across the many different cities and initiatives encountered by the Transeuropa Caravans, there is a clear drive to open spaces together that respond to people's needs, give freedom to the imagination, and enable new ways to prosper despite cuts to the social system.



Team of the Western caravan of Transeuropa Caravans traveling across France, Spain and Portugal ahead of the EU elections 2019.

“With our trip we want to communicate that political participation does not begin and end in the polls, but takes place every day, in our neighborhoods, in our places of work, in our places of cultural gathering and in the streets.”

Gosia Wochowska
Feminist activist
Lodz

Other activities around the 2019 European Parliamentary elections

Beyond our Transeuropa Caravans, in the lead-up to the 2019 European elections we organised several other events and activities to engage citizens in discussions around different themes of European politics in creative ways. Formats included:

- Open Debates
- Election parties
- Video screenings

ÜberMauer: Transeuropa Festival 2019 meets the Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo



New Unions, Installation – Jonas Staal for Transeuropa 2019 inside Teatro Garibaldi (Palermo). Photo: Maghweb



The New Gospel: First Mission in Palermo, 2019. Written and directed by Milo Rau, Dramaturgy Research Eva-Maria Bertschy



Exhibition "TENTACLES IN SICILY - SCRATCHING THE SURFACE" by KG AUGENSTERN. Curated by N38E13 in the context of Transeuropa 2019



THE MAYFIELD concert with Heinner Goebbels in the Chiesa del Santissimo Salvatore



Transhumance: Alberto Amoretti and Giovanni Hänninen, an exhibition for the public space curated by Izabela Anna Moren



TRANSEUROPA2019
A FESTIVAL OF ARTS, POLITICS AND CULTURE

Transeuropa Festival is one of the longest-running transnational art and political festivals in Europe. Founded by European Alternatives in 2007 in London, Transeuropa takes place every two years in a different European city bringing together artists, activists and intellectuals from all across the world.

Transeuropa builds a biennial appointment that is at once artistic and political, opening a transnational space to tackle, through the power of creativity, some of the great challenges of our times. Renowned intellectuals, artists and activists have supported Transeuropa and contributed to its development and it attracts a young and mixed audience. Through a series of innovative and artistic practices, events and discourses – from panel discussions to artistic performances, video screenings, forums, and public space – it produces a shared and collaborative space of empowerment.

In the 2019 edition of Transeuropa, we teamed up with the City Council of Palermo and Fondazione Merz to co-curate the programme of BAM – Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo – under the title ÜberMauer in the city of Palermo. It took place in the year of three anniversaries of strong political and symbolic significance: the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Tiananmen Square revolt and the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprisings. These were the starting points for the biennale, which saw a rich programme of events scattered throughout the city's historic sites, from the centre to the outskirts. The program was curated by European Alternatives together with various actors of the cultural, artistic and political life of Palermo, across Europe and the Mediterranean, and built collaborations with the Biennales of Warsaw and Kiev.

The programme of ÜberMauer included performances, theatre, concerts, public debates and exhibitions, in cooperation with artists such as Milo Rau, Jonas Staal, Alfredo Jaar, Shilpa Gupta, Shirin Neshat, Damián Ortega, Emily Jacir, Michal Rovner, Driant Zeneli, Patrizio Di Massimo, Claire Fontaine, Gili Lavy, Francesco Arena, Zena el Khalil Giuseppe Lana, and many more.

transeuropafestival.eu

Members of the School of Transnational Activism in the first trainings in Warsaw.
Photo: Jakub Szafrński.



Second workshop of the School of Transnational Activism in Athens.
Photo: Marta Cillero.

School of Transnational Activism



The School of Transnational Activism is a reflective and action-oriented space, both physical and digital, gathering citizens and activists across disciplines to learn and explore how to collaborate beyond the nation-state.

Since its inception in 2019, the School of Transnational Activism has engaged more than 200 activists and citizens directly in training sessions, and more than 20,000 citizens and residents of Europe indirectly through congresses, festivals and online activities. The School specifically delivered two different types of educational and training activities aimed at building the power and connections of activists keen on building campaigns or actions across borders or have a better understanding of contemporary transnational challenges and narratives on climate, migration and democracy.

