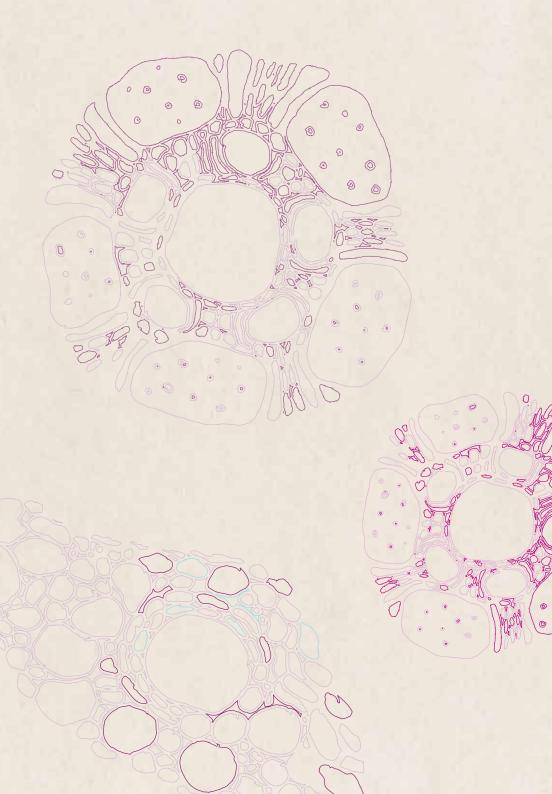
URBAN FURROWS





AN INTRODUCTION TO URBAN FURROWS

Slovenia is currently facing an economic, financial, energy, environmental and food crisis. This has been brought on by a strained crossroads of social, ecological, economic and cultural ideas, positivist views on a more efficient, flexible, and competitive society, inconsistent and unsustainable policies, and the lack of any kind of long-term vision for the development of society. Since Slovenia's position is not enviable in comparison to that of other European countries, the Urban Furrows programme, besides keeping the public informed, is first and foremost developing concrete examples of good practice in terms of alternative and autonomous production, specifically in those aspects of life which are a prerequisite for a tolerant, mutually cooperative, and creative society. On one hand, we have focused on strengthening a culture of cohabitation, on the other, we have aimed to preserve our cultural heritage which, for us, also necessarily includes biodiversity.

Without any pompous announcements, our two-year programme was launched in January 2011. In cooperation with local and district communities, educational and social institutions, and, most importantly, with dedicated creators from Maribor, we began establishing examples of good practice for the empowerment of communities. In less than half a year, and with the intense cooperation of seven research groups, our activities were expanded to include cooperation with over a thousand children, parents, various ethnic groups, experts, youth, farmers, workers, homeless people, Roma, handicapped people, and those who feel they have no future. The affirmation of the oppressed and dehumanised, or those who, despite their capabilities and competency, are unable to make a living, takes place through attempts to construct new kinds of subjectivities, which are being developed through emancipatory processes, such as the creation communities, cooperation, mutuality, solidarity, and dignity.

The Urban Furrows programme is composed of an active and highly qualified research team of expert researchers in the fields of sociology, anthropology, social work, ecology, agronomy, law, traffic sciences, and the visual arts. Our perspective is based on the theory of *social ecology*, which explains why environmental questions cannot be analysed or solved without first confronting the fundamental contradictions in the mechanisms behind modern society. These mechanisms are ripping apart the fabric of society and, consequentially, destroying our natural environment. In our work, we use the method of *militant research*, which characteristically takes on a creative, affirmative and dynamic role. Just like *potencia* itself (creative power) we work "with" people and not "for" them, also adhering to our principles – greater heterogeneity, totality, horizontality, autonomy, spontaneity, and intuition.

In comparison with the rest of Europe, Slovenia has the lowest level of fruit and vegetable self-sufficiency. This is compounded by the fact that for the last twenty years smaller traditional farms have been steadily dying out, and there has been a significant reduction in biodiversity. What's more, Slovenia loses seven hectares of arable land every day, and all of these problems are contributing to an exponential increase in the number of health risks. Urban Furrows' has responded to all of these challenges with the project Sustainable Local Supply, which is being developed in the district community of Tezno in cooperation with educational and social institutions, and with communities of small traditional farmers from the outskirts of Maribor. With concrete ties between the local community and the city, the goal is to shorten the distance from the farm to the fork, lower medical costs associated with inexpensive food, which currently comes from the cheapest European mega-markets, and to empower communities which, until now, have been ignored. Concurrently, we are putting together a seed library to collect, breed and increase the variety of autochthonous plant species, but most of all to put distribution systems in place, so that seasonal food with high biotic value will find its way back onto our plates. Using the many European success stories as examples, we will set up alternative community gardens in Borova Vas, immediately next to a large concentration of apartment blocks. In schools and kindergartens permaculture, butterfly, and fruit gardens will be created to enrich the learning process and re-establish contact with the natural environment.

