

# Alternative social and political forces in Europe – a current snapshot and a few reflections

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# Earlier this year

- *Solidarity beyond Borders - Building Democracy from Below* May of Solidarity and Action Days
- Athens (Oct 2014) 3rd Festival for Solidarity & Cooperative Economy
- TTIP/CETA Day of Action (11 Oct 14)
- Precarity and Youth conference, Madrid



# Brussels Assembly on September 26/27

## „Building together a transnational space for a Europe from below“

- Around 120 participants persons from about 50 different groups, organizations and transnational networks coming from 15 countries took part
- 15M/Occupy Brussels, Afrika Kontakt (Denmark), Anarchist networks (Norway, Greece), All at Alla (Sweden), Alter Summit network, Antiauthoritarian Movement (Greece), Belgian mobilization against COP21, Beyond Europe network, CADTM, CEO - Corporate Europe Observatory, Collective Soft Revolution Brussels, Collectivo AlterPolis (Italy), Coordination des intermittents et precaires du spectacle Paris, D19-20 Alliance (Belgium), Democratic Socialist (Slovenia), Dyktio (Greece), Dinamo press Rome, Ecologistas en acción (Spain), Embros - occupied theater Athens, EU in Crisis network, European Alternatives, European Attac Network (Spain, France, Germany), Feminist Intervention Blockupy (Germany), Global Project (Italy), GNUion, GUE/NGL (Die.Linke, Podemos, Syriza, Lista Tsipras), IERPE - Research Institute on Water Policy (Brussels-France), Interventionist Left (Germany), Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Irish SWP, Krytyka Polityczna (Poland), L'Usine a Vapeur, Juventud Sin Futuro, Network for Social Support of Refugees and Migrants (Greece), NoExpo Attitude network Milano, No Troika Frankfurt, Occupy Frankfurt, On Dirait Le Sud, PAH Madrid, Plan C (UK), Plaza de los Pueblos (Spain), Portavoce Nazionale Rete della Conosenza (Italy), Precarios Inflexiveis (Portugal), Precarious Dis-/Connection (Italy), Rassemblement-r (Belgium), Red Green Alliance (Denmark), Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (Berlin, Brussels), Social Forums (Netherlands), Solidaire (France), Solidarity for All (Greece), Spanish Debt Audit Platform/ICAN network, Studenti Independenti Torino, SUF/youth fraction of Red Green Alliance, Transform Network, TNI - Transnational Institute, Ums Ganze(Germany/Austria)

# Schedule of planned activities

- **2014**

- October: European week of action "Stop evictions, take the city"
- October 3: Day of action of the migration/refugee movement
- October 11: European action day against TTIP
- October 25: Pre-organization meeting for a third Agora 99 in 2015 in Istanbul
- November 8: European action day against fascism
- November 13-16: Protests of migrants and sans-papiers in Rome
- November 7-14: Decentral action days of Europe-wide initiatives against precarity, austerity regime and the "government of mobility"
- November 20-23: Blockupy Festival in Frankfurt #talk #dance #act!
- December 19: D19-20 action day against TTIP and austerity in Brussels (More info see: <http://www.d19-20.be/en>)

- **2015**

- January 30: Protests and blockades against the right-wing "Akademikerball" in Vienna
- May: Protests against EXPO in Milan
- May: Alter Summit action day against precarity (proposal by Alter Summit to be relaized around May 1st week)
- Spring: Blockupy protests against opening of the ECB in Frankfurt
- Summer or earlier: Greek elections, protests on debt Sometime in 2015: Agora 99 meeting in Istanbul (proposal)

# Social movements and initiatives

- Transnational coordination of anti-austerity protests and other struggles
  - Core groups/organisations
  - Resources and coordination
  - Common strategies and substantive demands
    - E.g. precarity rather than class?
  - Communication and dissemination
- Questions of representation and solidarity
- Cooperation with existing initiatives, trade unions and political parties

# How to engage with the EU

- ‘Another Europe is possible’ or ‘Another EU is possible’?
  - Consequences of increasingly authoritarian EU governance
  - Expectations of new Commission and Parliament
  - Existing EU initiatives (e.g. ECI, EU funding programmes for civil society)
  - More/less EU? And how to deal with nationalist responses

# Critical/heterodox alternatives

- Increasing prominence of alternative academic debates and proposals
  - EuroMemorandum
  - Les Economistes Atterrés
  - Sbilanciamoci!
  - FUHEM/EconNuestra
  - Attac/BEIGEWUM
  - Euro-PEN coordination

From Gramsci – ‘I’m a pessimist because of intelligence, but an optimism because of will’  
to Stuart Hall:

‘Analyse the conjuncture that you’re in. Then you can be an optimist of the will, and say I believe that things can be different. But don’t go to optimism of the will first. Because that’s just utopianism’ (2012)