



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

27.4 - 2.5.2023

CLUJ! >

PUBLIC PROGRAM (EN)

DE
SOCIALE

SI
MIE

TRANSNATIONAL MEETING
OF GRASSROOTS COLLECTIVES
FOR HOUSING JUSTICE





WELCOME!

TO CLUJ!

27.4-2.5.2023

LET'S UNITE OUR
STRUGGLES
BEYOND BORDERS!



WHO ARE WE?

The European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and to the City is a convergence process between movements from different cities in 20 different European countries, fighting for the respect of these fundamental rights. After having campaigned independently for years, those movements (groups and social movements composed by tenants, slum/self-built neighborhoods dwellers, squat residents, victims of inadequate housing, victims of eviction or affected by indebtedness, professionals and researchers) felt the need to gather in order to strengthen this fight to take common action and common positions on European Housing issues.

WHY DO WE MEET?

This Spring 2023, the European Action Coalition for the right to housing and to the city (EAC) will meet in Cluj, Romania, from Thursday 27th of April to Monday 1st of May 2023. Following the very inspiring Athens' meeting last November, and the massive Housing Action Days 2023, EAC's member-groups will gather again to discuss strategies, exchange skills, reflect on past actions and make plans for the future. Many collectives and individuals from local movements will join. As EAC members, we'd like to open a space of exchange and organise beyond our Coalition. We believe that the Romanian housing movement has always been important and influential to our network both through active participation in our research work and the organisation of our structure. Romania's political and social contexts have greatly contributed to our understanding of the European housing crisis and the ways we wish to end it. The East European perspective is essential to build transnational movements, also due to its position in the recent geopolitical crisis. This is why we invited local and regional movements, and not only those struggling for the rights to housing and to the city, but all who are involved in related intersectional struggles, be it anti-racist, feminist, queer, labour, environmental etc.

Let us unite our struggles beyond borders!

WHO IS CĂȘI SOCIALE ACUM!/SOCIAL HOUSING NOW! ?

The Transnational Meeting of Grassroots Collectives for Housing Justice in Cluj is hosted by the local housing movement Căși Sociale ACUM!/Social Housing NOW! The Social Housing NOW! a movement that started as a civic-activist initiative of Desire Foundation. In 2016, it announced the need to politicize social housing in the city of Cluj in a context where state housing funds were drastically reduced, housing was transforming into a real estate business, and access to social housing was more and more limited precisely to people who were entitled to one. In 2017, Social Housing NOW! continued to advocate for impoverished working class Roma persons to become public actors fighting for an anti-racist and just public housing policy.

