

Articulation 14 January – Collaborative action with Occupy Trieste

Europe: towards a solution from the bottom, not a problem from the top!

The 15 October Movement (#15o) is approaching its third full month on January 15. In that time we have seen people across the world stand up and come together to challenge the hegemony of financial capitalism, representative politics as alienation from our rights and powers and corporate greed. In this time the global movement, along with the Occupy Movement has exposed the deep fear and powerlessness felt by so many people, along with their rage and their willingness to conquest their dignity, their rights, their democracy. In this time, the movements have transformed both the global discourse and have been transformed by their own debates, interactions and actions. What started as an occupation in Zuccotti Park in New York City, and traceable all the way back to the Maghreb uprisings, spread across the world and is transforming into a network of debt resistance, home and port (re)occupation and a disruptor of financial mechanisms. So too in Europe: demonstrations on the 15 October launched the mobilization of people from all parts of society, and the movement is transforming into a network around critical issues.

In the time since the #15o and Occupy Movement certain realities in Europe have become clear: Europe is transnational for capital, but remains divided for people. National political elites and the European technocracy have no intention to change the neoliberal model of European integration. The result of putting the interests of financial markets before interests of the global generation of producers of social wealth, is antidemocratic. Then, it is the antisocial insistence on austerity that deepens the crisis of European integration that could lead to the explosion of national egoisms. The undemocratic union strengthens antidemocratic discourses of 'national interests and sovereignty' as a solution for the crisis. The consequences of deepening divisions within Europe are dangerous and are completely unacceptable for the precarious generation that does not want to choose between corruption of national political classes and corruption of financial markets, but wants a dignified life. What is called a "solution" for the crisis is obviously nothing but the attempt for an even deeper and more intensive exploitation of collective and individual wealth through the system of nation-states. This is being achieved using global policies enforced by transnational governance that has the power to dictate the rules to national governments and parliaments.

Therefore, this is the time to make a transnational Europe for people. This is the time to recognize that across Europe banks and private entities are sitting on hundreds of thousands of empty houses while everyday more families are evicted; this is the time to recognize that across Europe banks are being bailed out while people are unable to declare bankruptcy; this is the time to recognize that across Europe universities are being privatized while people are unable to access knowledge; this is the time to recognize that across Europe social protections are being dismantled while people's dignity is being attacked with austerity. This is the time to recognize that the financial capitalism is finally exploiting the very deep roots of life, pushing the frontier of exploitation to our living life and to basic common goods, like water, food, energy, which define not only the quality and dignity of life but its very possibility. The list goes on.

We recognize that we cannot wait for individual states or the European political institutions to move towards a transnational union that would put interests of people before interests of financial markets. Rather, it is up to us to enact the principles of direct democracy in our lives and communities. If all across Europe, our lives are paradoxically bound by division and social problems stemming from the current paradigm, then they are also bound by the need for new methodologies and relationships to address our challenges. We recognize that our struggles now require moving beyond the nation and into the transnational and beyond a (un)representative system, towards living democracy based on singular and communal practice, ethical engagement and resistance to domination.

Reflecting the transnationality of financial markets and entities, so to our transnational, open and common space must be created through conflicts and practices, instituting forms of democratic governance with the aim of taking back all the commons; the democracy and dignity we deserve.

Faced with capitulation of public authorities to demands of financial markets and transformation into agents of austerity, we must raise the following issues on a European Level:

1. Look to building our capacity of new practices of democracy to impose tight control on the markets' dynamics;
2. Demand a Statute of Common Goods that recognizes them as useful for production, and our free access to them as mandatory;
3. Assure a Guaranteed Basic Income, detached from the market value of labor and bodies, as our way to bring about meaningful European Citizenship;
4. A common welfare built through new forms of democratic governance instituted upon indignation against austerity.

Through these issues we think it is possible to ground the right to resistance and alternative governance of our lives.

Our Europe will become a solution from the bottom and no longer a problem from the top.