As for the highest level of unemployment in Slovenia's history, the majority of Maribor's construction companies filing for bankruptcy, and the abuse of migrant workers, the Rhizome Collective, a research team of experts and construction workers, is looking for answers and alternatives by uncovering cases systemic discrimination. Various projects (such as Free PC, or Zero Dollar Laptop) are helping to establish a new subjectivity for African migrants to promote their own culture and become a creative part of the city. The Street Counselling Cafe consists of a team of social workers that provide counselling and representation in the field and in person as an answer to the problem of concealed homelessness. They are also looking for additional and systemic solutions for youth exposed to domestic violence, alcoholism, or drugs. While doing research with the Roma community three directions were outlined: first, literary work was to shed light on arranged weddings and the role of young girls and women in Roma families from the time of their migration to Maribor up to the present day; second, with the preparation of a Roma dictionary, Roma language classes would be held so that it would be used by youth and children; and finally, in the apartment blocks of Poljane, where there is a high concentration of Roma families dealing with

social issues, the *Ethnomobile* project will provide special programmes for the empowerment of young girls and women, educational workshops for children, and music therapy. The **Teleport** project – a cyclist and pedestrian friendly community with regular weekly bicycle repair shops, Critical Mass, bicycle parades, and plans for social enterprises – is already taking steps to combat "the raging cars" in the city, calling attention to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in the streets.

All seven of these Urban Furrows programmes, which are presented in their entirety in this brochure, are being implemented under one roof, at the **Centre for Alternative and Autonomous Production**, or **CAAP**. In a lively centre for the collective creation of ecological, social, cultural and artistic programmes, the Association of Creators for Alternative and Autonomous Production is ensuring that people's needs are provided for in a decent, high-quality, and alternative way. They are making special efforts to ennoble the activities of those who, within capitalist production, are always pushed to the bottom. CAAP brings together cooperatives, social and community enterprises, associations, institutes, and a number of other institutions involved in nonprofit activities, and is always searching for new possibilities for connection and exchange.

The triumph of Urban Furrows will come in the end. In October, 2012, at an international conference, the European public will be introduced to people who boldly dare to gaze into the future, even during these most brutal conditions of corporate plundering, war, violence, and financial repression. This will be a meeting of theorists, representatives of alternative trade unions, breakthrough movements, creators of autonomous cooperatives, communities in resistance, teachers and doctors from self-managed alternative institutions, writers, directors and fighters, who have been tirelessly developing their battles against capitalism for decades. These are people who have already, and on numerous occasions, stirred up politics in their own countries. We will be visited by movements from Latin America, Europe and Asia, all of whose theories, practices, principles, methods, and rich experiences have been included into the Urban Furrows programme and, regarding the potential and possibilities of the local environment, are being developed though our work. At the international conference the final touches will be put on the two-year process of creating communities, but also our thinking about alternative paths will be deepened, in order to facilitate our march into the future.

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RESEARCHING RONA AND ETHNIC ISSUES

Roma are often the first victims of unstable economic and social conditions in a country, something which can be seen from the example of Roma deportation from France in 2010, or the open political intolerance currently taking place in Hungary.

Human rights, and other rights as well, usually go unfulfilled first among those social groups who are the least homogenised with the rest of society. Also, because of discrimination, these groups are never able to function freely and autonomously. For these reasons, Urban Furrows has given special attention to ethnic and other minority groups living in Maribor. Slovenia has already experienced the systemic discrimination of "erased" residents from the register of the Republic of Slovenia, so vigilance in consistently respecting human rights, with special attention to ethnic and other minority groups in the country, is particularly important. This is something Urban Furrows will highlight within the context of the European Capital of Culture.

After three months of collectively reflecting on the life and creativity of minority groups in the city, the research group has decided on several directions and goals to serve as a basis to lay the groundwork for a Roma community. Since young generations are unfamiliar with their roots and are constantly returning to the question of their origins, the Roma identity, language and culture, we have begun to collect the life stories of the first migrants to Maribor from 1962 onwards. These will be highlighted in various academic contributions and sociological journals.

We hope to address young women, caught in the dilemmas of identity, tradition, and culture, who are both searching for and discovering life. In part this will be accomplished with a novel in which Jasmina Ahmetaj will present her personal story of being a teenager in Maribor. Also, there is a great need for a Roma dictionary, as today the second generation no longer speaks the Roma language and the younger children almost do not know it at all. So, we are preparing the first large-scale dictionary of the Roma language, which will be accompanied by intensive Roma language classes.

In order to facilitate greater interaction among different Roma neighbourhoods excursions will be organised to visit various Roma communities in Slovenia. With special programmes to empower young girls and women, in Maribor's neighbourhood of Poljane an assortment of workshops will be prepared with respect to the educational process of children, creative workshops and music therapy for children – all of which will take place in the context of the *Ethnomobile* project.

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IN COOPERATION WITH: Mira Muršič. Šemsedin Ahmetaj, Mihael Rudl. Shemsedin Berisha, Jasmina Ahmetaj, FREKVENCA - a Sociocultural Association of Restless and Active. non-governmental and other organisations, groups, and associations, which work in the area of Roma culture, social rights, educations, and representation.

