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:	[417] - [Alternatives Européennes]
PIC number:	[887839352]
Project name and acronym:	[TransEuropa Assemblies] — [TEA Project]

EVENT DESCRIPTION		
Event number:		[11]
Event name:		A Common Space of Alternatives
Type:		Transnational Assembly
In situ/online:		*In situ*
Location:		Marseille - France
Date(s):		28/04/2024
Website(s) (if any):		https://euroalter.com/a-common-space-of-alternatives/
Participants		
Female:		231
Male:		179
Non-binary:		7
From country 1 [Austria]:		4

From country 2 [Belgium]:		37			
From country 3 [Croatia]:		1			
From country 4 [Czech Republic]:		3			
From country 5 [Denmark]:		5			
From country 6 [Finland]:		1			
From country 7 [France]:		282			
From country 8 [Germany]:		22			
From 9 [Greece]		3			
From country 10 [Hungary]		2			
From country 11 [Ireland]		3			
From country 12 [Italy]		19			
From country 13 [Luxembourg]		1			
From country 14 [Netherlands]		12			
From country 15 [Poland]		2			
From country 16 [Portugal]		3			
From country 17 [Roumania]		1			
From country 18 [Spain]		15			
From country 19 [Sweden]		1			
Total number of participants:		417	From total number of countries:	19	

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

1. **Introduction and general recap of the event's goals and purpose + description of the audience profile**

The closing assembly of the TEA project was embedded in the European Common Spaces for Alternatives initiative, so as to ensure a wide inclusion of diverse social rights movements from all over Europe. The title of the assembly was: "For a social, feminist, antiracist, ecological, peaceful and democratic Europe. To face the rise of the far right we need to build inclusive societies".

While we have a large number of thematic networks in Europe, we no longer have a common space for all the social and citizens' movements that would enable us to share our experiences and challenges and develop joint initiatives and mobilisations. From all corners of Europe, individuals and collectives are taking to the street, establishing solidarity around specific issues, like the right to decent housing, the fight for climate justice, the defence of vulnerable populations and international solidarity.

At the same time, we are facing major and often dramatic challenges in Europe. Global warming is already having catastrophic effects, with increasing numbers of forest fires, floods and heat waves affecting human populations and all ecosystems. Migration routes are less and less safe while Member States refuse to adopt an approach to migration based on inclusion and solidarity rather than integration and erasure of cultures. The cost of living is rising rapidly and threatening the living conditions of the majority of the population, to mention just a few of these challenges. Democratic spaces of expression and organisation are closing, civil liberties are under attack. For all of these reasons, it is important to continue building solidarity ties at local, national and transnational level.

Over the last two years, popular assemblies but also numerous meetings and conferences have provided an opportunity to discuss this absence and to make a modest attempt to rebuild this common space.

2. **Methodology for the selection of participants**

Participants from previous TEA assemblies were chosen by random selection, to ensure that each assembly was represented by at least one person to present the recommendations.
Additional participants were chosen randomly by the following methodology: in advance of each assembly, associations, informal groups and NGOs working on the topic, or with relevant target groups, are contacted and invited to propose at least 3 potential participants for the assembly with different characteristics (gender, age, education level, self-identification with a discriminated group, employment status). This information is anonymised, and then the participants to the assembly are randomly selected.

The advantages of this methodology of selection are to ensure a diverse participation of people from groups less likely to participate in European democracy, whilst at the same time building wide awareness, interest and support for the process amongst a wide network of civil society actors.

Through this methodology we engaged more than 100 direct participants in deliberation about their priorities for the European elections, coming from over 10 countries. This methodology also promoted diverse democratic participation in EU affairs by involving those least likely to participate: women and non-binary people, youth under the age of 35 years old, individuals self-identifying as belonging to racialized groups or LGBTQ+, people without further education and unemployed or precariously employed people

3.   Final recommendations collected during the assembly

It was agreed right from the beginning that the goal of this closing assembly was to deliberate about the recommendations coming from each of the previous local and transnational assemblies, forming into a unified agreed set of recommendations on the deliberative process itself and on guiding principles. However it was also acknowledged that those recommendations do not necessarily constitute the same level of priorities for each partner or organisation involved. It was crucial for the methodology used to involve and allow space for disagreement. Continuously throughout the process, we emphasised the importance of a safe space where participants can openly express differing and diverging views. The level of consensus was still sufficient in order to transform those recommendations into a consolidated final manifesto which can be read here: https://euroalter.com/tea-final-recommendations/

Process Outline

1. Presentation of Discussion: A comprehensive summary of the discussions and outcomes was presented
2. Group Deliberations: Participants were divided into four pre-identified groups (called containers) to facilitate collective discussions
3. Deliberation Period: A 90-minute session was held for each group to deliberate and determine points of agreement or disagreement, which formed the basis of subsequent actions
4. Meta-Discussion: At the end of the session, we engaged in a meta-discussion to evaluate and reflect on the process

Containers and Key Points

Container 1 - There is no planet B

- Contextualize Europe's history of colonialism
- Address the impact of the fossil fuel industry and militarism
- Create strategies for building alliances
- Pay attention to the relationship between a just transition and colonial legacies.

Container 2 - For emancipation and solidarity

- Acknowledge the aggressive nature of neoliberal policies.
- Explore the existence of alternative economic models.
- The importance of self-reflection, especially regarding the agricultural sector and the exploitation of migrant workers.
- Highlight Europe's responsibility globally.
- Promote migrant leadership within movements.
- Enhance global connectivity and solidarity
- Revive "glocal" thinking.
- Collective action against corporate irresponsibility.
- Include trade unions in civil society campaigns, particularly regarding migrant issues.

Container 3 - Power to the people

- There is a democratic crisis leading to and fed by the rise of the far-right.
- There is significant discrepancy between legal rights and the enforcement of these rights.
- We are suffering a polycrisis related to patriarchy, imperialism, and the struggles of the Global South.
- We need more discussions on social impacts of technology, highlighting the exploitation involved in the production of electronics.

Container 4 - Struggle together

- ○ We will continue working on what the European Civil Society Assembly (ECSA) should look like.
- ○ It should include developing a platform or process with a long-term vision to push for radical demands, facilitate learning, and prevent conflicts.
- ○ Emphasising inclusivity, addressing power imbalances, and building trust across movements.
- ○ Engagement with political parties and the extent of their involvement.

4. **Next steps**

The closing assembly was organised in a bottom-up and open space approach, giving to all participants the possibility to express themselves and organise discussions and actions. Participants shared experiences, dreams, visions and transformative ideas and actions with empathy. Emerging from this it was decided to

- ● Engage the candidates of the European Elections with the recommendations of the TEA project, and follow up with those elected
- ● Create a calendar of joint Activities: the detailed calendar of upcoming activities will be shared separately
- ● Making this a regular bi-annual meet-up: holding a diverse transnational assembly every two years, with an annual mini transnational assembly in between

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