

EUROPEAN  
LAB

# EUROPEAN LAB CLUJ

Press kit

Culture as an act  
of resistance!

13—14 june  
2019

The Tranzit House  
Strada George Barițiu 16

[cluj.europeanlab.com](http://cluj.europeanlab.com)  
#ELcluj

## EDITORIAL

### Culture as an act of resistance!

**Three weeks after decisive elections for the political future of the continent, European Lab opens a space for multidisciplinary debate in Cluj-Napoca and gives the floor to cultural actors, activists, artists, journalists and thinkers who commit themselves to draw a common horizon , creative and supportive.**

Surrounded by a false liberal and authoritarian alternative, Europe is facing its destiny. The May deadline will certainly reflect this tension that is already apparent in the cultural sector. Instrumentalized by the liberals who abandon it to the vicissitudes of the market and by the identities that shape it according to their nationalistic designs, cultural independence is in danger.

Yet today, more than ever, it is necessary to imagine a common continent-wide destiny, to intellectually and politically arm citizens and to enable us to act and think of alternatives to our political models at the end of the breath. An act of democratic resistance, it is also the kintsugi, the link that unites a Europe today in wandering.

Faced with this alarming double vision, European Lab calls to local and European creative communities as well as to the general public to come to exchange, debate, share, get tools and initiate a citizen remobilization.

Open to all and free, the forum is constructed with the cultural center of Transit House where we invite all citizens to come and invest this European public space to reflect together on ways of democratic reconquest, develop our intra-European relations and defend an independent culture. and committed.

Taking advantage of the Romanian-French Cross Season, European Lab Cluj-Napoca is listening to the challenges of this young and cosmopolitan city. A variety of formats are offered to deal with these contemporary issues: workshops to reappropriate the policy, workshops to equip and develop a resilient culture, friendly exchange times to meet and share good practices, all around an editorial board radio and livestreamé, true agora forums European Lab where all the participants can can take part in the reflection.

New social movements, creation of resilient economic models, decolonization of thought, transformation of the European democratic space and reinvention of forms of activism will be at the heart of this 22nd European Lab Forum.

**Join us!**

4. European Lab's DNA
5. European Lab : 4 yearly forums
6. The Transit House
7. The program in a flash
8. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June
9. Give me tools for democracy!
10. Create a global network for art and creativity
11. Culture as an act of resistance
12. Chances of plurilingualism in Europe as a tool for practicing participative democracy
13. Decolonizing Eastern Europe in Romania
14. European Democracy : time to reconquest!
15. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June
16. Premises towards a resilient cultural sector (workshop)
17. The New European Agenda for culture
18. What kind of city do we want?
19. Premises towards a resilient cultural sector
20. The European democratic space in trouble
21. Building a resilient city
22. Queer resistance in Europe
23. Useful Infos
23. Partners
24. Arty Party





# European Lab's DNA

In 2011, Arty Farty launched the European Lab project.

The ambition of this new platform: to bring together a generation of emerging and innovative cultural actors from all around Europe and invite them to take part in a shared process of reflection and engagement with the aim of imagining the future of culture together.

European Lab unites thinkers and makers around the post-fatalist ambitions of taking back control of our destiny; of shaping the culture, citizenship and entrepreneurship of tomorrow; and of re-writing narratives and re-imagining fantasies around Europe.



# European Lab : 4 Yearly Forums

## EXCEPTIONAL EVENT IN 2019

### EUROPEAN LAB Cluj / Cluj (Roumania)

As part of the French Institute's saison culturelle partnership with Romania, European Lab is heading to a city that embodies the effervescence of Eastern Europe: Cluj-Napoca. There it will explore themes including the French-speaking world, the Erasmus generation and

### EUROPEAN LAB Paris / Paris — January

(in association with La Nuit des Idées)

The winter version of the Lyon forum, this evening-long event visits a new venue in Paris every year. It focuses on issues including the renewal of politics, the digital transformation, the role of the media and young people, and the future of pop culture.