HOMELESSNESS AND THE STATE OF DISCARDED YOUTH

For many years, homelessness in Slovenia has been heavily stereotyped. Researchers and homeless people in Ljubljana have made great progress in terms of good practice – six years ago they organised themselves into the Kings of the Street Association. They developed their own unique methodology of active work, with which they established a number of social, educational, artistic, and sporting activities. Today everyone knows the Kings of the Street from their monthly newspaper, the University under the Stars, the Theatre of the Oppressed, programmes for housing and re-employment, a day-centre, a used item shop, international football tournaments, and guest residencies.

Working closely with the Kings of the Street, the research group of social workers and psychologists which formed in the context of Urban Furrows will also attempt to make use of these positive examples in Maribor for the empowerment of individuals and groups. This has been titled the *First Step*, and it is the framework for two projects.

With a project titled *Street Counselling Cafe* we are working right in the field with the homeless, looking for a way to gain access to social services. Through representation we seek to abolish systemic discrimination by informing and advising. In the future it is hoped that this concept of work will be transferred to a specific location, a kind of open format cafe and tea house, where different marginalised groups, not only the homeless, but also youth, women, victims of violence, migrants, and others, will be able to find all the answers to the institutional and other barriers they face.

IN COOPERATION WITH: Mirjana Lahovnik, Simona Ratajc, Anita Rifl. Lidija Kraner, PREDNOST - a Sociocultural Association for Vulnerable Social Groups. The Maribor Centre for Social Work. Caritas, The Kings of the Street Association. The Youth Crisis Centre. The Maribor Youth House. and a number of other organisations.

Special attention will be given to concealed homelessness, something faced by families who have found themselves in serious social distress because of high unemployment. However, this also affects youth who, due to domestic violence, have been subjected to institutional solutions until their 18th year, after which they are left to the streets, without suitable employment or scholarships for studies, and also often without social or financial aid. So that they might not be subjected to life in the streets, violence, and discrimination merely because of the incomplete nature of institutional systems, together with various organisations we are organising the project *Youth House*.

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MODERN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES



IN COOPERATION WITH: Tina Rajšter, Urška Breznik, Tapiwa Chapo, Jeams Preye Dufua, the KUD Anarhiv, transitional migrant workers and a number of other Rhizome Collective members. The Rhizome Collective deals with migration policies, and works with those who are most affected by those policies. Most of their work is done in the field of everyday life; researchers have conversations with migrant workers in single person residences, with refugees in the Integration House, and with immigrants from Africa and Iran, who are walking along Maribor's streets. The goal is to examine whether or not the aforementioned policies have been realised in specific living circumstances.

Since the key guidelines for Urban Furrows are dignity, empowerment and the principle of sustainability, ideas on the potentials of long-term projects, sets or groups of activities, which would then become independent in the future, are debated and developed at weekly gatherings. The projects would then be run by some of the migrants, who are an integral part of the Rhizome Collective. The Rhizome Collective is therefore not a nongovernment organisation or humanitarian institution, nor is it a service or collective of social strategists. It does not work for people; it works with them. This is how we are trying to ensure the sustainability of projects, which come to be in the process mentioned above, since it is the people who will be taking the initiative, and not some organisation or another.

Within the context of Urban Furrows the *Free PC* project is currently being developed. It is a kind of contextual reworking of an example of good practice from abroad – a project called *Zero Dollar Laptop*. In the course of an active and informal educational process, participants learn the basics of open-source systems and obtain the skills necessary to use a laptop. At the end of the course they become the owners of the laptops they used, which were donated for this purpose. Since this provides them with autonomous access to the digital world, this is where their affirmation begins. In connection with the project, the *Centre of Digital Nomadism* will be created. It will be a digital support platform for all future or en-route migrants to Maribor, and will be run by participants from the *Free PC* project.

The *African Village* project encompasses an assortment of supportive socioeducational and artistic activities, which will serve to inform the local region about Africa. It will also represent its own unique contribution to the variety of the local region and to the development of the culture of coexistence.

> Group coordinator: Tomaž Gregorc (tomaz.gregorc@maribor2012.eu; +38622281242; +38622281243)



In any given local environment, everyday cycling or errands done on foot can be important generators of sustainable development, creativity, economic independence, healthy lifestyle, quality of living, solidarity, connection, a sense of belonging, responsibility, and personal satisfaction among members of the community. Communities where cars play a central role in transportation face many problems, such as traffic jams, noise, pollution, poverty, accidents, disease, fear, obsession with safety, xenophobia, intolerance and more. Solving these problems is time consuming and expensive.

According to the number of inhabitants, financial capabilities, the number of trained specialists, experience, and driving etiquette, Maribor is far behind the successful stories of Seville, Copenhagen, Paris, Vancouver and others. However, we also have to take into account the fact that there are thousands of cities like Maribor around the world, and these cities will have to find their own ways of achieving some form of sustainable mobility – successful cases can only serve to provide examples and motivation. Maribor's recipe for success will almost certainly have to include a combination of serious political support, suitable budgets, qualified experts, bold initiatives, persistent non-governmental organisations, and determination in order to carry out such radical changes.