In 2019, two main educational offers were available as part of the School:

- The Transnational Organizing Training Series trained a cohort of activists and citizens belonging to a diversity of campaigning groups to stand up against the far-right and promote a more inclusive democracy in Europe. Together they formed a collective of progressive civic organisers, independent of traditional political parties or NGOs, engaged in building their grassroots strategic power to influence decisions that have an impact on their lives. Through residential trainings and online webinars, the School provided the space and skills for the campaigning group organise a series of transnationally coordinated, nonviolent, and disruptive scenarios to generate a majority of popular support for progressive change ahead of the European Elections 2019 and to build on knowledge on transnational organizing for a new campaign in 2020.

- The Transnational Narrative-Building Series connected and supported activists and citizens from across Europe, actively working for social justice, climate justice, migrants rights, women rights and democracy. Together, they strived to develop a shared vision of what an open, just and sustainable Europe would be. Inquiring into the diversity of their lived experiences in Europe, they took time and space to discuss their worldviews and why any transnational action should be rooted in narratives that are deconstructing the oppressive systems threatening our democracies (patriarchy, colonialism, shrinking civic space).

Many came back with lots of ideas of methodologies to apply in their own context and got inspired to create transnational actions together based on positive narratives and with other communities across Europe.

In addition to these two core offers, the School developed 'Countering Hate Speech in Europe', an Interactive Online Course, where participants learnt about and discussed current challenges posed by hate speech and narratives in their communities and societies at large. It organized the School of Palermo as part of Transeuropa Festival 2019 to explore the European and planetary challenges of the century: climate change, European democracy and free movement. Through master classes, the participants received insights on how a future beyond the nation-state could look like and develop their own understanding of social and environmental injustice as well as what are the new and innovative solutions for the future of Europe.

transnationalactivism.eu

"If you want to experience the future of Europe now, look no further than European Alternatives"

Engin Isin
Advisory board member of EA

Europe for the Many – A Green New Deal for Europe



Through 2018, 2019 and 2020 we worked with the London School of Economics, Another Europe is Possible and the Institute for Human Sciences to map emerging civil society movements across Europe and their visions for the continent, to analysis the current European political conjecture, and to network academics, activists and politicians across borders to empower the emergence of a new European politics.

The Green New Deal for Europe is a key demand emerging from multiple movements, scientists and researchers that was identified as pivotal for the transformation of the continent and its relationships with the rest of the world. As part of Transeuropa 2019, we organised a major international conference on the Green New Deal in Palermo, involving politicians, academics, activists and school children and this theme will continue to be explored over 2020, seeking intersectional ways of combining the ecological imperative with the imperatives of social and racial justice, public health and political civic agency.

Publications of Europe for the Many include:

- The dawn of a Europe of Many visions
- The Future of European Democracy

europeforthemany.com

Demonstrations in Rome demanding political action to combat climate change.
Photo: Daniele Napolitano.



Illustration by Marina Fernández inspired by the famous Allegories of Good and Bad Government painted by Ambrogio Lorenzetti to help illustrate the positive and negative scenarios for Europe's future. The illustration is part of our policy report for the Euryka project.



EURYKA: Youth Doing Politics in Times of Increasing Inequalities

EURYKA - Reinventing Democracy in Europe: Youth Doing Politics in Times of Increasing Inequalities was a cross-national research project which provided systematic and practice-related knowledge about how inequalities mediate youth political participation.

EURYKA brought together researchers and civil society practitioners from nine European countries: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. With the aim of strengthening European democratic life, the project intended to reach a better understanding of the conditions, processes, and mechanisms underpinning how young people do politics: how do they form opinions and take actions to bring about social and political change? The EURYKA project concluded in January 2020.

As part of the project, we produced an interactive web-documentary, 'Political Youth' (politicalyouth.eu), and an illustrated policy report.

Through the web documentary, users could hear, through video clips and photo reportages, some of the stories of young people who, in front of social and economic injustice, have organised in new ways across borders to do politics differently. The web documentary included five different chapters: riders, migrants, climate, sports, and elections. Each chapter interviewed young people who are actively involved in defending human rights: from workers' rights through the eyes and experience of the 'riders', rescue at sea, political participation at the local level, the climate crisis that is mobilising young people across the planet and sports as a driver for active citizenship.

