

»»» OUR LETTER TO YOU «««

DIALOG NEWS

transversal dialogue project



Catholic event *Katholikentag* in Erfurt - Cornelia Hildebrandt, co-president of transform!europe and Manuel Barrios Prieto, Secretary general of COMECE in dialogue at the stand of the Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation - 1.6.24



DIALOGUE IS TRUST.



Through !

editorial

The bombshell of the European elections throughout the continent was not really surprising, yet we were like kids, who play with fire and when they burn their fingers, they cry. Didn't we know that fire hurts? Of course we knew, yet at the Eurovision debate on the eve of the elections only one candidate, Walter Baier of the European Left named the real issues of the moment, such as the exorbitant cost of living, the shameful war in Gaza and the threatening rise of the far right. The sun rose again on June 10, but Europe hasn't awoken yet from the night it collapsed in.

What can we do now? Any practicable advices? The gospel advices to keep cool and reckon. "Don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin a construction without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" (Luke 14,28). Marx would smartly say: "You have to force these petrified conditions to dance by singing them their own melody!" (MEW 1,S.381). Both help us not to stare at danger like a rabbit, not to stop petrified, but dare to keep moving in a dialogue, provided the condition of *humanity4all* be respected. Then we can dare to walk not only in our shoes but in others' shoes. They will be tight, small, stinking, old, whatever. That's the risk we cannot avoid, if we want to live in what we believe in: a democratic, free, multiple, just, welcoming world. Fighting creats space for everyone.

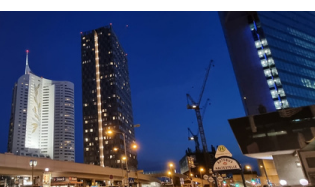
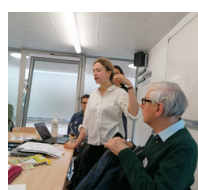


DIALOP ! FRANCE STARTUP WITH GREAT POTENTIAL

On June 4, 2024 a group of 20 scholars, experts, students from Marxist and Christian side met in Paris to sound out the possibility of a new national DIALOP group.

It's not usual to meet the whole day on a normal working day of the week. People are usually at work, and to take a day off is never that easy. If it happens, it must bear a particular urgency, interest and engagement. And that is exactly the case that kept the French participants tied to the chairs from 9.00 to 17.00 on one of the first sunny days after bad weather. They had been invited by two students of the university Sciences Po, who had participated at the conference on Ecology in Loppiano last

January and went back home with the idea of building a group of dialogue between Marxists and Christians in France. The election day casted its shadows ahead, and the need of reasonable discussions and appreciative encounters between *differents* had been felt like the most important precondition, in order to reconnect the threads of a dialogue which in France had been interrupted for decades and has now become more necessary than ever. Seen from today's point of view, a real prophecy!



WE WILL NEVER BE SILENT.

A dialog event in Vienna in the shadow of the UN headquarters. DIALOP proposes a dialogue evening with Israelis and Palestinians.

One State Embassy is an Art Collective, a conceptual on going work of art, which offers an artistic perspective on the concept of the state. It is an idealistic, utopian state which sees man as citizens of the world. It is an art asylum, an abstract thought, in which every person has an equal right to exist, regardless of where they were born and where they live. (<https://www.onestateembassy.com/>).

Since Oct. 7, 2023 they organize vigils in the city of Vienna, to mourn together for the losses of both parts and urge for a ceasefire and negotiations. DIALOP takes part at these events. A cordial and empathic contact emerged. A step ahead was to sit down and exchange even the

most controversial questions with the protagonists of the conflict. On the eve of 1 May 2024 around 100 participants came together under the slogan: 'Palestinian Lives Matter! Israeli Lives Matter! Peace Now!'. Political activists – a Palestian and a Israeli – as well as a member of the Knesset of the Hadash party, the President of the European Left, the President of Pax Christi, the founder of the Bereaved Families Forum Israel, a member of the Communist Party Austria, had agreed to enter a dialogue with each other. A Rabbi and the Palestinian ambassador had to cancel their participation at the last moment. Yet, a delegation payed a visit to the ambassador - see foto above.



PEACE_TIME, DEMOCRACY UPSIDE DOWN

the next DIALOP project

Albert Einstein was once asked what education can do to save democracy, should a specific political doctrine be preached? "I believe it should not. If we are able to teach young people to have a critical mind and a socially oriented attitude, we will have done all that is necessary." DIALOP wants to give democracy a shift from below, launching a project to empower young people and make them aware of their impact in building society from the grids they are embedded in.

Informal peace-councils are planned to be built by young people, who in two years can gain skills to confront conflicts, point out causes and not outcast culprits, tackle hatespeech and dismantle fake infos, and eventually create in the community the conditions to reconcile and reintegrate conflictual forces. This would be the best counterpoison to the violent rigurgitations we are experiencing in these days and which seem to thrill and carry along many young people in the storm European democracies are facing.



The mayor of the city of Trent (Italy) Franco Janeselli expressed great interest for the city-project and his will to cooperate at "an important project for today!"

DIALOP is also working on the feasibility of a conference with decision makers in towns, cities, provices, regions in Europe, planned for the end of the PEACE_TIME project. The local reality is indeed both a good experimental field to exercise best practices as well as a test bench, to learn how to involve stakeholders and final beneficiaries in all societal developments. Democracy grows indeed from below.