### EUROPEAN LAB Camp / Lyon — May

Held each year in parallel with Nuits Sonores, European Lab's flagship event comprises a three-day forum that pledges to be eclectic, free-of-charge and open to everyone. The Camp showcases over 100 speakers and participants representing a new generation of thinkers and citizens.

### EUROPEAN LAB Brussels / Bruxelles — October

Held every autumn in conjunction with Nuits Sonores Brussels, ELB is a cosmopolitan, cutting-edge and unifying event offering an overview of independent culture and modern thought, right from the political heart of Europe.

### EUROPEAN LAB : the Autumn Forum

Every year, European Lab hits the road to visit a new, inspiring and relevant European city (Frankfurt 2017, Delphi 2018, Madrid 2019) with a view to exchanging views with cultural actors, local citizens, professionals and personalities from across Europe.

### EUROPEAN LAB PARIS

Paris / January 31 2019

### EUROPEAN LAB CAMP

Lyon / May 30 — June 2 2019

### EUROPEAN LAB CLUJ-NAPOCA

Cluj-Napoca / June 13-14  
2019

### EUROPEAN LAB BRUSSELS

Bruxelles / October 3-6 2019

### EUROPEAN LAB MADRID

Madrid / October 18-19  
2019

# The Tranzit House

The Tranzit Project 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 five 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.

Tranzit Foundation which runs the Tranzit House project, managed to fill the empty space of the synagogue periodically with shows, exhibitions, conferences, etc. On the other hand it has partially renovated the building, remodeled the courtyard and built and opened part of the Nameless street. In the future it is plan to improve the remaining part of the building and to initiate an urban project for bringing back the whole street and the bridge into the city's public space.-



# Program in a flash

## Thursday 13.06

Give me tools for democracy!

11:00—12:30 AM

*Workshop Room*

Create a global network for

Art and Creativity

2:30—4:00 PM

*Workshop Room*

Culture as an act of  
resistance

5:00—5:15 PM

*Radio Lab*

Chances of plurilingualism in Europe  
as a tool for practicing participative  
democracy

5:30—6:45 PM

*Radio Lab*

Decolonizing Eastern Europe  
in Romania

7:00—8:15 PM

*Radio Lab*

European democracy :  
time to reconquest!

8:30—9:30 PM

*Radio Lab*

## Friday 14.06

Premises towards a  
resilient cultural sector

4:30—5:30 PM

*Workshop Room*

New European agenda for culture

12:00—1:30 PM

*Workshop Room*

What kind of city do we want ?

2:30pm—4:00 PM

*Workshop Room*

Premises towards a resilient  
cultural sector

4:30—5:30 PM

*Radio Lab*

The European democratic space  
in trouble

4:30—5:30 PM

*Radio Lab*

Building a resilient city

7:00—8:00 PM

*Radio Lab*

Queer resistance  
in Europe

8:15—9:30 PM

*Radio Lab*



**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**





# Give me tools for democracy!

The forthcoming EU parliamentary elections are an opportunity to reinstate culture as a priority issue on the European political agenda. Despite their endless social and economic potential, the cultural and creative industries consistently fail to hold the attention of the continent's decision makers. Over the course of their travels through 26 European capitals, Auguste and Sacha have questioned the relevance of the mechanisms put in place by EU institutions to support those industries. Conscious of both territorial disparities and international ambitions, they propose meetings between grassroots actors and policy makers, with a view to compiling an inventory of the actions and instruments offered by the European Union.



## **ANDREI BULARCA, Funky Citizens I RO**

Andrei Bularca studied Politics and International Relations for a year at Lancaster University, United Kingdom and seeing as things there were not as challenging as he'd hoped, he chose to continue his studies back in Romania at the University of Bucharest. He has been a Funky Citizen since November 2018. His main interest is helping to coordinate 80east, a project through which they talk to high-school students about the rights and liberties in democracy by contrasting with Romania's recent history, namely the communist regime in the 80's. He's also actively learning about civic education and assisting his colleagues at Funky Citizens with other ongoing projects.