The policy report of the project outlined how the younger generations of Europeans have also been particularly marked by a decade of economic and wider political crisis, which has combined with demographic change and the ageing of Europe's society to create a situation of generational structural injustice, and the report proposed tens of policy recommendations for EU institutions and national governments to prioritise youth empowerment and intergenerational justice.

euryka.rdi.uoc.edu
politicalyouth.eu

Fridays for Future demonstrations in Rome. Photo: Daniele Napolitano.



Co-Creation - EU and Latin America

Co-Creation aims to bring together researchers, policymakers, residents and artists, to 'co-create' understanding about different urban neighbourhoods and to address disadvantages.

Co-Creation is a four year research project that started in 2017 in cooperation with partners from across the EU and Latin America. The project aims to address urban disadvantage and territorial stigmatisation, by bringing together different actors such as researchers, policy makers, residents and artists, to 'co-create' understanding about marginalised neighbourhoods and to address disadvantage. Over four years, the project ran a series of international events, including five International Conferences, two Summer Schools, stakeholder workshops as well as seven case studies in the partner cities with participation from local communities and artists.

The project has produced a book *Co-creation in Theory and Practice: Exploring Creativity in the Global North and South* and further publications are planned.

The project has three main objectives:

- Firstly, we wanted to develop an innovative conceptual framework for the analysis of socio-spatial segregation, including territorial stigmatisation, that integrates interdisciplinary theoretical approaches ranging from urban planning, human geography, political science, urban sociology, and literary criticism.
- Secondly, we developed a new methodological tool, that of 'Co-Creation', that brings together residents, artists, researchers and urban practitioners to address territorial stigmatisation and to test it in different case study cities.
- Thirdly, we proposed to draw up policy guidelines and recommendations for policy makers in different cities, to advise on how the Co-Creation method can be applied to address stigmatisation, and to improve wellbeing in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

co-creation-network.org

“If there is one thing that appeals to me more than talking about a more solidary, more inclusive and more democratic Europe, then that is acting to create one – and that is what European Alternatives does, in the most creative and engaging ways.”

Suzana Carp
EA Board Member
and Strategy Director
Bellona Europe

Overview cemetery lifebuoys. Photo by Giulia Salvatori for our web documentary Political Youth launched in 2019.



From the Sea to the City

‘From the Sea to the City’ is an ongoing process launched in 2020 that aims to send a strong signal to the European institutions to pursue a welcoming and human-rights based migration and refugee policy.

‘From the Sea to the City’ is a joint initiative of European Alternatives, Emergency, Europe Must Act, HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform, INURA, MEDITERRANEA Saving Humans, Open Arms Italy, Sea Watch, SEEBRÜCKE Germany, Tesserae, WatchTheMed Alarm Phone and Welcome to Europe/Italy that aims to join forces to reimagine the European stance on migration with cities and human rights at the center. Welcoming refugees and migrants in our municipalities and cities is a chance to democratize Europe further from below: it is the cities that bear the brunt of managing migration, thus it is the cities that should also have a say in the European migration policy.

As part of the initiative, in 2020 we launched an online campaign on World Refugee Day together with Mayors and

city representatives of different countries calling for a drastic change in the EU migration process. We also organised a series of online panels to present and discuss the 5 key demands of the campaign:

1. Take a coordinated action to promote new initiatives and strengthen existing ones between cities, EU representatives and civil society organizations on European Migration policy.
2. Ensure protection of migrants' and refugees' lives and needs in the COVID-19 crisis.
3. Ensure an active role of cities and civil society organisations in the management of EU-funds.
4. Create safe arrivals and legal corridors to Europe.
5. Ensure the access to fundamental rights and dignity for migrants and refugees arriving to European cities, from the right to seek asylum, an access to the social and health care system, to adequate housing and decent working conditions.

Some of the speakers and personalities involved in the process include mayors and/or representatives of the City of Palermo, the City of Barcelona, the City of Kiel, the City of Milan and the City of Rottenburg am Neckar, and members of the European Parliament, such as Miguel Urbán and Clare Daly.

