

## WORKSHOP 6 - STOP GENTRIFICATION

This workshop started with two questions: What are you facing in your territory? What are you doing about it?

What is happening in the territories that was already there before:

- The increase in property investment and speculation;
- Public investment for gentrification (sometimes too much, too long, leading to exclusion of neighbourhoods);
- The increase in housing prices and the decrease in social housing;
- Airbnb and the phenomena of touristification;
- Differentiation between highly gentrified and very dilapidated areas.

What seems to be new (or more important today):

- Rising prices in rural areas;
- The amount of empty space produced by real estate activities (e.g. high and empty flat towers) which leads to evictions and therefore to more empty space;
- The impact on part of the middle class, also affected by the housing crisis;
- Urban renewal;
- The disappearance of commons;
- The increased protection of private property by the public authorities and the justice system.

What can be done:

- Create meeting spaces;
- Change the commercial purpose of Airbnb;
- Lower rents, regulate them and demand social housing;
- Make housing a collective issue, not an individual one;
- Mobilise, occupy (without gentrifying), ...
- Take inspiration from the Berlin referendum and the CLTB (Community Land Trust Belgium).