## *Workshop*

**Thursday 13th June — 11:00am**

# Create a global network for art and creativity

tarting from the example of the Dutch festival TodaysArt, this workshop will aim at questioning the choices of development of a cultural project especially through the issues of international networking or the search for public and private funding, to create mixed economic models able to guarantee your independence.

This workshop will be led by TodaysArt's Karel Feenstra Strategy and Funding director, members of the Shape, We Are Europe and ICAS networks. Based on the experience of this festival, Karel will explain the international development approach in favor of the stability of the project.



## **KAREL FEENSTRA, TodaysArt I NL**

Karel Feenstra studied philosophy of law. He worked as a lawyer for a couple of years before he became executive advisor of the alderman of culture in the city of The Hague. In 2016 Karel got involved in TodaysArt, where he is responsible for the funding and festival strategy and the TodaysArt conference. Besides his work for TodaysArt Karel is an active writer.

*Workshop*  
**Thursday 13th June — 2:30pm**

# **TodaysArt**

# Culture as an act of resistance

In a dislocated European political landscape, marked by mistrust of traditional parties, a desire for democratic renewal and a rise of identity speeches, what role can culture play?

A way to resist nationalist glorification and the risk of dislocation by creating common and participating in the remobilization of citizens of our continent.

The program of European Lab Cluj demonstrates this common dynamic. In the spirit of the France / Romania cross season, independent cultural actors, Romanian and French, have joined together to co-build together time for debate: Tranzit House, the Cluj Cultural Center or the media Kajet Journal on the Romanian side, Arty Farty on French side. All are independent, fight heroically against the vicissitudes of the market and the nationalist instrumentalizations. They testify to the essential place of the independent culture in the development of territories or in the incarnation of a creative, united and open Europe. Cross-talk between these independent cultural actors, opening of European Lab Cluj.

*Debate*  
Thursday 13th June — 5:00pm



# Chances of plurilinguism as a tool for practicing participative democracy

From the anthropological point of view humans evolved language as a mean for social communication, to tie social bonds, then by sharing feelings and thoughts they further developed it to formulate knowledge in a creative way. Plurilingualism has been a natural status of communities throughout most of history, as well as the adoption of certain languages as lingua franca or even the creation of hybrid languages for communicating across linguistic communities has been frequent. How did language become a tool for political dominance manipulated by nationalism and colonialism in modernity? What are the forms of surviving plurilinguism in Europe? What are the specificities of language practices in the context of Western and Eastern Europe? And what can we learn from each other today in order to maintain and develop plurilingualism in Europe as a tool for practicing participative democracy?

*Debate*  
**Thursday 13th June — 5:30pm**





# Decolonising Eastern Europe

At a time when the guarantee of neo-liberal Westernism has reached a certain point of saturation in Eastern Europe, we've come to realise that we have been tricked into distrusting the existence of an other modernity, dooming ourselves to decades of stagnating, catching up, and forever emerging. In our view, Romania shares a common historical experience with the rest of Eastern Europe, a common course of dissent that works as a nexus of ideas and cultural practices that trigger possible acts of resistance within a post-socialist context. With Eastern Europe succumbing to globalising influences and slowly disappearing as a category of analysis (now described through new, post, edge, semi-periphery), how can we make use of decolonial thinking in order to provide a critical lens of the present times and a prospective framework for the future? More precisely, is there a new thinking possible beyond "the end of history" or after "the end of post-communism"?



## **VALER COSMA, Babeş-Bolyai University I RO**

Valer Simion Cosma (b. 1986) is research assistant (Postdoc) at Faculty of Theater and Television, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, in a program called „The Iconography of Witchcraft, an Anthropological Approach: Cinema, Theater, Visual Arts” and senior researcher in modern history at Zalău County Museum of History and Art. He has a PhD in history at Babeş-Bolyai University from Cluj, which emphasises the role of priests in the peasant's world from 19th century Transylvania. For two years (2015-2017), he's been a researcher in the project "East-West". Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interactions hosted by Ethnographic Institute of Hungarian Academy of Sciences from Budapest, Hungary. He is interested in the modernization of the rural world, history and the sociology of rural elites, nationalism, the religiosity of the peasants, vernacular religion and the relation between modernity/colonialism and religion in Eastern Europe.

