



TRANSEUROPA Festival 2015 press packet

TRANSEUROPA is a transnational festival of arts, culture and politics organised by artists, activists and intellectuals from across the world. Since its founding in 2010, the festival has been hosted in over a dozen European cities. It was borne of a desire to reverse the exclusion of arts and culture from political thinking and of the belief that Europe was not living up to its ideals of human rights and equality. Its main objective is to create a temporary space for people to exchange, co-create and find common ground for future actions to call for democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state.

TRANSEUROPA Festival 2015 in multiple cities in September, culminating in Belgrade October 1-5.

BEYOND FRAGMENTS

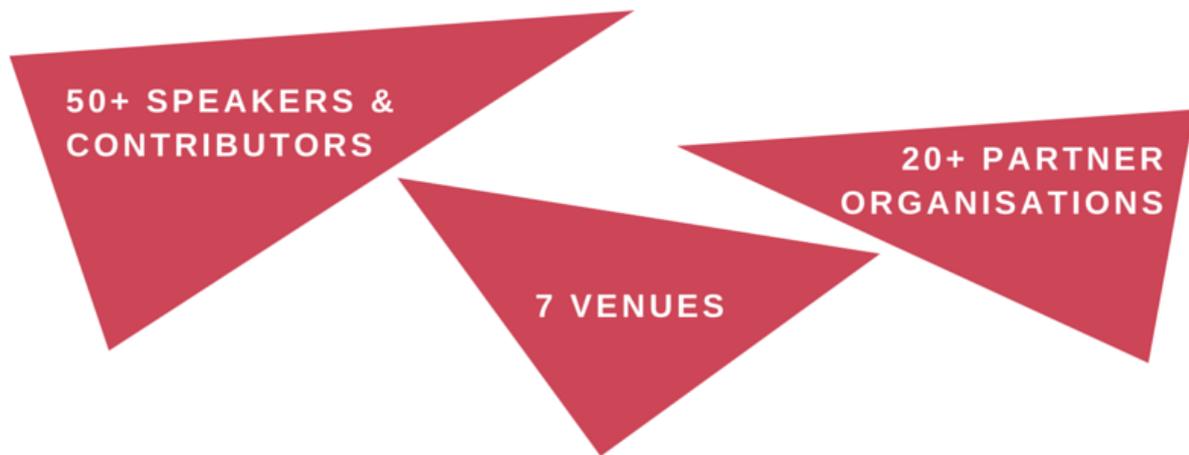
The theme of this year's festival is Beyond Fragments. As we look at the European cultural and political landscape, we see fragmentation not only between individuals, movements, organisations and institutions but also between ideas, claims and practices. Alarming, this fragmentation is widespread among those with common goals. Beyond fragments is a call to examine the fragments, in order to imagine, demand and enact an alternative Europe. TEF15 does this by focusing on four key topics:

New forms of political and social movements across Europe are challenging traditional party politics. What do they tell us about the state of Europe in 2015? What possibilities do they create for citizen involvement in decision-making? How can they be elevated from the local to the European level?

Can **the commons** – that which is owned by the people – help change the way we interact with and conceive of goods such as water, air or even the city? How can it be leveraged transnationally?

Free movement and mobility are at the core of the EU. With fences being erected and thousands drowning at its borders, these concepts are called into question. Migration and movement are treated as a threat. What can be done to stop the rise of nationalistic and xenophobic movements? How can these rights be protected?

Alternative economies: The economy and the functioning of the economic system have made headlines since the beginning of the 2009 subprime crisis. The economy is presented as both the source of disaster and the only source of possible recovery, but it is also thought of as an area of expertise, wherein experts' decisions supersede democratic ones. What are the possibilities for citizens to claim back their seat at the table? What economic alternatives are there and how can they be enacted?