The initiative will organise in 2021 a conference in the city of Palermo bringing together mayors and city representatives of European cities to discuss the concrete proposals coming from civil society working at the forefront of the Mediterranean.

fromseatocity.eu

Citizens Take Over Europe

Citizens Take Over Europe is an initiative that invites citizens and civil society organisations to engage in the future of Europe through wide-participative processes leading to a European Citizens Assembly.

Citizens Take Over Europe emerged in the spring 2020 amidst the Covid-19 pandemia, in which we, together with over 15 civil society organisations, recognized how much the lack of European democracy was deeply affecting our lives. CTOE is composed of a group of civil society organizations, citizens and residents from across Europe, who joined in a common effort to promote a forward-looking and citizens-centered European democracy. While our national leaders struggle to find common solutions for the major challenges of our time, from ensuring strong, well-funded and inclusive public services to protecting our planet or guaranteeing fundamental rights across Europe, with this initiative

we take our own responsibility to put citizens and residents at the centre of the conversation about the future of Europe. Not only that: we believe it is fundamental for people in Europe to organize across borders and design the Europe that we want, a Europe that cares and is taken care of.

On May 9th 2020, Europe Day, the European Union was planning on launching its Conference on the Future of Europe, another top-down institutional process in which citizens would have little to say about their future. Instead, together, we organised an online festival through the day, involving thousands of partners and participants. The purpose was to reclaim a political, transnational space by means of an online conference to discuss problems Europeans are facing and co-develop solutions from a political, social and personal perspective.

Now, we are developing and will advocate for key criteria for a successful Conference on the Future of Europe, that puts citizens at the heart of the process. With this process we are demanding a fundamental rethinking on how our European democracy works by empowering citizens, by tried and tested participatory tools to influence decision making, as well as through innovative deliberative methodologies.



citizenstakeover.eu



Demonstration March for Europe in Berlin 2019.

“European Alternatives is an important step in creating a trans-European public sentiment and stimulating media and cultural interest around Europe’s present and future challenges.”

Rasha Shaaban
EA Board Member
and Project Manager at the
Museum of World’s Culture
Göteborg

DECiDE

DECiDE was a digital experiment of a prototype for the future of democratic participation that goes beyond the nation state combining RSV and digital identity.

Participating in democracy through sortition is a very old idea and we believe it has many benefits, especially when it comes to selecting members of a board or conducting surveys. In times when many Europeans feel disenfranchised by the current political and voting system, alternative forms of active citizen engagement in democracy must be experimented with. We believe in the power of unconventional ideas to revive our passion for politics and societal transformation. That is why in 2019 we proposed to experiment with a system in which decisions are not just taken for the people, but really by the people, chosen randomly by lot.

With the DECiDE project we invited members and non-members of European Alternatives to be part of this digital experiment of a prototype for the future of democratic participation that goes beyond the nation state. The approach of the project combined two promising ideas: 1) random sample voting (RSV) and 2) digital identities. This experiment or field test, was the final part of the first phase of the DECiDe-research project. The aim of this first phase was to develop and test a technical prototype that combines RSV and digital identity. Therefore, the 'Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society' teamed up with European Alternatives to develop it.

euroalter.com/project/decide



ArtGora Forum in Riga

ArtGora Forum is a regional platform for art activists and cultural professionals working to raise awareness on gender inequalities for a more just society in the Baltic Sea region and Eastern countries, particularly Georgia and Ukraine.

On 10-12 April 2019, ArtGora Forum brought together nearly 40 artists and cultural managers from 8 countries (Sweden, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Georgia and Ukraine) who are working to promote gender equality. In Riga, we exchanged ideas, opinions and good practices. Participants hosted their own workshops and gave presentations on their artistic work and methodologies. We dedicated time for networking and one-on-one exchange. We filmed interviews with the artists who shared their stories and views on gender equality through artistic expression. Finally, we presented funding opportunities for artists that could generate future collaboration.

Partners included the National Museums of World Culture (Sweden), Tartu University (Estonia), Riga Technical University (Latvia), Centre for Equality Advancement (Lithuania), Foundation Laboratory of Research and Social Action SocLab (Poland), Taso Foundation (Georgia), and Poruch (Ukraine). The Forum was organised with the Support of Swedish Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

euroalter.com/project/artgora-forum

Team of ArtGora Forum in Riga 2019. Photo: Basem Nabhan.