Within the context of the European Capital of Culture and the Urban Furrows programme, the *Teleport* project will develop and establish a supportive environment for the future development of community cycling programmes. Similarly, we are interested in discovering how to exchange the automotive trend for one of sustainable mobility. Our aim is to gradually create the conditions in which people will choose daily cycling or walking more often. Above all, however, our challenge is to transform Maribor into a cyclist and pedestrian friendly city, which is also suitable and safe for other more vulnerable elements on the streets. Our team will encourage a new culture of mobility and bring new meaning to the everyday routine of overcoming the dimensions of time and space.

IN COOPERATION WITH: Aleksandra Gantar, Anja Koželj, Blanka Kefer, Kamile Medzevičiute, Matej Pehnec, Matej Jarc, Beno Mesarec, Božidar Ipavic, Robert Veselko, Žiga Pavlovič, Tomaž Guček, the Maribor Cyclists' Network.

TELEPORT-A

CYCLIST

PEDESTRIAN

FRIENDLY

COMMUNITY

AND

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SUSTAINABLE LOCAL SUPPLY

IN COOPERATION WITH: Anton Komat. dr. Milojka Fekonja, Mateja Koler, Denis Ploj, dr. Marjan Skalicky, the Maribor Faculty of Law. the Maribor Vocational College for Catering and Tourism, Cooperative - the villages of Jurovski Dol. the Tezno kindergarten. elementary school and retirement home. and a number of other institutions.

Since the end of the twentieth century, the world has been facing increasingly difficult problems to ensure safe, healthy and sufficient food for the world's population. Due to rapid population growth, the fatal connection of food production with oil, the threat of climate change, and the destruction of fertile land, we will be forced to shift to more sustainably oriented local food production, based on solar energy. Since the so called "green revolution" in agriculture was based on fossil fuels and the agrochemical substances produced from them, the renewed solarisation of farming has become a developmental imperative for the survival of mankind. During this inevitable transition it is necessary to provide everyone with the proper information and options regarding the types of local food supply choices available, and to create a model of good practice which could be put to use in other areas as well.

With the Sustainable Local Food Supply pilot project, the Urban Furrows research group will organise, establish and promote the first integral trials for self-regulated farmers. The farmers will then be part of the process to redirect farms in the direction of ecological production, setting up a distribution centre for the cities inhabitants and public institutions, and promoting products from Jurovski Dol and their own cultures. The main goal is to see them remain completely independent and continue successfully working, becoming model examples of sustainable farming that works in harmony with nature, well after the conclusion of the European Capital of Culture programme. The pilot project will help to reorganise the food chain of certain institutions in Tezno based on the principles sustainability, safety, health and cooperation. The way food is consumed has an exceptionally powerful effect on the health of the population, the organisation of economic subjects, and especially on the introduction of sustainable and ecological methods of food production. Achieving a sustainably oriented and safe food system necessarily demands the cooperation of everyone in the food chain.

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SEED LIBRARY

IN COOPERATION WITH: Mateja Koler,

dr. Milojka Fekonja,

Cooperative - the

- the Association to

villages of Jurovski Dol, the Seed Guardians

Preserve the Biodiversity of Cultural Plants and other institutions.

Anton Komat,

Denis Ploj, the Maribor Faculty of

Law.

In the last century alone, with the development of industrial monoculture farming for the global market, three fourths of all crops have been lost. Since modern agriculture is based on quantity and the price of produce, not on the quality and variety of food, we currently produce 1,250 times fewer plant species than we once did. The seed has become a form of merchandise on the market, and thereby the property of large corporations which, with a monopoly on supply, dictate what to produce and what is eaten. Older, locally developed plant species have been erased from seed catalogues.

At Urban Furrows it is felt that with the promotion of culture we cannot forget to protect biodiversity. The mass use of hybrids with identical or genetically similar types of plants is causing the extinction of certain important gene carriers, like plants' ability to adapt to new growing conditions. The uniformity of hybrids increases the need to use chemicals, which threatens not only our health, but also the natural balance of the ecosystem. An even greater danger to biodiversity is the ever increasing expansion of genetic engineering.

A mechanism needs to be found to protect the biodiversity of crops and to re-cultivate them. This is the foundation of food safety, and of the preservation of our cultural traditions, heritage, and even life itself. To this end, a seed library is being developed - an interactive system among farmers, gardeners, individuals, organisations and institutions, which will encourage the cultivation and preservation of autochthonous and endangered locally grown varieties of crops. Alongside, we will also preserve traditional knowledge on sustainably oriented agricultural practices, as well as the preservation and "rehabilitation" of the seed itself. The seed library will be a mechanism which will collect, save, and catalogue seed and plant materials from different varieties of crops. Unlike a gene bank, which is closed to the general public, and which has as its main goal the long-term preservation of genetic material, the backbone of the seed library will be maintained by a network of "seed savers" responsible for autochthonous and endangered crop varieties. As for blueprint to actually creating a seed library, the guidelines have already been provided by existing and successful models from around the world.



