

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	4 - European Alternatives Berlin E.V (EA Berlin)
PIC number:	937396167
Project name and acronym:	TRANSEUROPA ASSEMBLIES — TEA

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Transnational Assembly of Workers Solidarity: Towards Ecological Syndicalism
Type:	Assembly format - public performance and workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Germany, Bremen
Date(s):	18.11.2022 - 19.11.2022
Website(s) (if any):	https://euroalter.com/transnational-assembly-of-workers-solidarity-towards-ecological-syndicalism/
Participants	
Female:	86
Male:	59
Non-binary:	7
From country Germany:	52
From country 2 France:	15
From country 3 Romania:	10
From country 4: Belgium	12
From country 5: The Netherlands	21
From country 6: Italy	26
From country 7: Portugal	11
From country 8: Spain	5

Total number of participants:	152	From total number of countries:	8
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Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The *Transnational Assembly of Worker's Solidarity: On Ecological Syndicalism*, as part of the *Between Land and Sea Festival* brought together 152 young people (86 female, 59 male, 7 non-binary) from eight European countries and in the spirit of transnationalism also a few community members from non-European backgrounds. Targeted at young citizens with lower levels of education and those unemployed and in precarious work conditions, the assembly was a rewarding occasion of learning and exchange. Recruitment for the assembly took place in collaboration with local associations (Kurdish Women's initiative, Queeraspora Bremen, Friday's for Future Bremen), unions and workers initiatives (ver.di Bremen, ver.di Berlin-Brandenburg, Amazon Workers International, Berlin Tech Workers Coalition, Gorillas/ Getir/ Drop/ Flink/ Lieferando workers collective) and within European Alternative's community network of activist, academics and civil society actors (Studio Rizoma Palermo, EUMans, University of Brussels, Labour University Kassel, Humboldt University, Hekate Foundation, Desire Foundation, Fairwork). Theatre Bremen advertised the event publicly to other local partners with access to the target group.

Spread over two days, involving both training, trust building and the deliberative assembly itself, the program was embedded in a cultural and artistic festival which also gave opportunities for participants to explore themes of intercultural exchange, migration and the implications of ecological breakdown through non-discursive means.

Description of the Event/ Content & Methodology

Hosted in the creativity-fostering premises of Theatre Bremen, the assembly used a future scenario to enable experiential learning and support participants to experience the methodology first hand and in an action oriented context. The first day of the program involved trust building inside the participants, a better understanding of the socio-economic and cultural contexts and personal histories between participants through narrative-building and sharing exercises, and training of means of influencing the political sphere and current EU initiatives in the area of worker rights and the ecological crisis.

The second day featured the assembly itself, which used a futuristic scenario to place the participants in a (fictionalised) crisis moment and promote deliberation about how they would individually and collectively act. This methodology of assembly is adapted from the work of Augusto Boal (theatre of the oppressed) and Paulo Friere, mixed with methodologies coming from deliberative democracy, with a view to enabling citizens to think about their own responsibility to act, to be able to step out of their personal circumstances and potentially take on a different role in the future, and to be able to project themselves into the future and plan today what they would want to put in place. This form of assembly is also an experiment in 'futures literacy', which integrates the idea that imagination, anticipation and adaptability are crucial civic competences.

The fictitious scenario displayed the world in 2023, in which as a consequence of the climate crisis a heat wave struck, causing heightened levels of civil unrest. The assembly presented several societal responses to the crisis and the participants were then asked to join into the storyline and find solutions collectively.

Assembled in small groups, the participants deliberated about civic responses on three levels: the personal (a), the worker's (b) and the community's (c). Participants were asked to embody and think as humans, workers and citizens - they all are. European Alternatives facilitated the process and moderators gave shape to the small group discussions, which were aided by textual and visual documentation. Some of the questions for the deliberation included: "How does the crisis affect me and my immediate surroundings and everyday life?" (a), "How does the crisis affect me as a worker and my labour processes?" (b) "How is my community affected by the crisis?" (c). The reflection rounds were followed by a more action - oriented stage, in which participants discussed relationships, structures and systemic solutions to respond to the crisis. The discussions served as fruitful ground for future activities and policy orientations, which will be discussed in a later section.

The scenario enabled creative and visionary thinking but also was, for many, very close to their lived realities. For some it was a representation of living in consecutive years of crisis, including the experiences of oppression caused by the global pandemic, precarity, racism and rising inequality. Simultaneously, the transnational assembly served as an encounter of hope and solidarity, enabling collective thinking and raising trust in humanity. Documenting the outcomes revealed that many deliberated community-based solutions, transversal alliance building and the necessity for a transnational consciousness and solidarity that goes beyond the individual, therewith encompassing

the intersection of individual, worker and community member. After 90 minutes of group discussion, participants were invited to present their reflections and/or calls to actions in the plenary. The diversity and breadth of responses was impressive and many participants felt comfortable to publicly share their experiences, some in the frame of the scenario and many directly from their everyday life. The calls to action were a true manifestation of participatory democracy in the walls of a European theatre and were rounded up with some closing words by European Alternatives.

The program also included time for an in-person meeting of the consortium of partners running the TEA project - enabling all partners to evaluate the first assembly, make plans for future assemblies and regular working methods (eg. monthly calls, shared gdrive etc) and establish trust and understanding.

A video maker and photographer were present during the assembly to produce social media and other communications content to build awareness around the project.

Participants

The participants came from 8 EU countries and had a diversity of backgrounds. 61% were female or non-binary; 65% were under the age of 32; 35% considered themselves as part of a discriminated group; 40% without further education and 60% precariously employed or unemployed.

Many of the participants are active members of their communities and workplaces and therefore brought immediate challenges to the assembly, which informed a fruitful exchange, grounded in lived realities. The target group benefited from the methodological insights of the assembly, which generated a vivid interaction among the audience and enabled a first hand experience of participatory democracy. The format and interactive methodology enabled access to and participation of the diverse group of participants, despite many of them stemming from lower levels of education. Challenges included different levels of English, a variety of backgrounds (not enough knowledge to adequately adapt to context) and a limited timeframe for debriefing on the experience of the assembly in the group (this learning will be taken forward to future assemblies).

Future Activities

The assembly format to “pre-enact a future scenario” was a rewarding methodology with a range of good feedback from the participants and will be employed in the future. The interlinked and deepening ecological and social crises shape the lives of people throughout Europe in different ways, and so the assembly set a frame and methodology in which people can be empowered to address these circumstances and collectively claim new rights on a transnational scale, whilst turning resolutely towards the future. Future activities could also deepen the connections between ecological and labour issues and the ways the climate and work related rights intersect with other rights related issues concerning gender, migration, democracy, freedom of expression and fundamental rights.

Policy Orientations

The three policy orientations to be taken forward to the next assemblies (in summary):

- i) promote civil society organisations, unions and activists working together in new formats to collectively address the poly-crisis;
- ii) secure and empower the participation of the most marginalised and at risk
- iii) the extension of rights at work and the right to live in a stable climate must go together

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).

