



2-6.11.2022

TRANSNATIONAL MEETING OF GRASSROOTS COLLECTIVES FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

DETAILED PROGRAM [EN]

**EUROPEAN ACTION COALITION
FOR THE RIGHT TO HOUSING AND TO THE CITY**



SPACES



1
Polytechnio

Strefi Hill

Exarchia Square

- 1. Polytechnio / Polytechnic school of Athens**
- 2. Notara 26 / Housing squat for refugees and migrants**
- 3. Tsamadou 15 / Self-organised space above El Chef kitchen**
- 4. Tsamadou 13, first floor / Steki Metanastwn (Migrants' "steki")**
- 5. Tsamadou 13, second floor / Network for the political and social rights**
- 6. Tsamadou garden / Opposite to Tsamadou 15**
- 7. Exarchion Hotel**

WELCOME! TO ATHENS 2-6.11.2022

ALL EVENTS
ARE IN GREEK
AND ENGLISH



Groups attending 1. **Habita!** from Lisbon, Portugal 2. **Habitação Hoje** from Porto, Portugal 3. **PAH** from Spain 4. **Sindicat de llogaters** from Barcelona, Spain 5. **Halem** from France 6. **DAL** from France 7. **AITEC** from Paris, France 8. **ACORN** from UK 9. **Greater Manchester Tenants' Union**, UK 10. **London renters' union**, UK 11. **Just Space** from London, UK 12. **Living rent** from Scotland, UK 13. **Don't Pay UK** 14. **CATU** from Ireland 15. **Syndicat des Immenses** from Brussels, Belgium 16. **Bonnevie** from Brussels, Belgium 17. **Action logement Bruxelles** from Brussels, Belgium 18. **Bond Precaire Woonvormen** from the Netherlands 19. **A city for all! Who does the ABG belong to?** from Frankfurt, Germany 20. **Stop evictions** from Berlin, Germany 21. **Renters' union** Berlin, Germany 22. **Stop evictions** from Vienna, Austria 23. **Aslido** from Prague, Czech Republic 24. **Rozbrat** from Poznan, Poland 25. **The Common Front for Housing Rights** from Bucharest, Romania 26. **LevFem** from Bulgaria 27. **Social Housing NOW** from Cluj-Napoca, Romania 28. **Harta** from Naoussa, Greece 29. **United initiative against auctions** from Athens, Greece 30. **Action Network for Housing and the City** from Cyprus 31. **Movement against foreclosures** from Cyprus 32. **Ministry of Space** from Belgrade, Serbia 33. **The Roof** from Belgrade, Serbia 34. **Activists** from Georgia 35. **Right to the city** from Zagreb, Croatia

WEDNESDAY 02.11

WELCOMING

20:00-22:00 WELCOMING DINNER

📍 **Prosfygika**

The 8 buildings of *Prosfygika* were built in 1933 by the Greek state for migrants from Asia Minor. Today, 400 people live there. Some of them live in self-managed communities. The Greek government has big development plans for these buildings and is threatening the inhabitants with eviction. They will welcome us to explain their struggle.

THURSDAY 03.11

INTERNAL PLENARY & PUBLIC EVENT

10:30-13:00 REFLECTIONS (en-gr translations)

📍 **Notara 26**

In this session we will talk about what we planned to do in Brussels, and what we actually did since then. We will reflect on *Housing Action Day 2022*, solidarity campaigns (*Collectif Zone Neutre*, Gezi Park, Exarcheia), projects initiated (gentrification brochure, anti-eviction brochures' archive, website reconstruction, interviews), the working groups' activities and various presentations (Bucharest-Budapest event, *Feantsa* and *Fondation Abbé Pierre* booklet, UN podcast) and our participation to the *European Summer University of Social movements*. Are we satisfied by our work, what shall we do more?

13:00-14:30 COLLECTIVE LUNCH

📍 Notara 26

14:30-17:00 WORKING GROUPS AND PROJECTS (self-organised translations)

📍 Notara 26 and various spaces in Tsamadou street

During this session we will work in smaller thematic and/or working groups to reflect on future projects and plan them. These groups will be : tenants' unions across Europe, Research group, Legal Group, End homelessness, transnational actions group (MIPIM, HAD), anti-eviction fronts and the awareness team.