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COMMUNITY GARDENING

Urban gardens, balcony troughs, fruit parks and promenades, rooftop gardens and hedges instead of iron or concrete fences – all of the above are used by self-organised groups in numerous countries around the world to renew and transform public spaces. Urban gardens represent economic, ecological, cultural and social challenges for the local population. On top of being a place for socialising, exchanges, interactions, self-sufficiency and learning, they also provide a social and cultural corrective, while simultaneously re-connecting life with the direct experience of providing for human needs.

Besides being a creative way of using and caring for green spaces, community gardening lowers transport and storage costs, and emissions, while also reducing the population's dependence on the price of oil, pharmaceutical corporations, and trade lobbies. It recycles organic material in the city, and enables the production of local, seasonal, and live food for households. Gardens also make agronomic literacy possible; they establish a relationship with the earth and the environment, and a new perception of public spaces. They offer a place for children to play, for recreation and relaxation, and also automatically improve the health and well-being of people. The cultural potential of community gardens highlights an increase in the perceivable quality of space with the co-creation of green areas in the city; it deters the creation of wild refuse dumps, and represents an exceptional educational value, primarily for children and youth.

In the context of Urban Furrows, the once impossible to realise idea of an urban intervention has been both refined and accepted by the Municipality of Maribor (MOM) in a decree in 1986. That then allowed us to draw up more than one model for community gardening, and in order to create an example of good practice a hectare of land was obtained from the municipality of Zgornje Radvanje. Together with the residents of the neighbouring apartment blocks we will create a model for ecological community gardening according to the principle of joint gardens, which will be a common place for producers and an area for typical sheds, made from natural materials. With a direct connection to the waterside promenade, which connects the recreational area by Pekrska Gorca, an area with a high concentration of residents (Nova Vas, Borova Vas), to the Betnava recreational forest, the entire area has a high potential of becoming an example of good practice. With various sample plantings these community gardens will be replicated in educational institutions and retirement homes in Tezno.

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IN COOPERATION WITH: Anton Komat, dr. Milojka Fekonja, Simona Trčak, Mateja Koler, Denis Ploj, the Tezno kindergarten, elementary school, and retirement home, and retirement home, and residents living in close proximity to the community garden.



THE CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE AND AUTONOMOUS PRODUCTION CAAP

> IN COOPERATION WITH: The Association of

Creators for Alternative

and Autonomous

the Maribor Cyclists' Network.

the Jurovski Dol

distribution centre and Cooperative – the

the KUD Anarhiv, the seed library, and others.

villages of Jurovski Dol.

Production, FREKVENCA,

PREDNOST.

The profit-oriented management of both nature and people has led to numerous pressing social and ecological problems, all of which demand answers. Since the very beginnings of our capitalistic system there has been a need for a more just, and less aggressive, economic system, and sustainable solutions can only be provided by a paradigmatically different economic model. As a result, many differing ideas on alternative models for production are constantly being presented. That which most of these alternative models share is the principle of community response to the needs of society, closely tied to the principles of autonomy, non-profit, and a democratic form management.

The social and economic projects being implemented by Urban Furrows will therefore come to fruition in the shape of newly established associations and cooperatives, as well as other non-profit legal entities who, together with certain already active non-profit organisations in the area of social ecology, will join together in the *Centre for Alternative and Autonomous Production*. In this way the centre will link together organisations which, through their activities, are working to ensure sustainable local food production, the development of sustainable mobility, the inclusion of different communities with fewer opportunities, the preservation of biodiversity, sociocultural work in local communities, and much more.

The centre will offer its members (associations, cooperatives, institutions, foundations) professional, organisational, technical, legal, and administrative support. It will also take care to ensure the development and preservation of close cooperation between members of the centre itself, as well as cooperation between the centre and local, or more widely-defined, communities. On top of its commitment to the development of social economy (social cooperatives, social enterprises, sociocultural societies, etc.), the *Centre for Alternative and Autonomous Production* will also commit itself to the research and promotion of alternative production in general, while also representing the interests of alternative production in the wider economic sphere and before state and municipal organs.

The *Centre for Alternative and Autonomous Production* is also going to be a unifying platform that will research and develop alternative methods to satisfy the social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs of the community.

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THE URBAN FURROWS CORE COLLECTIVE

Marta Gregorčič, PhD (Head of the Urban Furrows programme)

Marta Gregorčič is an assistant professor of cultural studies and has a PhD in sociology. After working with Slovenian and foreign academic institutions, development programs, emancipation movements and organisations involved in rebellion in peripheral capitalist countries for 15 years she received the opportunity to develop liberating culture practices of co-existence and political creation directly in the local community.

She has published seven books, over 50 academic and technical papers, worked as an editor for dozens of publications and spoken at numerous international conferences. Due to her vast experience with field work in Europe, Latin America and Asia, she has an important influence within scientific and research programmes, though she remains first and foremost an activist with a keen sensibility for exposing the processes such as modern oppression, taking things for granted, ideologies, complacency and ignorance. Her work with the people on the very edge of society has made her into a determined and outspoken fighter for rights. With her knowledge and valuable experience, Marta Gregorčič is taking care of the development of alternative and emancipatory content and practices in Urban Furrows, thereby strengthening the motivational inspiration of the entire programme.