Meeting a rider in Madrid as part of our project Workers Without Borders. Photo: Giulia Salvatori.

Workers Without Borders

Workers Without Borders produces policy recommendations and promotes structured dialogue between young and precarious workers who move across borders and EU institutions.

Moving to a new country for work has become an everyday part of life in Europe. People move to find a job in another country, to keep a job they already have which is relocating, or for their job which itself involves moving across borders. People move temporarily or more permanently, and people may even have different jobs in different countries and move between them.

If the European Union has facilitated and accelerated the free movement of workers, it has typically been less successful at protecting the rights of all of these workers who move. Attention has concentrated on workers 'posted' by their company temporarily to another country, and on people who are in traditional forms of permanent employment in another country than their own. Today, increasing numbers of people are involved in temporary employment, platform work, self-employment and in the informal parts of the care-economy. These workers can face discrimination, exploitation, be exposed to greater health risks, be less well protected by social security programs, and have less opportunity to defend their rights.

Our project Workers Without Borders advocates for the European institutions to do more to protect the rights of workers who move. In particular, it calls on the European Labour Authority to take initiative in order to protect the rights of young workers and people in precarious forms of employment. Through researching the risks to the rights of these workers, as well as best practices of trade unions and governmental agencies to protect these rights, the project produces policy recommendations and promotes structured dialogue between young and precarious workers and EU institutions.

euroalter.com/project/workers-without-borders

It is exciting to see transnational movements emerging. It has been a wonderful experience to meet the protagonists of the Europe we want. One that is sustainable and that is filled with solidarity.

Irene Dominioni
Journalist and Transeuropa
Caravans activist

Studio Rizoma: a new institute in the Mediterranean

Rizoma is an international institute based in Palermo. It emerges from the Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo 2019 (BAM) and Transeuropa Festival. The institution was formally established in Summer 2020, when due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and its impact on the cultural sector, we decided to immediately implement an emergency production room providing small grants for artists, writers, thinkers and creatives with the first projects of the institute under the titles of Pandemos and Antifragile. With this initiative we carry out research on possible new cultural models, involving artists, thinkers and professionals in a series of texts and interviews published online.

Rizoma will be responsible for organising the forthcoming editions of the Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo in 2021. Palermo as a homebase allows us to de-centre Europe, to articulate a new centrality for the Mediterranean and re-establish Europe's rapport with Northern Africa. The biennale establishes these pillars through its socially aware program and its commitment to act beyond the nation state. With Rizoma, we do not want to create yet another cultural centre and yet another Biennale: we conceive our endeavour as an experimental and artistic research with concrete outputs in the real world. It is an exploration of new ways of conceiving, planning and implementing artistic projects that is feminist, postcolonial, as well as environmentally and socially responsible.

studiorizoma.org

Closing assembly and performance at Spasimo as part of The New Gospel by Milo Rau and his team.



Yvan Sagnet delivering the closing speech of The New Gospel in Santa Maria dello Spasimo in Palermo as part of Transeuropa 2019.

Our Strategy for the Future

Every two years European Alternatives sets organisational priorities for the two years ahead, in consultation with our staff, advisors, and trustees. Priorities serve to focus our work and orientate the implementation of our work programme, and provide the basis for our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework.

We work to make sure that our priorities are always in line with the values of European Alternatives:

For 2021-2022 we have four key priorities:

i. inspiring our members, partners, and public to co-create an alternative european artistic imaginary and culture

Our cultural and artistic program aims to create a new narrative for Europe that includes a decolonial perspective from non-EU countries promoting solidarity, mutual care, and responsibility. We will work to promote transnational solidarity in digital societies and we will organise trainings for feminist artists. Over 2021 we will also work towards the establishment of Rizoma and our flagship Transeuropa that will take place in 2021. We will also organise other artistic events, researches and residencies which aim to influence public opinion and invite more people to join us in promoting a transnational European culture and artistic vision based on our values.

We plan to do this by:

- Providing innovative, transnational and open formats for cultural, artistic and political debates.
- Serving as a point of convergence for cultural and civil society actors to exchange ideas, concepts, and alternatives for European culture and artistic narratives.
- Engaging and working closely with international artists and artistic institutions in the cause for a new transnational European imaginary.