*Debate*

**Thursday 13th June — 7:00pm**

**KAJET**

# European democracy : time to reconquest!

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## **ANDREI BULARCA, Funky Citizens I RO**

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*Debate*  
**Thursday 13th June — 8:30pm**

**FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



# Premises towards a resilient cultural sector

Pressured by the attempts of political and economic instrumentalization, the cultural sector must develop economic models able to guarantee its independence. While sacralizing public support, the cultural sector must build resilience in order to maintain its ability to deliver critical discourse and not be reduced to a new form of entertainment.



## **IULIA POPOVICI, Theatre Critique I RO**

Iulia Popovici (b.1979) is a Romanian theatre critic. She writes for the Observator Cultural, Dilema Veche and regularly presents conferences in New York, Vienna and Warsaw. A specialist in Romanian art and drama, she is also the author of a paper entitled «Un teatru la marginea drumului» («A theatre on the side of the road», 2008).

*Workshop*  
Friday 14th June — 10:00am





# The New European Agenda for Culture

In May 2018, a new Agenda for Culture has been adopted by the European Commission, focusing on the role of culture on social, economical and external level. We will discuss how the new agenda, its priorities and the work plan it sets ground for, is translated into European and national level policies and how it shapes and formulates the role of culture in the society today.



## **RARIȚA ZBRANCA, Cluj Cultural Center I RO**

Rarița Zbranca has a twenty years' experience in cultural management, programming, research and policymaking. Her current areas of interest are the role of culture for social transformation and urban development and the relation between culture and well-being. She is Programme Director at Cluj Cultural Centre. She is co-founder of AltArt Foundation, co-founder of Fabrica de Pensule, a member of the Strategy Group of the "A Soul for Europe" initiative and a board member of the Balkan Express network. She has been involved in strategic planning and programming for the participation of the city of Cluj in the competition for the title of European Capital of Culture 2021.

## *Workshop*

**Friday 14th June — 12:00pm**



# What kind of city do we want?

The lecture What kind of city do we want? will present activities of Ministry of Space collective, particularly those relating to the use and management of spatial resources, but also the inclusion of community in the issues of city development. In addition, the lecture will provide an overview of informal alternative practices in different political/economic contexts, as well as review of the formal policy development and effective approaches in addressing social, economic and spatial problems.



## **MARKO AKSESTIJEVIC, Ministry of Space I RO**

Marko Aksestijevic has over 10 years of experience in fighting for spatial justice through numerous collectives and organizations that he co-created in Belgrade, Serbia. With a background in political science, his activities have focused on fostering citizen engagement and public policy regarding spatial equality, and enhancing the effectiveness of the management of public resources. His work spans from squatting abandon buildings, over establishment of housing cooperatives to organizing massive demonstrations. Ministry of Space was formed as the collective in 2011 with intention to activate different unused spaces through direct action and municipal negotiations. It further evolved into resource hub for local groups striving for spatial justice and a pillar of various Belgrade-based and national campaigns advocating for more democratic and meaningful public property management.

**Workshop**  
**Friday 14th June — 02:30pm**

## Premises towards a resilient cultural sector

The cultural field is formed both by public and independent institutions serving a public goal. Both of these types of operators can provide examples of situations in which one needs to struggle either to justify their reason of existence, or their financial needs. Meanwhile, the concept of auto-sustainability grants more and more ground. How does this relate to culture conceived as a public good?

\*The same name workshop preceding this panel will focus on providing an in-depth view on some legal notions around cultural public policies in Romania. Feedback and questions raised within the workshop by the participants may be referred in this panel.



### **IULIA POPOVICI, Theatre Critique I RO**

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**Debate**  
**Friday 14th June — 04:30pm**

# The European democratic space in trouble

With elections approaching as the victory of a liberal-conservative bloc, the European political space seems more than ever crossed by new tensions, original aspirations and protean social movements. In an astonishing similarity, the countries of Europe go through many a crisis of their system of representativity, whose authoritarian and authoritarian discourses emerge victorious. At the same time, many democratic aspirations are united behind a citizen's desire for greater social and economic justice and for a more ethical political life. How to explain, after a long progressive stability marked by the end of history, this success of candidatures combining societal conservatism and economic liberalism.