After setting their goals, each group should reflect on their ways of organizing (monthly meetings, pads, other?), the tools they will want to use and the budget they plan to ask for the work.

17:00-17:30 COFFEE BREAK

17:30-19:00 GOALS / Working Group reports (en-gr translations)

📍 Notara 26

▶ PART 1

Each working group listed above will briefly present the conclusions of its discussion to the assembly and general goals will be set for the months to come. We will also discuss our common goals: do we continue with the actual projects (gentrification brochure, anti-evictions brochures' archive, RLS brochure)?, are we willing to do a wider campaign (on housing and energy crisis for example)?, are we willing to focus on other issues?

▶ PART 2

Our common actions to come should be discussed : Housing Action Day 2023, Anti-MIPIM action, solidarity campaigns, if there is anything big planned in your countries that we should know of?

20:00-22:00 OPENING: HOUSING JUSTICE 2023
(en-gr translations)

► **WE CAN'T PAY / WE WON'T PAY!**

Movements against crazy housing and energy costs

📍 **Polytechnio**

What others call the 'housing crisis' is long since our daily routine. Skyrocketing rents and unending mortgages have shaped our realities for many years now. In the last year, the drastic rise in energy costs has further escalated the issue. Many of us are in pure mode of survival. The time to resist has come: heating or eating cannot be the question. With different approaches, movements are trying to politicize and collectivize that struggle. Can we imagine a pan-european movement against the attack on our bare lives and the exploitation of our most basic needs? We will discuss with comrades from *Don't Pay UK*, *Cost of living network* (Gastivists), *Δεν βγαίνω*, *Don't pay Belgium* and *Sindicat de llogaters* (Barcelona).

FRIDAY 04.11

INTERNAL

PLENARY &

DEMONSTRATION

10:30-13:00 STRATEGICAL DISCUSSION / How we organise?

📍 **Notara 26**

How the European Action Coalition (EAC) develops? It is growing, is this what we want? How to improve our collaborations and participate more actively to the collective internal procedures as members (monthly meetings, groups, physical meetings)? We will also discuss about EAC's structures and general fundings.

13:00-14:30 COLLECTIVE LUNCH

📍 Steki Metanastwn

14:30-17:00 TOOLS / TASKS

📍 Notara 26

Very important administrative elements will be discussed. We will also decide the budget and proceed to the necessary voting.

17:00-17:30 COFFEE BREAK

17:30-18:30

📍 Various spaces in Tsamadou street

- ▶ **TOUR OF EXARCHEIA (English only)**
- ▶ **HOW TO USE EAC'S WEBSITE / workshop with Sociality (English only)**
- ▶ **BANNER CREATION**

19:00 DEMONSTRATION

- ▶ **AGAINST STATE REPRESSION AND THE VIOLENCE OF CAPITAL**
Exarcheia remains a neighborhood of resistance and struggle

📍 Starts at Propylaia

On the 4th of November, a demonstration is planned in the center of Athens for the defense of Exarcheia neighborhood and to protest against state and capitalist violence. The *European Action Coalition for the right to housing and to the city (EAC)* will be there and is calling all people to join.

SATURDAY 05.11

WORKSHOPS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10:30-13:00 A) NETWORK AND THEMATICAL MEETINGS

📍 Polytechneio and various spaces in Tsamadou street

▶ **WORKSHOP 1: TENANTS' UNIONS ACROSS EUROPE**

📍 Polytechneio

In many cities tenants are organizing in unions. While having different approaches, they have a common aim: to build a solid social base for the struggles. In this network-meeting comrades from *London Renters Union*, *Sindicat de llogaters* (Barcelona), *Mieter*innen Gewerkschaft* (Berlin), *CATU* (Ireland), *Ort till Ort* (Stockholm), *ACORN*, *HABITA* (Lisbon), *Living Rent Scotland* and others will present their unions and fathom how transnational interaction could support and develop their local struggles.