SPACES / LOCATIONS

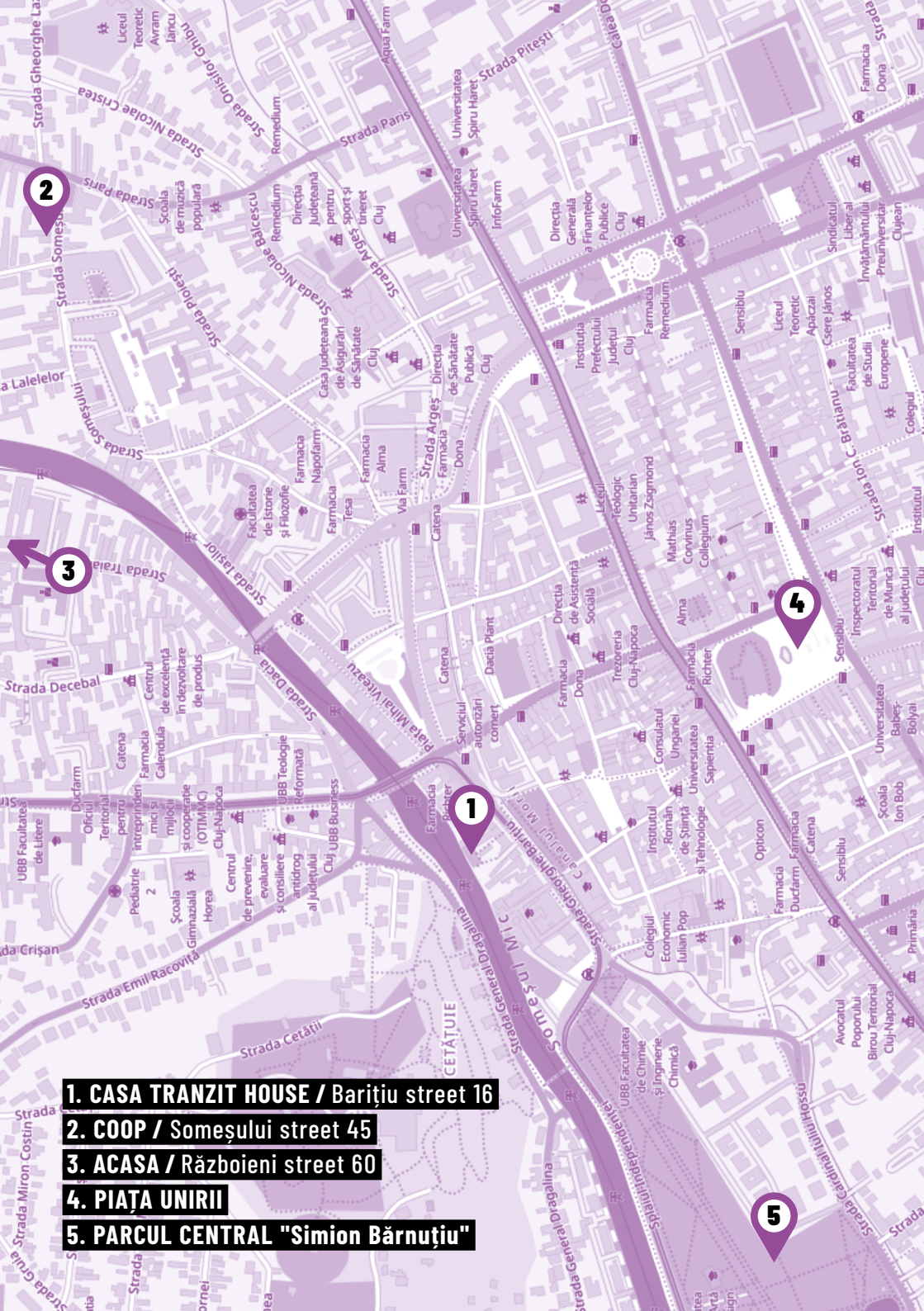
CASA TRANZIT <https://www.tranzithouse.ro/en>

The Tranzit House was born in 1997 as the consequence of the need of filling the social-cultural void in the city. From this point of view maybe the project started in a slightly utopian way. During the last years, parts of the initial vision have become reality. The former "Poalei Tzedek" synagogue in Cluj was rented from the Jewish Communities Federation. Till 1974, it functioned as the synagogue of craftsmen, then it was used as a storehouse. Due to the lack of proper care the building has been gradually degraded in a short period. Although in advanced state of decay, the architectural structure of the synagogue proved to be an excellent space for artistic activities. The Strategy of the Tranzit project aims in parallel at restoring the building of the synagogue and filling it with artistic and social content.

ACASĂ <https://acasa.blackblogs.org/>

The A-casa collective is an anti-authoritarian group that through non-hierarchical organizing is trying to find sustainable ways out of the tyranny of the capitalist system. Through self-organization and mutual aid, they want to lead the struggle for social change according to anti-capitalist and feminist principles, out of respect for the environment, out of respect for animals and people regardless of gender, race, class, ability, religion, sexuality.

The A-casa collective imagine a different social order, based on the free exchange of ideas, goods and services, where individuals and communities support each other, and where money is not the driving force behind everything. A-casa is also a shared, self-managed space that functions and sustains itself through donations and voluntary activities. It is a safer space that emerged out of the need for a friendly environment, conducive to free discussion on political issues, where people can exchange ideas and skills.