To discuss this European political space animated by these tensions, Jean-Michel De Waele, University of the Free University of Brussels, Antoine Heemerick, anthropologist and journalist at Radio Romania International and Chloé Ridel politest and co-funder of Mieux Voter. To animate this debate, Sergiu Mişcoiu Director of European Studies of Babes-Bolyai University.



## **CHLOÉ RIDEL, IGPDE I FR**

Chloé Ridel is a senior civil servant and poetry fanatic. A specialist in European affairs, she teaches at the French Institute for Public Administration and Economic Development (IGPDE) and is an associate professor at the Fondation Jean-Jaurès.



## **SERGIU MIŞCOIU, Babes-Bolyai University I EN**

Sergiu Mişcoiu is Professor of Political Science at the Faculty of European Studies, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) where he serves as a Director of the Centre for International Cooperation. He holds a PhD in Political Science (Paris-Est University), a PhD in History (Babes-Bolyai University), and a habilitation in Political Science (Paris-Est University). He is a member of the LIPHA Laboratory at the University Paris-Est (France) and an associate professor of the University of Szeged (Hungary). He wrote four books, edited and co-edited 20 volumes and wrote 50 articles, mainly in English, French, and Romanian. His main research interests are the constructivist and the alternative theories applied to the nation building processes, to populism and to the political transitional dynamics of the Central-Eastern European, French and African public spaces.

**Debate**  
**Friday 14th June — 05:45pm**



# Building a resilient city

The concept of a resilient city is defined as the ability of an urban system to absorb a disturbance and recover its functions as a result of this disturbance. But beyond the technological aspects, building material resistance, resilience is an interesting prospect for questioning urban services, relations between rulers and citizens and more broadly the resources brought by the city. The participation of citizens in the (re) construction of this city is then essential as well as developing a more horizontal mode of governance, a greater involvement of the civil society. In a context of withdrawal, erection of walls and privatization of the public space, some actors and participative initiatives contribute to the resubjection of the inhabitants, to the social opening up and thus affirm the necessity to make common and to create alternative horizons in the breaches of the planned city.



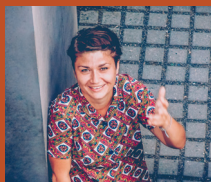
## **ISTVÁN SZAKÁTS, Artist I RO**

István Szakáts is an artist, curator, cultural producer and an active citizen of Cluj-Napoca. He has been advocating for empowerment through culture, socially engaged art and active citizenship for more than 20 years. As a multimedia artist, István has co-designed and produced a series of works including Samples – a sequel of mixed reality performances in public space on citizen rights, empowerment and reappropriation of public space, included in the programmes of several European Capitals of Culture (Istanbul, Pécs, Mons).



## **MARKO AKSESTIJEVIC, Ministry of Space I RO**

Marko Aksestijevic has over 10 years of experience in fighting for spatial justice through numerous collectives and organizations that he co-created in Belgrade, Serbia. With a background in political science, his activities have focused on fostering citizen engagement and public policy regarding spatial equality, and enhancing the effectiveness of the management of public resources. His work spans from squatting abandon buildings, over establishment of housing cooperatives to organizing massive demonstrations.



## **LALA PANAIT, La Terenuri Manesturi I RO**

Laura Panait (Lala) (born in 1983) lives and works in Cluj as an urban anthropologist, cultural manager and community facilitator. She holds a PhD in urban anthropology with a thesis on the process of democratization of public space through artistic interventions in Romania after 1989. As a founder of Colectiv A association, in 2012 she formed the community initiative “La Terenuri-Spațiu comun în Mănăștur/At the playgrounds -Common space in Mănăștur”, facilitating groups of citizens and their local media voices (neighbourhood newspaper-Buletin de Mănăștur) coordinating the neighbourhood festival (6editions) and facilitating other groups and citizens in Cluj.