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE-WIDE SEPTEMBER 26-30: LONDON, ROME, PARIS, LUBLIN, BELGRADE

In collaboration with artist, activist and European Alternatives board member Tania Bruguera, the festival kicks off with the first European event of the Hannah Arendt Institute for Activism. The Why Activism? performance invites people to participate in a simultaneous, transnational reading of Hannah Arendt's 'The Origins of Totalitarianism,' or to submit videos of themselves reading excerpts. Events take place in London, Rome, Paris, Belgrade and Lublin on September 26.

The Thumbs Up! hitch hiking challenge invites festival participants to team up and share their stories of mobility and the European landscape from the road to Belgrade. They'll carry with them shoes for refugees in Serbia who need sturdy, comfortable shoes for the long walk to their destination country.

The transnational storytelling game Green Screen Diaries harnesses the creativity of participants by generating online videos with a vision for a new Europe. All it takes is a few friends, a smartphone and a green screen. The game is played in Berlin, Warsaw and Cluj-Napoca, with more instalments on the way.

OCTOBER 1-5 BELGRADE

A **dozen workshops** offered by contributors from throughout Europe and beyond enable participants to explore the intersection of arts and politics in practice, to reflect on transnationality and on democracy, and to inhabit the European space and the urban space of Belgrade as a commons.

Contributors include artists, activists and leading thinkers such as human rights lawyer Renata Avila; philosopher Srećko Horvat; political scientist Ulrike Guérot; activist and Pirate Bay co-founder Peter Sunde; author and activist Brett Scott; theatre director Angela Richter and Guardian journalist Nabeelah Shabbir.

Activities include film screenings, lighting talks by activists, thematic city walks, art installations and exhibitions, poetry performances and more. The full festival schedule is online at <https://transeuropafestival.eu/#schedule>

WHY BELGRADE

Definitions of Europe seem always to default to the European Union. But there are a vast amount of Europeans who must live by the EU's dictates, without reaping its benefits. We believe that in order to find and elevate real political and cultural alternatives, we must seek them out and create them outside of the traditional hubs of Brussels, Berlin, Paris and London. Since selecting Belgrade in 2014, the topic of migration and mobility has become acutely relevant to Serbia. We will see first hand the plight of those seeking access to fortress Europe.

“ Belgrade is the perfect setting for a discussion about Europe's integration project and the migration route, as it lies in a country that is still waiting for the promise of EU accession and the city is a transit point for many refugees on a daily basis.”

MANOS MOSCHOPOULOS, LONDON

THE ORGANISERS

European Alternatives is a transnational civil society organisation promoting democracy, equality and culture beyond the nation state. EA has offices in Rome, Paris, Berlin and London, and member groups across the continent. More information at www.euroalter.com

Ministry of Space (Ministarstvo Prostora) is a collective founded in 2011 with the aim of monitoring the future development of Belgrade and other Serbian cities. In implementing its projects and activities the Ministry of Space closely collaborates with a network of researchers, activists, groups and individuals working in different fields such as architecture, urban planning, sociology, art and political science. More information at http://issuu.com/ministarstvoprostora/docs/ministry_of_space

IMAGES

[European Alternatives logo](#)

[Ministry of Space logo](#)

[Festival logo](#) and [Beyond Fragments logo](#)

Belgrade photos [1] [2]. Photo credit: Belgrade Raw

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The festival is free and open to the public.
For more information and venue addresses,
please visit <https://transeuropafestival.eu>

<https://twitter.com/transeuropafest>

<http://facebook.com/transeuropafestival>

Liveblog launches Monday, September 28 live.transeuropafestival.eu

Event hashtag: [#TEF15](#)

“ TRANSEUROPA: in this word lies the very concept that we must focus on in order to restart, overtaking all the egoisms that characterise today's processes. Trans- our countries, trans- our cultures, trans- our peoples and experiences. For a really open, horizontal and sympathetic Europe. ”

**CAMBIAMO MESSINA DAL BASSO ACTIVISTS,
SICILY**