1. CASA TRANZIT HOUSE / Baritiu street 16

2. COOP / Someșului street 45

3. ACASA / Războieni street 60

4. PIATA UNIRII

5. PARCUL CENTRAL "Simion Bărnuțiu"

THURSDAY 27.4 ARRIVAL!

FRIDAY 28.4

PUBLIC EVENT I

18:00-20:00 **LOST IN URBAN REGENERATION: HOW DO WE ORGANIZE AGAINST GENTRIFICATION IN EUROPEAN CITIES?** (Discussion with simultaneous translation)

 **Tranzit House**

The phenomena of capitalist restructuring of our cities and commodification of our housing affects us all over Europe. Although the local contexts are very different, our struggles connect us across borders. At this event, comrades from several cities will explain how gentrification, or 'urban regeneration', affects housing affordability in their cities, what is lost as a result of this process and who benefits from it. How the built environment is changed along with the social structure of the inhabitants, how public authorities collaborate with real estate capital in these processes, and how activist groups react to these phenomena. They will therefore also present their approaches to organising and responding, which reflect the social and political conditions of their geographical areas. We will learn how resistance has an impact on politics and how it enables us to move from the current dystopia to another world.

Speakers: Căși sociale ACUM/Social Housing Now (Cluj), Bond Precaire Woonvormen (Netherlands), Stop Evictions Vienna, DAL (France), Habita (Lisbon), Habitacao Hoje (Porto), Ort till Ort (Sweden), United Initiative against Auctions (Athens) - **Moderator:** Oana Pop

LATER PARTY

 **Acasa**

SATURDAY 29.4

14:00-17:00 WORKSHOPS ▶

📍 Tranzit House

▶ 1. Housing Action Days

The HAD was initiated by the EAC four years ago. In 2023, more than 120 actions took place in 60 different cities in that frame. We will make a feedback of 2023 edition, and plan an even bigger HAD 2024.

▶ 2. Alternative housing

Practical approaches of cooperative housing offer direct solutions or at least the prospect to escape the pressure of the housing market. In this open exchange we get together and discuss the different existing approaches and how we can strengthen them.

▶ 3. Open discussion

PUBLIC EVENT II

18:00-20:00 **BOOK LAUNCH - HOW DO WE FIGHT AGAINST EVICTIONS?** (with simultaneous translation)

📍 Tranzit House

In May and June 2022, Căși sociale ACUM from Cluj organized a series of workshops on the struggle against evictions. They invited different collectives from Romania and all over Europe and out of those workshops a brochure was created. Tonight this handbook will be launched and comrades who contributed to it, will share in dense roundups their insights. Join this world premiere.

Speakers from the authors/cities involved in the production of the book: Blocul Pentru Locuire România (Căși sociale ACUM, FCDL, Dreptul la Oraș, ERomnja, RomaJust), Anti eviction Berlin, Sindicat de Llogateres (Barcelona), Habita (Lisbon), The Roof (Belgrade), A Város Mindenkié (Budapest) - **Moderator:** Nóra Ugron

SUNDAY 30.4

10:30-13:00 **WORKSHOPS** ▶

📍 Tranzit House

▶ 1. Tenants' unions group - workshop

The EAC working group of tenants' unions will meet to discuss the latest experiences in local organising and to define their future exchanges and collaborations. Meet comrades from all over Europe and get to know their collectives.

▶ 2. End homelessness group - workshop

In the last EAC meeting, a new working group to 'end homelessness' was created. In this workshop, we will discuss future strategies having in mind the EU's proclamation to end homelessness 2030 and the European Parliament elections next year.

14:00-17:00 **WORKSHOPS** ▶

📍 Tranzit House

▶ 3. Feminist manifesto

As EAC, we tried to illustrate the importance of feminist issues and struggles in the housing and city-rights movements in our text written in the occasion of the 8th of March this year. In this workshop we will discuss strategies how to deepen the visibility of that aspects in our daily struggles.