▶ **WORKSHOP 2: HOUSING STRUGGLES, ENERGY POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

📍 Polytechneio

The ruling classes try to simplify, obfuscate and separate not only the problems we are facing but also us, the social movements, we tend to get lost in quite specialized, isolated struggles. Many comrades observe that the housing issue seems to disappear behind the now dominating question of energy costs. Environmental issues often appear as a kind of luxury problem. But how can we strengthen intersectional struggles and question the system as a whole? In connection to our opening event '*We can't pay / We won't pay*' on Thursday this workshop will deepen the discussions with comrades from *Gaztivistis*, *Don't pay UK*, *Don't pay Belgium*, *Δεν βγαίνω* and others.

▶ **WORKSHOP 3: END HOMELESSNESS / USE ABANDONED BUILDINGS**

📍 **Tsamadou 15**

The contradiction of people without homes and houses without people is still urgent. While the EU announced to end homelessness in 2030 without having a plan and tools to do so, the actual development leads the way to more people losing their homes due to debts. Comrades from *Syndicat des Immenses* (Brussels), *Notara26* (Athens), *Aslido* (Prague), *Prosfygika* (Athens) and *HARTA* (Naoussa) will present their struggles and discuss future strategies and potentials of collaborations.

▶ **WORKSHOP 4: FREE SUBJECT**

📍 **Tsamadou 13 – 2nd floor**

13:00-14:30 **COLLECTIVE LUNCH**

📍 **Steki Metanastwn**

14:30-17:00 **B) SKILLSHARING AND PROJECTS**

📍 **Polytechnio and various spaces in Tsamadou street**

▶ **WORKSHOP 1: COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

Housing Action Day, anti-MIPIM action, Cost of living

📍 **Polytechnio**

The *European Action Coalition for the right to housing and to the city* has its emphasis on 'action'. Since 3 years we are calling for a '*Housing Action Day*' (*HAD*) in the end of March. We also discuss a collective action against MIPIM in Cannes/France, the biggest 'real-estate' fair in Europe where state and capital define future politics. Also still open is the question, if we could raise a campaign with common demands, for instance: maximum rent, cancellation of debts, limitation of prices through profit cuts. Shall we find a thematical frame for the *HAD2023*? Mobilize against *MIPIM*? What other actions can we think of?

► WORKSHOP 2: ANTI-GENTRIFICATION STRUGGLES

📍 Tsamadou 15

Exarcheia is a melting pot for so-called 'gentrification' enforced by massive police violence. That phenomena with multiple layers and aspects (rising rents and displacement, 'touristification', 'hipsterization', surveillance/policing etc..) is countered by diverse social movements. Which actions, which campaigns, which ways of organizing are promising to be successful? In this workshop comrades from Exarcheia will present their struggles and exchange ideas for strategies and tactics with comrades from all over Europe. Is there a way to connect local struggles beyond borders? With comrades from the *No Metro in Exarcheia square assembly*, *assembly for the protection of Strefi Hill* and from the *European Action Coalition*.

► WORKSHOP 3: SOCIALIZATION

Expropriate, communize and other options

📍 Polytechnio

One year ago the people of Berlin decided, in a Referendum, that big landlords should be expropriated. The federal government is doing everything in their power to slow down the procedures. Anyway, since the campaign for expropriation started, comrades from other geographies are discussing how to transfer this approach to their cities or countries. Others still prefer the DIY approach and squat. In this workshop we will have comrades who are involved in both attempts.

► WORKSHOP 4: FREE SUBJECT

📍 Tsamadou 13 – 2nd floor

17:00-18:00 COFFEE BREAK

18:00-20:00 C) DEBATES AND TALKS

📍 Polytechnio and various spaces in Tsamadou street

▶ DEBATE 1: MUNICIPALISM organized by *RLS*

📍 Polytechnio

'Municipalism in practice' is a report on progressive housing policies in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin and Vienna. A person involved in this project will present the research and discuss with us the link between municipalist policies and housing policy instruments.