Mateja Zobarič Trplan (executive manager)

Mateja Zobarič Trplan graduated in sociology and has dedicated most of her adult life to working in various non-governmental organisations. She was one of the first to be involved in Metelkova, where she was inspired by radical social theories and criticism, freedom movements, counterculture and subculture currents, ecology and environmental protection, as well as various projects to establish and preserve the autonomy of independent creative urban spaces.

Professionally, she has worked on political analysis and monitoring in the fight against racism, discrimination and xenophobia, and has conducted research on the factors in the educational system which influence the academic success of elementary school children. Recently, she has become interested mainly in the younger population. She has developed and led a number of alternative and innovative projects and practices, both for them and with them. Mateja has also been a mentor and coordinator for various activities and volunteer work, as well as being co-organiser of numerous public events, festivals and guest residencies at the local, national and international level. Along with her multifaceted research work, mainly in the social areas of the Urban Furrows programme, she has found her main calling in organisational, coordinating and supportive tasks for all the collaborators and activities of the programme. "Urban Furrows is a network of very different socially active people, who are investing an enormous amount of knowledge, time, experience, and altruistic aspirations into the realisation of their goals. These goals will serve as examples of good practice by encompassing all the extensiveness and diversity of a micro-environment, step by step. In turn, this will provide us with guidelines for necessary global and societal changes."

Hazemina Minka Đonlić (coordinator of the research group working with Roma and other ethnic communities)

Hazemina Minka Đonlić graduated in social work and is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, therapist, photographer and writer. Having been marked with temporary refugee status, since 1992 she has been working actively in social and cultural areas as an activist, music workshop mentor, the head of various cultural projects, and a speaker on behalf of others. She has put down her experiences as a refugee from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Slovenia in the monograph "Ten Years of Isolation" (Deset let samote, 2003). In practice she is devoted to the principles and methods of community care, as well as antiracist, ethnically sensible and sociocultural work. Her desire for research also led her to the Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg State Conservatory of Music, where, during her practical work term in 2006 and 2007, she became acquainted with Russian culture. With those experiences in hand she expanded her already long list of projects relating to the field of applied ethnomusicology, and all the while she

has been working with many non-governmental agencies and movements. For the last few years she has been irreplaceable as the head of sociocultural projects aimed at members of Roma communities and other ethnic minority groups in Grosuplje, Ljubljana, Maribor, and occasionally also in Berovo (Macedonia).

"In the context of the *Ethnomobile* project we are working towards a better understanding and acceptance of both Roma and other ethnic minorities in the city. We are especially making an effort to raise awareness about communityoriented, cooperative and mutual creativity."

Simona Mauko

(homelessness and vulnerable youth research group coordinator)

Simona Mauko graduated from university with a degree in social work. She has focused her career on researching youth, and has especially dedicated herself to finding examples of good practice in Slovenia and abroad. With traditional work methods, employment, and volunteer work, she has searched for new forms of integral approaches for all vulnerable social groups, always attempting to empower individuals and groups through representation.

Ten years ago she heard someone say "If you save one person out of one hundred, you have been successful." This is something that she is constantly trying to refute, as she believes that with the right approach, and by working with people, so much more is possible. For this reason, last year she decided to take an independent path, opening a "different" door for people; where they can be seen and heard, but are also co-creators of the solutions to their problems. At Urban Furrows Simona Mauko focuses mainly on different vulnerable groups. Together with them she develops innovative models for recycling relationships and recuperating the community. "Urban Furrows is made of programme sections focusing on all the gaps in the society we live in. We are here to fill those gaps."

Tomaž Gregorc

(coordinator of the migrant and refugee research group)

Tomaž Gregorc has a bachelor's degree in cultural sciences and social anthropology. Professionally, he has been involved in the question of culture, including everything from shamanism, traditional Mayan medicine, art and lunacy. His scientific and

research work encompasses the fields of theoretical and applied humanities, Mediterranean anthropology, migration, racism and nationalism, theoretical psychoanalysis, university criticism, and much more. Outside of his academic life he has also been active in the fields of culture and art for many years. Already at a very young age, Tomaž Gregorc was one of the founders of the Izola Youth Centre, and he is also active in music. mostly through the creation of ambient electronic experimental music, while also exploring the theory of visual and acoustic arts, as well as the creation of musical backgrounds for performances. At the end of 2010, because of his criticism of educational programmes and the guild-like politics at the University, he was refused the already precarious employment of assistant professor, but as a result he received an honorary spot as a co-worker in the Urban Furrows research group. Within Urban Furrows Tomaž Gregorc is developing his inspiration for the augmentation and realisation of his academic and activist aspirations with the Rhizome Collective, the social part of the programme. This is mainly taking place through the research of problems faced by marginalised groups in local and global social environments, and the search for innovative ways of approaching inequality and systemic discrimination. "Urban Furrows is not a non-governmental organisation or a humanitarian institution, nor is it a service or a team of social strategists. We don't work for people; we work with them. This ensures the sustainability of practices, which result from these collective work processes."

