

WORKSHOP 2 - COLLECTIVE ORGANISATION AND ACTION



This workshop focused on the question of how organisations, with their structures and tools, participate in the struggle for the right to housing and to the city and achieve or fail to achieve their objectives. We had to take into account that some members of the EAC are federations of associations or local groups (DAL, PAH) and others are smaller groups.

The discussion showed that the legislative context is a determining factor in the ways we do things. The level of police repression is a significant factor that has a direct impact on our ability to mobilise, to claim our rights and to achieve political results.

Participants briefly mentioned the way their groups organise themselves: some create "toolboxes" for different types of struggles (for organising tenants in a neighbourhood, for homeless people or for requisitioning and/or occupying empty buildings), some organise trainings/actions, others create collective lives in squats or go door-to-door to organise solidarity. There are also federations that are created at different levels (local, regional, national), and alliances that are developed with other groups (unions, artists, intellectuals), etc.

Finally, the discussion shifted to the strategies to be developed: is the "legal" approach the best one today or should we focus on grassroots struggles and alliance building? Then we discussed the spaces where collective struggles are conceived, where activists are able to meet and structure their actions in the territories. Finally, we asked ourselves the question of how to move local struggles to another scale.

One of the problems raised in the discussion was the rise of the far right. They try to take advantage of the housing 'crisis' to scapegoat 'others' (people who do not belong to their nationalist conception of a given territory). We must admit our difficulties in transferring our more complex analyses of the systemic failures of capitalism and its 'housing market' to the simplistic nationalist and racist propaganda of the far right. The EAC's anti-fascist consensus is unshakeable but the question of how to improve intersectional struggles needs to be addressed immediately.