▶ DEBATE 2: PRESENTATION ON MILTON PARC organized by *Trise*

📍 Steki Metanastwn

Dimitr Rousopoulos' account of his experience with the self-managed neighbourhood of Milton Parc in Montreal and the project of libertarian municipalism is a historical legacy for the social and urban movements. A decades-long struggle to save the Montreal neighborhood managed to unite residents and succeeded in establishing the largest non-profit cooperative housing project in North America, consisting of 642 housing units and over a thousand residents democratically participating in the project to this very day. They all own the land in common. There is no individual ownership and therefore it is not possible to buy and sell property within these six blocks. This experience gives us the fertile grounds to discuss the possibility of establishing such networks in the urban fabric, recreating free public space with democratic institutions of self-government.

Dimitris Roussopoulos is a writer and historical figure of the North American libertarian movement since 1959. He remains active in social and urban movements in Canada. He is the founder of the historical publishing house *Black Rose Books* and a member of *TRISE*.

► **DEBATE 3: STRUGGLES AGAINST FORECLOSURES IN GREECE**
Organised by *United initiative against auctions*

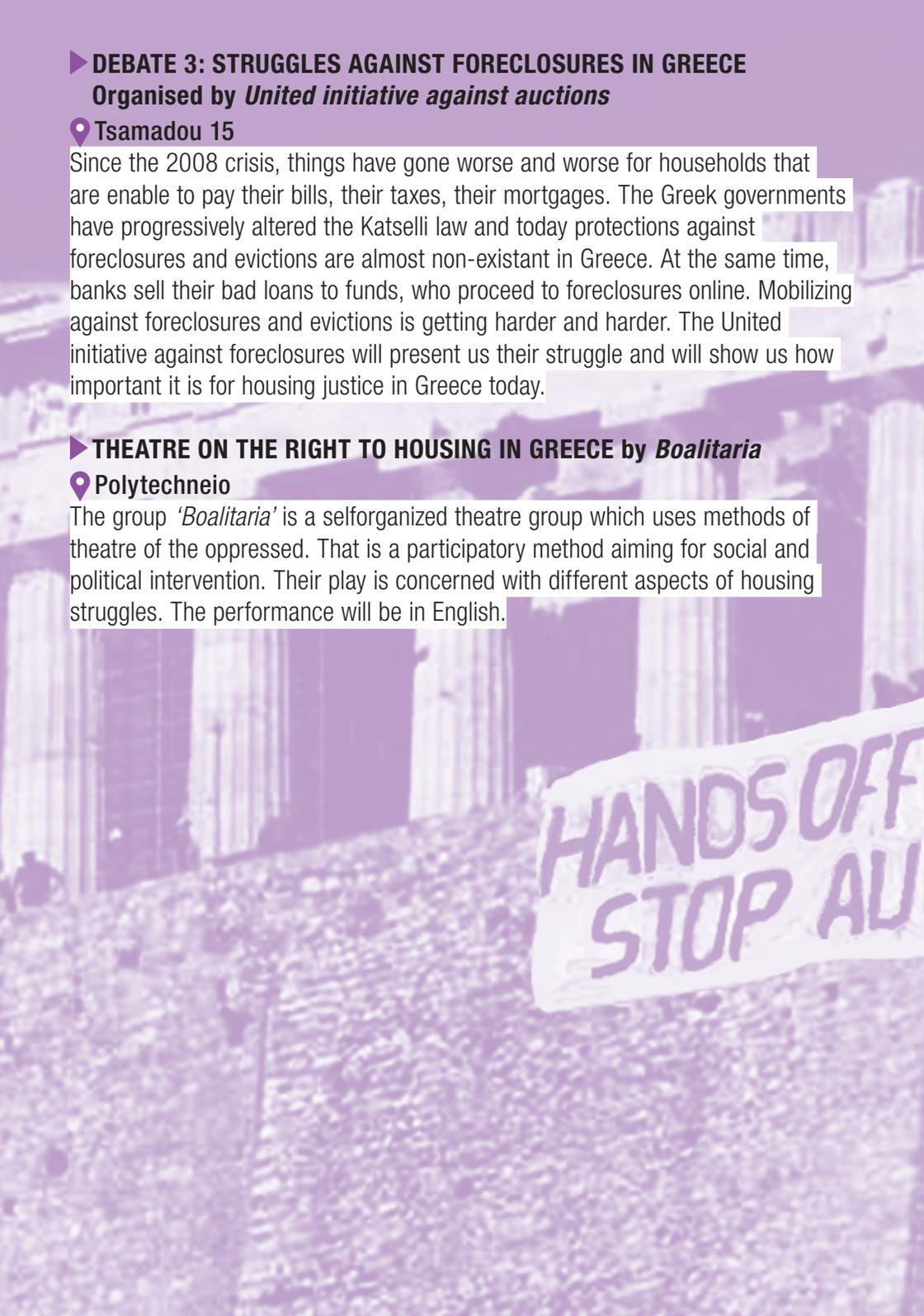
📍 **Tsamadou 15**

Since the 2008 crisis, things have gone worse and worse for households that are unable to pay their bills, their taxes, their mortgages. The Greek governments have progressively altered the Katselli law and today protections against foreclosures and evictions are almost non-existent in Greece. At the same time, banks sell their bad loans to funds, who proceed to foreclosures online. Mobilizing against foreclosures and evictions is getting harder and harder. The United initiative against foreclosures will present us their struggle and will show us how important it is for housing justice in Greece today.

► **THEATRE ON THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IN GREECE by *Boalitaria***

📍 **Polytechnio**

The group '*Boalitaria*' is a selforganized theatre group which uses methods of theatre of the oppressed. That is a participatory method aiming for social and political intervention. Their play is concerned with different aspects of housing struggles. The performance will be in English.