Josip Rotar

(coordinator for the Teleport research group)

Josip Rotar graduated from university in traffic engineering but can also boast of many years experience as a journalist and an editor, and even more for his participation as an activist in the area of civil society initiatives. He has combined his professional and activist interests in his various efforts to implement and develop the culture of sustainable living and movement through space.

Within Urban Furrows he is using the project *Teleport* – a cyclist and pedestrian friendly community – to direct all his enthusiasm towards a more cyclist-oriented mobilisation of the community. Through the momentum of community cycling programmes he will, among other things, attempt to achieve both the reawakening and the empowerment of the community in an innovative way. Commenting on Urban Furrows he said: "Our programme section is a kind of mixture; a socio-ecological

explosive. We have two basic ideas which represent the seeds for our seeder in the furrows. They are sustainability and empowerment. The first means that we do things so that they last. The second means that we are not just giving people fish to eat. On the contrary, we are teaching them to fish."

Matej Zonta

(coordinator of the ecological part of Urban Furrows)

Matej Zonta is a university graduate in law, and began his career in the field of culture and graphic arts. During that time, and even before then, he organised and coordinated several public events in the area of culture, ecology, education and social initiatives, and was also a translator and lecturer. For a number of years he worked with various non-governmental organisations researching different types of discrimination and forms of social exclusion. As a political grassroots activist in the areas of ecology, environmental protection, anti-militarism and antidiscrimination he has constantly worked for the empowerment of individuals and various social groups. His passion for activism and research has taken him to Latin America where he did field research on social movements and at which time he became especially interested in the self-organisation of farmers. He has also enhanced his activist work with the artistic expression of his own documentary photography, which he has displayed at several photography exhibitions.

In Urban Furrows he is the coordinator of the ecological part of the programme, where new models of self-organisation are being developed with the aim of reaffirming and empowering communities. From seed libraries, community gardens and gardens in schools to sustainable local food supplies, and new ties between the city and the countryside. "The aim of the ecological part of the programme is to create an integrated approach to ensure sustainable local food supplies. This starts with the cultural heritage of seeds, is developed through the educational process in kindergartens and schools, and comes full circle with community gardens and the distribution of produce in the city."

Karolina Babič

(coordinator of the Centre of Alternative and Autonomous Production)

Karolina Babič graduated from university with a degree in philosophy. At the moment she is finishing her doctorate in the

area of philosophy, where she is analysing the incorporation of work and workers into modern production processes. Her theoretical interests are mainly in the area of the philosophy of economics and the relations between ethics and economics. Her practical curiosity is directed towards the search for and establishment of alternative economical practices. For more than 15 years she has been working in cooperation with various cultural and social initiatives; she writes popular, technical and academic articles, works as an editor, and participates in round tables and public lectures, where the aim of her efforts is mainly the criticism or reinterpretation of the key concepts which form the conceptual framework of modern economical paradigms. With that she hopes that a new understanding of concepts, such as value, work, the worker, creation, and others, will soften the terrain for the planting of new socio-economic practices.

At Urban Furrows Karolina Babič will take care of the research of social entrepreneurship and other alternative production models, and especially their transfer into the practices of the local environment.

Vanja Bućan (photographer and multimedia creator at Urban Furrows)

After studying sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana, Vanja Bućan graduated from the Royal Academy of Art in the Hague, Department of Photography. For many years she was involved in political activism as a part of an international ecological and cultural grassroots initiative. Mostly, she is interested in local urban interventions and the art of recycling. She participated in the building of children's playgrounds in predominantly Roma areas of Rome and Milan with the international Millegomme group, and continues to work with non-governmental organisations to create promotional campaigns to this day. She regularly works with choreographers and dancers on artistically reworked documental photography projects. She exhibits her work in Slovenia and abroad. At Urban Furrows she will be in charge of the visual presentations and the production of individual projects, as well as the international reach-out. "I look at Maribor through the eyes of a newcomer, and as someone with years of experience working in various European capitals. Both local and participatory projects, such as Urban Furrows, are the best forms of intervention into the actual state and emotions of this city."



TIMETABLE

Gymnasium, Maribor)

