

## Invitation for collectives and individuals to join the **Balkan Decentralized Network**

**A**s we mentioned the idea for this network came in the late summer of 2007 from the realization that more or less we, the people from the Balkans, share common problems and that's why we should find common solutions and help each other. For sure every local collective from the different parts of the Balkans has its own local context with local problems and local struggles, but we should work as a network for solidarity, exchanging ideas, working on common actions and solutions.

After all for all of us the goal is clear – the abolishing of this inhumane system, which exploits us, no matter of our race, origin or nationality.

The Balkans is a region with mixed history and artificial state borders (as the idea of “the state” itself), which are trying to keep us separated, blinded by nationalism and chauvinism, so the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, no matter of their nationality or passport.

The first step for this network was already made – during the PGA preperational meeting in Thessaloniki in October 2007 and after that with the creation of maillist and website, as tools for coordination and exchange of ideas. But of course this won't be enough... It's sad that we live so close to each other and practically know so little about each other. So the next two very important steps are to expand and deepen this network in order to become stronger and also to create common actions, solidarity demos and so on...

We realize that this network is vital for our global struggles (which of course consist of many local struggles, which are truly connected) and this is the reason to invite all collectives and individuals to join the **Balkan Decentralized Network!**

balkan-infoshop@lists.riseup.net  
<http://balkans.puscii.nl>



*The Leaflet!*

## Balkan Decentralized Network a small presentation of this network

This network is a result of a long process and discussion about digital tools and physical meetings which we, grassroots, autonomous, anti-authoritarian collectives from Balkans and beyond need in order to make our struggles more visible and powerful.

We are activists from Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia who are involved in local struggles but always with a global aspect.

The idea of this network came out from the last PGA inspired infotour, September 2007, when two activists traveled together in seven countries in Balkans and eastern-Europe.

We desire more collectives and people to join this project and make it a useful coordination tool - also with the critics of it - for future common actions, information exchange, call-outs for several issues.

The political goals of this initiative are based on the 5 hallmarks of Peoples Global Action network and it is a clearly inspired project by this network.

We don't accept any kind of formal hierarchy and we struggle against the informal one. We support the clear dignity of human beings as well as the animal liberation.

We call every grassroots movement, anti-authoritarian collective, autonomous space who feel related to this process to join this network as well as to join the further discussion for common activities in balkans and the support and solidarity of the anti-capitalist struggle everywhere!

We call everyone to get involved with a decentralized autonomous network without any representatives or relations with institutional organizations!

**You can check out the website of the network, which is still under construction:**

**<http://balkans.puscii.nl>**

**We are everywhere!**

**Collectives involved:**

1. (A)-Infoshop (Ljubljana, Slo)
2. AnarchoResistance (Sofia, BG)
3. Autonomous Center (Athens, GR)
4. Kolektif Ego (Turkey)
5. DIY-Athens
6. DIY Collective (Bulgaria)
7. Ecotopia Infocenter (Razgrad, BG)
8. F.A.R.M.A. (Athens, GR)



## CALL FOR DECENTRALIZED DAYS OF ACTION FOR SQUATS AND AUTONOMOUS SPACES - 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2008

On Friday the 11th and Saturday the 12th of April 2008, we call for two days of demonstration, direct action, public information, street-party, squatting... in defence of free spaces and for an anti-capitalist popular culture.

Through these two days, we want to help create more visibility of autonomous spaces and squats as a european/global political movement.

We want to develop interconnections and solidarity between squats and autonomous spaces. We want to keep linking our spaces with new people and new struggles, and support the creation of autonomous spaces in places where there has not been a history of this kind of action. We want to build, step by step, our ability to overcome the wave of repression falling on us.

We call for decentralised and autonomous actions of all kinds, depending on what people feel to be the most appropriate to their local context.

### Issues beyond the actions

We also would like these days of actions to enable and inspire discussion, to demonstrate various possibilities & strategies, to be an occasion to share skills. These are some of the issues we would like to push:

- what do we expect from and understand by autonomous spaces? What is their rôle in the pursuit of radical social change? Where do they lie on the scale of 'alternative' to 'confrontational'?
- share information on the range of activities that take place in autonomous social spaces along with ideas for how to make them work; question the production of goods and services; and encourage the exchange of knowledge particularly between the town and the countryside.
- share experiences, inspire each other, find out how others live collectively, and their activities, alternative economic exchange systems...
- share various ways of getting spaces all over europe: illegal occupations, Do It Yourself constructions, wagenburgs, buying collectively, free contracts...
- share practical resources and a feeling of solidarity between:
  - different users of autonomous spaces (either current or potential): co-operatives, people without papers, activists, travellers, immigrants, urbanites, rural dwellers, small farms;
  - different ways of using spaces; activities for the community, meeting area for groups, living spaces;
- enable the forming of common strategies when faced with state repression or eviction.