*Debate*

**Friday 14th June — 07:00pm**

# Queer resistance in Europe

Discriminated, marginalized or oppressed, LGBTI communities across Europe are experiencing a wave of intolerance, more or less supported, accepted or promoted by public authorities. The referendum for the constitutionalisation of heterosexual marriage recently launched by the Romanian government, the rise of acts LGBTphobic found on the whole continent, demonstration against same-sex marriage or the repressions of events openly gay testify to this global conservative and identity trend.

To reflect on this particularly worrying situation we welcome several European actors who engage in different ways for the defense of LGBT rights. David Kakhberi, organizer of the Horoom events of the Georgian Bassiani club, Florin Buhuceanu of the NGO Accept and organizers of ClujPride will be present at the event.

Through political lobbying, legal defense, the party or the media, what means to defend these rights and strengthen international solidarity ?



## **DAVID KAKHABERI, Horoom I GE**

LGBT/AIDS activist, founder of HOROOM Nights. He has been involved in LGBT activism since 2007 and working on HIV/AIDS issues since 2014. His academic research has also been in this field. In 2016 he, other activists and the team of BASSIANI created the first ever queer events series in Georgia. From the beginning the title of these events has been HOROOM which originates from the Georgian national dance name. HOROOM Nights has become the biggest event in region which unites queer people. They often have guests from Armenia and Azerbaijan and other neighboring countries. Right now I work at Equality Movement which is LGBT rights NGO and he gives lectures in psychology at Ilia State University.



## **MIHAI POPESCU, Vice I RO**

Mihai has been with VICE Romania for over 6 years and has covered everything from protests and social issues, as a reporter and then senior editor, to brand partnerships and creative campaigns, in his new role as the company's senior copywriter. He is also responsible for all those headlines that everybody both loves and hates, in Romania. On LGBTQ, he has contributed to the partnerships with the community's NGOs and has covered the abuses committed during Romania's recent failed referendum to change the Constitution, to block any chance of same-sex marriage in the future, so he has an in-depth understanding of how the subject was treated in the local media.

*Debate*  
**Friday 14th June — 08:15pm**

# Useful infos

The complete program of talks and workshops at European Lab Cluj is free and open to all.

## Location

Tranzit House  
Strada George Barițiu 16, Cluj-Napoca 400027, Romania

## Social medias

Facebook : @europeanlab  
Twitter : @european\_lab  
Instagram : @european\_lab  
Hashtag : #ELcluj

## Contact

+40 737 520 854  
europeanlab@arty-farty.eu

## For more information

[www.cluj.europeanlab.com](http://www.cluj.europeanlab.com)

# Thanks to our partners !

MANIFESTARE ORGANIZATĂ ÎN CADRUL SEZONULUI ROMÂNIA-FRANȚA 2019



COMITETUL DE MECENAT PENTRU SEZONUL ROMÂNIA-FRANȚA 2019

TRANSPORTATOR OFICIAL



ARTY FARTY THANKS



# Arty Farty

Established in 1999, Arty Farty is a not-for-profit association, governed by the 1901 French Association Law. 100% European and 100% independent, Arty Farty places itself at the service of young people, innovative cultures, democratic renewal and the general interest.

Socially engaged and active, Arty Farty is a melting pot for ideas, debates and artistic initiatives, locally and on both a European and international level. It champions the renewal of public strategy in the fields of culture, entrepreneurship and democratic practices. Arty Farty campaigns for a greater understanding of the role that can be played by cultural, artistic and creative vision in redefining European integration and bridging today's social, territorial and generational divides.

Arty Farty has built an entrepreneurial ecosystem made up of diverse but complementary elements (including Culture Next, A.K.A., etc.). This new model places equal importance on entrepreneurial spirit and respect for the general interest, on transparency and independence, on democratic control and disinterested management.

Drawing on its experiences, Arty Farty is now placing its capabilities at the service of cultural projects, institutions, brands and enterprises:

- creation and production of event venues
- artistic and strategic consultancy and management
- project management and artistic support
- communications, mediation and press relations
- commercialisation and fundraising
- monitoring, prospecting and content production
- administrative management

