



Call for the EYFA - European Youth Forum of Alternatives, Toulouse (France) July 2013

We, European youngsters, want to take part in the building of a Europe that includes us in the political processes and takes into account the issues that we consider crucial to our lives and the planet. In our everyday lives, we have to face worrying realities related to ecology, society, economics and politics.

We need a space of debate for European youths, a space that needs to overcome the institutionalist nature of the that are currently on the table and that are unsuited in coping with today's challenges. This new space seems all the more important to us as the crisis Europe is going through, and that started with the subprimes in the USA, is far from being solved.

Thus, we will gather within a European Youth Forum of Alternatives (EYFA), in order to render visible and share proposals, alternatives and all kinds of concrete contributions, at our level. This must be done in a democratic, participatory and non-exclusive way. This Forum will be open to everyone, whatever her or his financial resources and nationality (including countries outside Europe). This platform aims at sharing ideas and experiences in the spirit of popular education. Representation of political parties will be not possible. The voice belongs to young European citizens, actors of civil society.

The Forum claims ecological, democratic and social sustainability to become the basic principle of all European action. We also plead for the expansion of all forms of participatory and direct democracy in Europe. By calling for a stronger commitment, action, and mobilization of youths and civil society, we do not claim that they are currently insufficient. What we assert is that they are not enough visible to themselves, too scattered and not enough connected between them. Everyone of us, wherever she or he lives, thinks he is alone and powerless. However, from the Arab Spring to Occupy Wall Street, from the student strikes in Chile to those, less known, in Austria, from the democratic renewal in Iceland to the Indignados, we see that our aspirations, on a planetary scale, are much more converging than the crappy shock of civilizations theory wants to make us believe.

Wherever we come from, we are definitely different one from the other. But we are much more similar too each other we think we are. We now know that we all share the same aspirations for the reinforcement of ecosystems. We all refuse to live a life of announced precarity, without resistance and without offering solutions. We want to build a world we can live in, and fully participate in. Therefore, we call for all the energies, struggles, and experiences from Europe and the world to meet us at the beginning of July 2013, in the city of Toulouse, France. Thanks to this European Youth Forum of Alternatives, we wish to share our solutions, our doubts and our desire to get closer to each other. As important as it is to act where we live, as important it is to become visible to ourselves, and to show to ourselves and to political decision-makers that it will be impossible to shape, as active citizens, the societies of tomorrow if we do not fully participate at the reality that surrounds each one of us.

EYES – Empowering Youth in a European Society
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