**For more information: <http://april2008.squat.net>; [april2008@squat.net](mailto:april2008@squat.net)**



- General overview of actual war and conflict situations worldwide, with explanations to NATO structure and involvement
- Getting away with torture? (secret prisons / Guantánamo / Abu Graib / secret detention in Poland and Romania)
- Making their own rules (torture, political killings, secret detention and 'disappearances' in Chechnya)
- The Andijan massacre in Uzbekistan
- Transnistria
- Prison-industrial complex, like boot-camps, forced labor etc.
- Us versus Them (ethnic cleansing in conflict, migration-regime of the fortress Europe, with actual reference to the conflict between Romania-Italy and the racist backlash on Roma)
- Sexualized violence (in conflict/war and the everyday forms of violence against women)

*Erinyen collective; November 2007*

### 5th PGA conference Greece 20th to 27th of August

The 5th Gathering of Peoples' Global Action in Europe this time will take place in Greece.

A responsibility of organizing and coordinating the discussion that opened in the last meetings of "PGA Europe" has taken by a decentralized network of activists and collectives in Balkans.

That's exactly and the essential advantage of this initiative. The convenor is not a local collective like other conferences in the past but a vital Balkan decentralized network!

On the preparation all of these months several questions, problems as well as ideas for taking action are already mentioned by all of us who involve with the idea of a conference here!!! Again in the Balkan region!

We would like to open a long discussion about local activism in combination with a global perspective! In other words we want to discuss about the future of the PGA network and its process as well as the various projects, topics and ideas for action!

As a reference example: the following topics that we are already working or we want to invite people to open meeting spaces during the PGA conference!

Autonomous spaces and squatting, patriarchy, gender, radical feminism, anti-repression, anti-militarism, biotechnology, environmental struggles, indigenous spaces, antiglobalization, G8, DIY activities and sharing skills, fanzines, infoshops, PGA infopoints, land and autonomy, digital struggles and autonomous servers, indymedia tools, precarity and flexibility, radical theory!, productive networking, local alternatives, activism, other, be continued...

Let's reclaim the commons!! We are everywhere!

<http://pgaconference.org>  
<https://balkans.puscii.nl>

[con2008@no-log.org](mailto:con2008@no-log.org)



## UPCOMING ACTIONS IN 2008

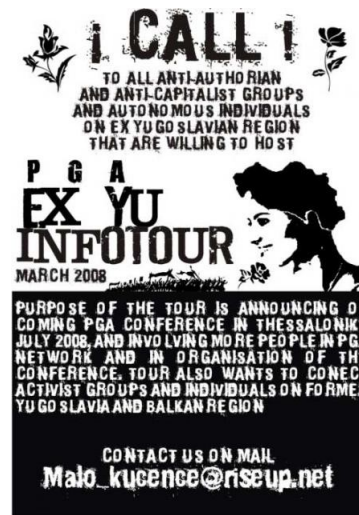


### PEOPLES' GLOBAL ACTION INSPIRED POST YUGOSLAVIAN INFOTOUR 2008

A call to all antiauthoritarian, grassroots and anticapitalist collectives on ex-yugoslavian region that are willing to host that project purpose of the tour is announcing of coming PGA conference in Athens 20th to 27th of August 2008 and involving more people in the PGA network and in organization of conference. Tour also wants to connect activist groups and autonomous individuals on former Yugoslavia and Balkan region email contact of the coordination collective of the tour [malo\\_kucence@riseup.net](mailto:malo_kucence@riseup.net)

Dates of the tour (all the dates are in March 2008)

3. ZAGREB
4. MARIBOR
5. LJUBLJANA
6. RIJEKA
7. BANJA LUKA
8. SARAJEVO
9. PODGORICA
10. SKOPJE
11. KUMANOVO
15. NOVI SAD
16. BEOGRAD



### PGA 2ND PREPARATIONAL MEETING IN MARIBOR SLOVENIA CULTURAL CENTER "PEKARNA" 3RD TO 4TH OF MARCH 2008

After the meeting in Thessaloniki a necessity for a second preparatory meeting is already mentioned by several activists that involve with the effort of the Balkan based convenorship of the 5th PGA conference. The European gathering of PGA this time will take place in Athens from 20th to 27th of August 2008 and a lot of things must be done at time.

We invite every collective and single person in the network to join the meeting and support with ideas and any kind of help!! We definitely need it! But this meeting is important for a second reason as well! We are planning to coordinate this meeting together with local Slovenian groups and radical Europe network activists. For more information and involvement send us at [con2008@no-log.org](mailto:con2008@no-log.org) and sure at [pga\\_europe\\_process@squat.net](mailto:pga_europe_process@squat.net), [pgabalkan@eurodusnie.nl](mailto:pgabalkan@eurodusnie.nl) you can also check news at <http://pgaconference.org>

Topics of the meeting:

1. A small presentation of the PGA network by the activists from Balkan Decentralized Network!
2. Political reader and topics progress of the next conference!
3. Balkan decentralized network meeting
4. Tools of the next conference
5. Radical Europe presentations
6. Political issues and perspectives ( radical Europe)

### *CALL TO ALL ACTIVE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS FROM NEAR AND FAR*

Radost obrata ¾ - Joy of revolt ¾: 3-4 March 2008, Maribor, Slovenia

On 03 and 04 of March 2008, a multi-vitamin festival of free exchange, called "Radost obrata 3/4" (Joy of revolt 3/4), will be held in Maribor. The festival will host numerous active individuals and groups from different parts of Europe, who are all, each in their own way, fighting bio-political and eco-social catastrophes, brought on by the neoliberal and nationalist ideologies.

