

Movin' Europe

Life calls for creativity: Preguntando caminamos (Jan 06)

What we want:

To create a political and cultural action that will take place for several months during summer 2007 all over Europe.

To be a counter-movement opposing the G8 summit at Heiligendamm traversing the limitations of time and space and altering the boundaries of the State and the Government.

To become a large travelling movement of people, who are searching for an alternative form of association, composed from politically and culturally conscious activists, musicians, artists, theatre animators, radio and video activists who are seeking to express their ideas as to how to achieve the following goals.

- overcoming borders between countries and people,
- strengthening existing networks and initiating new contacts,
- shaping and creating space in the service of discussion and exchange,
- activating thought-processes,
- reclaiming public space in order to motivate collective action.

We have our own ideas about the shape of a shared future. We hope to discuss these with as many people as possible and draw from their views and experiences so to recreate and enhance our own. We want to bring together those who do not just accept the current state of affairs but are keen to create their own form of resistance.

Why do we want to do this?

We see that this world's streams are running dry however we are not about to lose hope.

What the powerful of the world discuss at their meetings is how to control the last corner of this earth with their market and how to ensure they extend their power globally.

What we want to discuss are the alternatives to these politics, the ways to oppose the process of neo liberal redesign which harms the vast majority of the population but only brings riches to the minority; and to halt it in its tracks. We want to discover new ways of life which will achieve a dignified life for all people.

Therefore we suggest:

First: A series of cultural and political events or meetings converging from every point of the compass to form a series of Festivals.

- Conceived as the space of convergence and exchange.
- With all possible forms of artistic expression – music, theatre, art....
- Where culture is politics and politics is culture.
- To offer space for discussion and workshops.
- To construct a temporary platform where the expression of the regional and migrant groups agendas, ideas, problems and projects are possible.

Secondly: A movement of the largest possible number of groups, collectives or alternatively a temporary merger of the aforementioned people, activists, musicians and artists who are all willing to work together on two or more of these festivals. In between the festivals they will not move as one caravan. Instead the idea is they will scatter and go wherever their fancy takes them whereupon they will perform concerts, theatre performances, presentations, work camps and actions to which they will invite the people of the region who can then participate in a process of exchange and development. Finally the migrants will find their own way to the next festival bringing the impressions and the people with them.

Thirdly: Across Europe there will be a consultation (or consulta) taking place at each of the meeting spaces and hopefully this will continue to happen on the routes in between these meeting spaces. A suggestion in favour of four or five key questions to work on has been made which could elaborate on key themes: the state of the world, the future and the rights of people. The final form and contents of these questions should ideally be made in an open process encompassing the largest possible discussion.

This consultation could serve the purpose of:

- encouraging discussion and exchange in order to initiate ideas,
- sketching areas of consensus.

That is the broad perspective; now onto the intricacies.

WORKING TOGETHER

We propose:

- To coordinate with the anti-G8 preparation as early as possible and that the concept of the caravan should not take priority over the mobilisation for the summit, as it is conceived as a mobilisation of opinions for the purpose of building the protest. Nevertheless the timetable needs to be coordinated so that the participants of the caravan can take part in the summit protest if they wish and arrive in the neighbourhood of the summit in time for this protest.
- Following this European Caravan there will be another caravan throughout most of Mexico, affiliated to the Zapatista "Other Campaign". There are different groups participating from Mexico as well as from Europe.
- We would like to make it possible for overseas activists to participate in the European Caravan.
- As a result of this cross-border concept the project is developing early contacts with networks, groups and interested people. We've been thinking about networks like Anti-Lager-Tour or People's Global Action, the European Chiapas Solidarity Network and political concert groups like Lucha Amada. There are contacts throughout Switzerland and France; we are working on contacts with Barcelona, Poland and the Republic of Slovakia.

THE FESTIVALS

- It will depend on the regional groups to decide where the festivals will take place. This means it would be preferable if those groups planning the festivals have some experience. To this end we are trying to send out feelers to discover if different countries, particularly Eastern Europe, have groups who get inspired by this vision.
- From December 2005 until June 2006 the Zapatistas have been inquiring internationally about the place, time, form and content of an invitation for an intercontinental meeting. Our vision should be in harmony with this framework.

THE CARAVAN:

- The groups, bands, activists etc... will decide the duration of their participation, what are to be the direction of their routes and their theme for development independently and they will be autonomously funded.
- The coordination will only be set in position so as to serve principally as an information exchange between the participating groups and to aid the linking of contacts.

TIMETABLE:

(preliminary, rough appraisal)

We will basically prepare the Caravan during 2006.

Beginning 2006:

- Decide what form it will take and if the caravan will happen.
- Find a critical mass of activists who are willing to participate in the organisation.
- Link the different contacts of each country.
- Find regional facilitators for the festivals.
- Clarify and develop the organisations structure.

Middle 2006:

- Arrange rough tour plan.
- Promote, enlarge and attract more groups to participate.

End 2006:

- Decide on questions for the Consulta/Referendum.

Jan-March 2007:

- The hot period begins.
- Exchange between migrant and regional groups e.g. the acknowledgement of concert dates between the festivals.

**That is the plan, for it to be embellished and realised we need many people.
Therefore we need you.**

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(At this time we request that you contact us only in English, German or Spanish)

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