HANDS OFF
STOP AU

SUNDAY 06.11

WORKSHOPS & OPEN ASSEMBLY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10:30-12:30 D) OPEN EXCHANGE AND TEACH-INS

📍 Polytechneio and various spaces in Tsamadou street

▶ **TEACH-IN 1: HOW TO STOP AN EVICTION?**

📍 Polytechneio

How the struggle and resistance against evictions is organized in different cities, we will learn in this workshop. Keeping in mind the different legal, political and social context will make us understand, which elements of the struggles we can transfer to our local grounds. We would like to meet local initiatives to share their experiences of this struggle in Greece.

▶ **TEACH-IN 2: RECONNECT THE ELECTRICITY METER WHEN IT'S CUT**

📍 Tsamadou garden

Some meter's running. Some meter's not running. A practical workshop on electricity.

▶ **TEACH-IN 3: PATRIARCHY FREE ZONE**

📍 Tsamadou 15

We invite you to a patriarchy-free zone. It is a free space, a thinking space, an action space. We want to be here: To be, to feel, to exchange. We ask 2 questions: What does anarchist-queer-feminist urban development mean for us individually and for us as a group? How do we get there?

We are looking forward to this joint experiment.

Open to all, beginner-friendly.

► OPEN EXCHANGE 1: FIND NEW WORDS/CONCEPTS FOR OUR STRUGGLES

📍 Steki Metanastwn

The *'Syndicat des Immenses'* from Brussels is very into creating new words to appropriately describe their sensation and analysis of the world. And in the same moment they shift the perception by the use of new terms that are not connoted with prejudices and knowledge for the sake of control. A creative workshop that will be even more enriched by the exchange of examples in different languages.

► OPEN EXCHANGE 2: LEGAL PROCEDURES

📍 Polytechneio

The legal frames concerning housing and city rights are still quite diverse. But again and again some loopholes or defence strategies could be transferred to other legal grounds. Also successful legal struggles, for bans or moratoria on evictions for instance, where inspiring initiatives in other areas. Could there be organized a more steady exchange in this field? This will be discuss in that workshop.