Nationalism, mixed with religious poison and neoliberal excuses about social progress, is an implicit threat for the life of every critical, open-minded and advanced individual. Everyday experiences of the 21 Century reality show us that old world views are outdated and obsolete. Those who hold the power are no longer capable of solving today's problems, so they (and their disciples) rely more and more on false pretences, lies, deceits, wars, media manipulation, crisis, blame-shifting and looking for scapegoats, as tactics of problem-solving.

Our festival wishes to bring together as many views as possible; different experiences will serve as a tool for the struggle against the system reproducing inequality, slavery, dependency, sexism, racism, war, intolerance... We believe this exchange with similar organizations will open new possibilities and opportunities for our fight for equality on a local level. And we firmly believe that a marginalized and excluded minority can become a majority fighting for the cause.

Every turn of wheels in this process gives new impetus; every new impetus is new joy. Some are seeking for mechanisms to set these wheels in motion in the academic and theoretical field, others in building a community, street actions, digital networking... The common denominators here are selflessness, solidarity, exchange, creativity of revolting, direct actions, DIY... Our fight is the personification of a wild cat, queer creative power, and of chlorophyl. We are pink, black & green generation.

A lot of subjects interest us, but at the same time we are aware of the pressing time-frame of the event. Two days aren't a lot when it comes to such a vast subject matter, so we set up the following agenda for the festival:

- Digital tools (new ways of networking and information exchange, and its use for connecting our communities/groups)
- Decentralized Balkan network (possibilities for further development of our connecting in the Balkans, as well as further)
- Zeroeth transnational (the idea of an ideological-symbolical platform of 21. Century movements)



- Migrations (experiences from struggles against Centres for foreigners and the migration system that treats migrants as a 'security threat')
- Militarism (dismantling of NATO and its bases, Europe's exodus from militaristic colonialist pacts)
- Energy (beyond criticising EU's destructive climate and energy package, our talks will revolve around possibilities of energy renewal, and it's potential as a fertile base for social mobilization and creativity)
- Precarity (struggles against precarity, the system of chronic social instability, and inequality)
- New secularism (beyond sovereignty of national states; if it's achieved by capital, how can it be achieved by people, too?)
- Topics and invitation to the next PGA european conference in Greece (august 2008)

These are only some of the subjects we would like to include in our debates; the agenda is not set in stone, and can be expanded if necessary, since we would like to see as many people as possible participating in discussions. Our aim is to bring together different experiences, exchange ideas, and open up new aspects of our common cause. We want Maribor to become a meeting-ground of heretic, critical, open-minded and progressive thought.

For practical reasons, the debates will be held in English, and will be followed by informal social activities (i.e. partying till early morning!). The official start of the festival will be on Monday, 03. 03. 2008, at 17:00 in Gustaf hall in Pekarna, Ob železnici 8, Maribor.

If you plan to participate and need a place to sleep, please contact us in advance (at [radostobrata@gmail.com](mailto:radostobrata@gmail.com)).

These are web pages of collectives involved in meeting preparation:

<http://radostobrata.blogspot.com/>

<http://infoshok.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.pekarna.org/>

<http://www.zofijini.net/>

### CALL OUT FOR COOPERATION IN THE EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOPS DURING THE NATO COUNTER-SUMMIT IN BUCHAREST / RO (2ND TILL 4TH OF APRIL 2008)

**(‘In the name of International Security - Making their own rules?’)**

*Plans for a Counter-Summit*

An exhibition and discussion workshop is planned for the counter-summit during the NATO summit in Bucharest from the 2nd till the 4th of April 2008 which will unfold in several sections.

Inevitably, some parts of the information have to focus on torture's contemporary return and by this on developments surrounding US actions since 11 September 2001 and NATO involvement. A second section will move beyond this discussion, providing a deeper understanding of the relationship between power and norms, to vindicate a realist interpretation of world politics, the shape of global agendas and the hollowness of even so-called obligatory norms. Democracies can undermine their own substance when they violate human rights and international humanitarian law or when some politicians, or the media, create a climate in which such violations are, as it were, preemptively justified and excused as measures of self-defense. What perceptions make actual violations more likely will be another focus, related to the development of new forms of punishment and places of control for public punishment in the light of the nation state and state authorities.