Related activities in the work-program:

- Rizoma (established in the summer of 2020)
- Transeuropa Festival (2021)
- Artsformation (starting in the autumn of 2020)
- Room to Bloom (starting in the autumn of 2020)

ii. building the capacity of our members for new forms of transnational activism

We want to improve and increase the knowledge and skills of citizens, social movements, and activists that are already acting beyond borders. Through lectures, participatory courses, open spaces, and public events, we mix expert input and theoretical reflection with hands-on experience, peer-to-peer learning, and sharing of strategies and concrete examples of innovative transnational initiatives.

We plan to do this by:

- Developing our capacity-building strategy including continuing the development of our School of Transnational Activism.
- Innovating with new forms, tools, and platforms for learning with a particular focus on empowering existing initiatives, activists and movements.

Related activities in the work-program:

- School of Transnational Activism
- Online trainings and MOOCs

iii. expanding and sharing knowledge on crucial transnational trends

We want to make our voice and ideas heard at a crucial time when xenophobia and climate change denial risk overshadowing our call for a solidary and just Europe.

We plan to do this by:

- Developing further our capacity and reputation for academic research.
- Ensuring a strong social media strategy and digital presence in parallel to all our activities in the work-programme.
- Dedicating organisational time to producing written analysis, books, publications, interviews, and articles to pitch to press and other media platforms.
- Organising promotional events in different European cities to present and disseminate our work.
- Research the intersection of ecological justice, social and racial justice, public health and democratic agency to provide resources for movements and politicians to transform politics in sustainable and democratic ways.

iv. transforming the governance of europe

Politics across the world is undergoing a profound transformation, and we have to ensure this transformation is towards democratic, participative and inclusive politics, not technocratic, autocratic or xenophobic anti-politics. The European Union is in the front line of this struggle and transformation. We want to organise initiatives together with other civil society organisations that put citizens, residents and neighbours of Europe at the centre stage of the debates that are affecting their lives. With our actions we will implement concrete advocacy and lobbying actions and campaigns in order to shape the Europe we want and influence the official EU processes, working simultaneously 'inside' the institutions and with ecological, social and racial justice movements 'outside' the institutions in the public space.

We plan to do this by:

- Developing and running campaigns advocating for the protection of EU citizens' and residents' rights.
- Lobbying and networking with partner organisations as well as with grassroots activists from across Europe for continuous collaboration.
- Opening the space to discuss the political urgency for the future of Europe, starting from the reforms that the European Union needs to make through a European Citizens Assembly.

Related activities in the work-program:

- Workers Without Borders
- Citizens Take Over Europe
- From the Sea to the City
- Europe for the Many

Finances

In 2019 and 2020 European Alternatives has been able to diversify its funders to include several of the leading foundations supporting political, social and cultural civil society activities at a European level, along with support from programs of the European Commission and European Parliament, including Europe for Citizens, Erasmus+ and Horizon2020.

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

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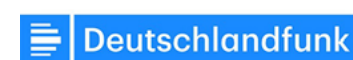
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EA in the media

One of our priorities in the past years has been to articulate sound positions and become a recognised reference point in the debate for an alternative Europe. Our articles in 2019-2020 were published in several national newspapers across the world (including The New York Times, Il Fatto Quotidiano, eldiario.es and The Observer, among others), and our events appeared publicly in more than seven countries. We also participated in TV talk shows, like La Gabbia Open in Italy, France 24, ARTE and were LIVE in radio stations, like Deutschlandfunk in Germany, Cadena Ser in Spain, Radio3 in Italy and Radio FM4 in Austria.



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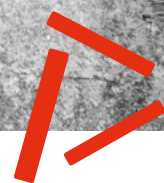
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Photo cover: New Unions, Installation - Jonas Staal for Transeuropa 2019
inside Teatro Garibaldi (Palermo). Photo: Maghweb.

Photo back cover: The New Gospel: First Mission in Palermo, 2019. Written
and directed by Milo Rau, Dramaturgy Research Eva-Maria Bertschy.
Photo: Maghweb.

Europe is not primarily
a geographical space:
it is a process and a pursuit.



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