12:30-14:00 COLLECTIVE LUNCH

📍 Steki Metanastwn

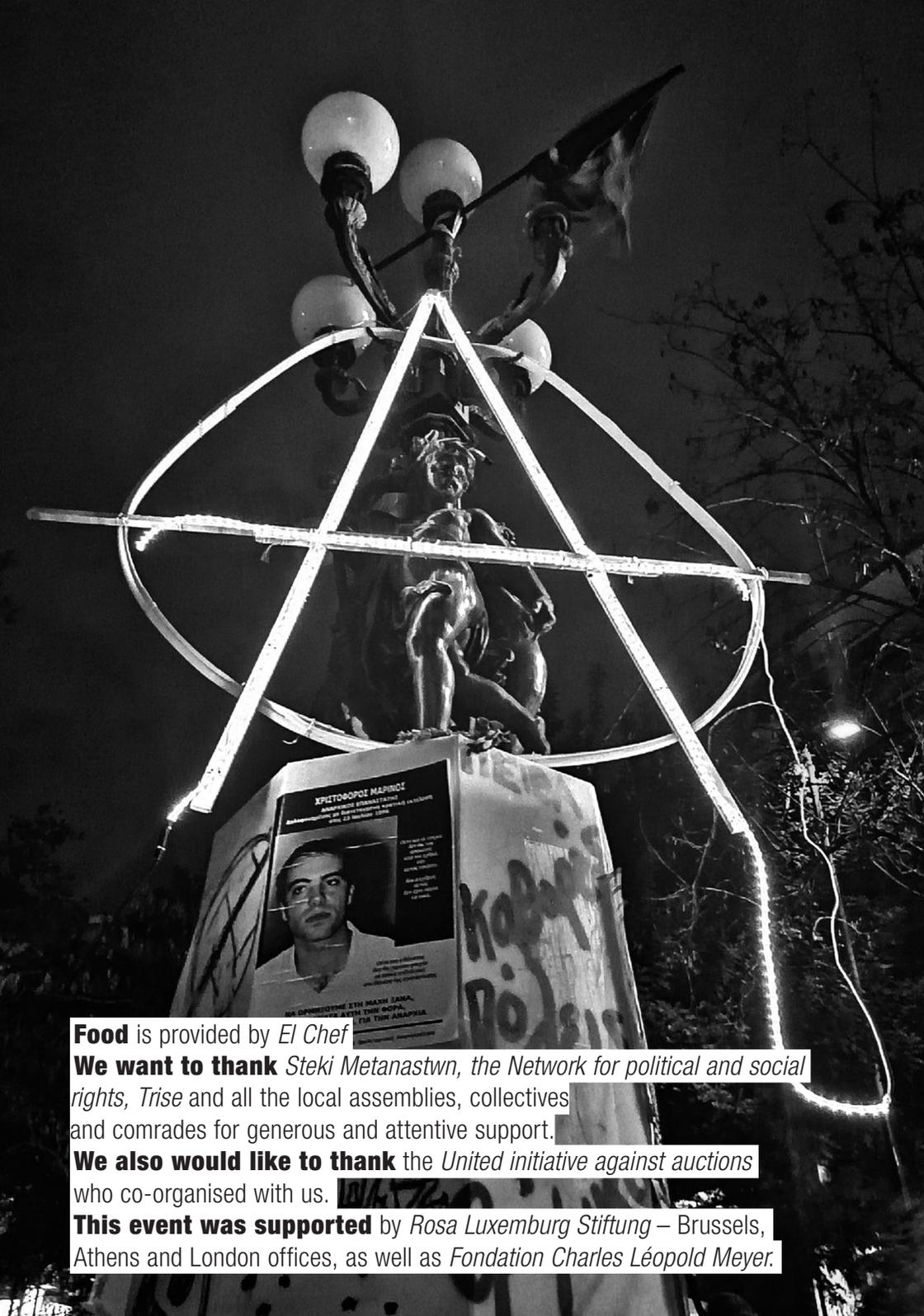
14:00-17:00 E) OPEN ASSEMBLY FOR HOUSING JUSTICE 2023

📍 Polytechneio

The open assembly is the time when the conclusions of the workshops will be presented, and proposals are made to the movement. Together we will create a roadmap for housing justice in 2023 and set some milestones for the expansion of our movements.

18:00-20:30 SOUVLAKI AND RAKI, chill out and goodbye

📍 Somewhere in Exarcheia



Food is provided by *El Chef*

We want to thank *Steki Metanastwn*, the Network for political and social rights, *Trise* and all the local assemblies, collectives and comrades for generous and attentive support.

We also would like to thank the *United initiative against auctions* who co-organised with us.

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WWW.HOUSINGNOTPROFIT.ORG