▶ 4. Housing and Climate justice

Comrades from the Climate Justice movement have invited members to many discussions on how to converge our movements. The potentials, as well as the differences, are obvious. In this workshop we will speak of local experiences and try to develop ideas for concrete future steps.

▶ 5. Open discussion

PUBLIC EVENT III

18:00-20:00 **FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ANTIRACIST HOUSING JUSTICE STRUGGLE:**

'DISLOCATIONS - EVICTION ROUTES TO CANTONULUI STREET (1996-2016)'

(with simultaneous translation)

 **Tranzit House**

'Dislocations' illustrates how post-socialist politics resulted in the dispossession from their housing rights of the impoverished people from Cluj-Napoca, including ethnic Roma. Before 1990, they belonged to the working class. In the context of the formation of capitalism in Romania, they were affected by a process of precarization, both in the world of labour and housing.

Ionica, Leontina, Babi, Sandu, Ligia, Katalin and Gelu help us mapping how their successive dislocations happened in time and space between 1996-2016 in the city of Cluj, ending into their settlement on Cantonului street, without number. Embodied in their personal histories, the national politics of housing marked by privatization, commodification, financialization and the dramatic reduction of the social housing stock was re-enforced by the local policies of allocating public housing. As a result of the latter, the municipality selected the categories of people envisioned to deserve living in the city, while pushing impoverished ethnic Roma into housing conditions characterized by insecurity and severe material deprivation. The area where they are tolerated will not gain real estate value as it is part of Pata Rat, a territory nearby the city's landfill that nowadays hosts approximately 1500 persons subjected to ghettoization.

Speakers: Maria Stoica, Linda Greta, Enikő Vincze (Căși sociale ACUM!), Nicoleta Vișan (FCDL), Eugen Ghiță (RomaJust) - **Moderator:** George Zamfir

MONDAY 1.5

10:00 - 13:00 **OPEN ASSEMBLY**

 **Tranzit House**

In this final assembly we will gather short feedbacks from the workshops and working group sessions on Saturday and Sunday and collectively take decisions on what we will do the next 6 months. We will transfer the energy of our meeting to the online world.

PUBLIC EVENT IV

14:00-18:00 **CROSSBORDER SOLIDARITY FOR HOUSING AND LABOUR WITHOUT EXPLOITATION: CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONALISM OF 1ST OF MAY** ▶

📍 Piata Unirii > Central Park

We believe in the power of transnational solidarity! We affirm that labour and housing rights must be won together to ensure adequate living for all. Because precarious and low-paid labour limits our access to adequate housing. Because lack of adequate housing puts our workforce at risk. The exploitation of working-class labour must end along with the extraction of profit from their need for housing. International Labour Day reminds us, that our local struggles must unite in an international struggle for a society free from exploitation and dispossession.

▶ **14:00-15:30** **Open assembly and speeches**

📍 Piata Unirii

Speeches of EAC members & launching of a local newspaper for housing justice: Căramida #19

▶ **15:30-16:30** **March from Piața Unirii to the Central Park**

📍 Piata Unirii

▶ **16:30-18:00** **Community picnic** (come with your food basket)

📍 Central Park

LATER **BEER AND CHILL**


📍 Acasa


TUESDAY 2.5 **DEPARTURE**







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


 WWW.HOUSINGNOTPROFIT.ORG

 INFO@HOUSINGNOTPROFIT.ORG

 [@EUROPEAN_ACTION_COALITION](https://www.instagram.com/european_action_coalition)

 [@EUROPEANACTIONCOALITION](https://www.facebook.com/europeanactioncoalition)

 [@4HOUSINGANDCITY](https://twitter.com/4HOUSINGANDCITY)

 [@EUROPEAN_ACTION_COALITION](https://www.instagram.com/european_action_coalition)