12 January, 2012 at Dom Pod Gorco 12 May, 2012 at Dom Pod Gorco and near Pekrska Gorca 20 June, 2012 at Janko Padežnik Elementary School 22 September, 2012 near the Maribor Carpentry School 18 October, 2012 at the Maribor Carpentry School	In THE GAME TOGETHER intergenerational games and socialising at Studenci The Maribor Counselling Centre, Janko Padežnik Elementary School, Dom Pod Gorco, the Studenci Preschool, the District of Studenci At Studenci we will set up either a temporary or permanent place for intergenerational socialising. Children, adolescents, parents and grandparents will be able to enjoy various social games from different generations, times, nationalities and cultures; together they will be able to connect and cooperate. The event was initiated by the Maribor Counselling Centre for Children, Adolescents and Parents, which is celebrating 60 years of work, and was also supported and augmented by various institutions and townspeople.
29 February, 2012 5:00 p.m. Theatre Hall Naskov Dvorec Mansion Vetrinjska Ulica 30 Maribor	WHERE ARE THE LIMITS? a public debate The Centre for Digital Nomadism This will be the first public debate in Maribor on the migration policies of the EUREMA pilot project. This will also be the first public discussion about how eight refugees from Africa are getting on, after Maribor granted them asylum in 2010 within the EUREMA project. Topics will include the effects of integration, the abuse of border policies, the people who cross those borders, and those who do not.
Every other Thursday 5:00 p.m. Poljane housing settlement Murkova Ulica Maribor	ETHNOMOBILE socio-artistic workshops Ethnomobile, Frekvenca In the Poljane housing settlement there is a concentrated multitude of socially weaker and ethnically diverse families living on a small, noisy, and busy section of concrete. Ethnomobile is changing that narrow concrete into a creative stage of all imaginable languages. It is where people will dance, learn, sing, and connect with each other; where we will attack discrimination and conflict with creativity.
The first Monday of every Month Second Gymnasium Trg Miloša Zidanška 1 Maribor	AFRICAN VILLAGE artistic workshops to encourage the culture of cohabitation African Village Once a month, together with the Slovenian-Zimbabwean artist Tapiwa Chapo, we will get to know African techniques for painting, music, and sculpture, but most of all we will learn about a holistic understanding of human beings in the environment, the culture of cohabitation, and the role of the community in the creation of a better everyday life.
Every Wednesday 9:00 a.m11:00 a.m. (the first Wednesday at Grajski Trg, the second at Magdalenski Park, the third at Glavni Trg, and the fourth at Mestni Park – in front of the First	STREET COUNSELLING CAFE street counselling, informing, and representation First Step, Prednost Every Wednesday, at one of Maribor's squares or parks, the Street Counselling Cafe will come to life. We will approach people who have dropped out of the system, and – on an individual basis! – will provide counselling, and get them informed. They will be offered representation, and concrete information on social security, healthcare, education and citizenship.

Every third Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m8:00 p.m. at the Pobrežje Residence for Single Persons Železnikova Ulica 12 Maribor	Solidarity and Resistance a discussion on the self-organisation of the working class The Centre for Digital Nomadism At regular meetings with the workers at the Pobrežje Residence for migrant workers in a common fight against never-ending exploitation, we open the floor to questions on approaches for self- organisation and on bringing the working class together; on modern oppression, and on injustice. All roads lead to solving the problems and the demands for solutions – for a better tomorrow.
2 April, 2012 4:00 p.m. Theatre Hall Naskov Dvorec Mansion Vetrinjska Ulica 30 Maribor	WHEN WILL ROMA WRITE ABOUT US? Ethnomobile, Frekvenca, Zulk, the Journal for the Critique of Science, for Imagination and New Anthropology At the opening of the fourth Romano Čhon Festival for Roma Culture, two researchers of Roma culture, social anthropologist Martin Olivera and Roma specialist Patrick Williams, will present the difficulties of European policies and non-governmental organisations when dealing with Roma communities in Europe.
Every first Tuesday of the month between April and October, 2012 5:00 p.m8:00 p.m. Partizanska Cesta 21 Maribor	THE CYCLISTS' KITCHEN Teleport, the Maribor Cyclists' Network After a visit to the cyclists' kitchen you will never look at tinkering the same way again. Here you can fix your bicycle by yourself, with exceptional tools at your disposal, and backed by the superior knowledge of instructors. But, most of all, you will get your hands dirty with some good friendly socialising in a great atmosphere.
18 April, 2012 6:00 p.m. Theatre Hall Naskov Dvorec Mansion Vetrinjska Ulica 30 Maribor	ALTERNATIVE UNIONS a public debate The Centre for Digital Nomadism How can we succeed in defending the rights that the working class fought so hard for in the past? How can we overcome the conditions which have become established with neoliberalism? This public debate will illuminate the active work of alternative unions and also the importance of self- organisation in times when neoliberalism threatens the rights of workers.
22 April, 2012 10:00 a.m. Jurovski Dol Slovenske Gorice	JURJEVANJE WITH HORSES a procession of horses from the extensive Slovenske Gorice region Green Central A procession of more than one hundred horses and the sunny dancing of fertility with Jarilo, or Green George, who drives away the winter and brings the spring; it is a one of a kind celebration, full of gingerbread hearts and spring joy – this year will be the 20th in a row!
Every Tuesday and Thursday (from March to June and from September to	FREE PC computer workshops The Centre for Digital Nomadism, the KUD Anarhiv, and the Human Resource Development Centre

27 April, 2012 9:00 a.m. Jurovski Dol	GETTING TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE FROM a walk among beauty and goodness Green Central Across fledgling meadows, fresh forests and blooming orchards runs a path, five kilometres long, which turns here and there among the beauty and goodness of Jurovski Dol; among stories of herbs, an old mill, or a deceased witch, all the way to the backyards of local people with richly
	laden tables.
15 May, 2012 10:00 a.m. Tezno preschool ("Mehurčki" section) Martin Konšak primary school the Tezno home for the elderly	EDUCATIONAL-RECREATIONAL GARDENS an opening of gardens and lawns Community Gardens, Sustainable Local Supply (TLP), the Seed Library, the Tezno preschool, primary school, and home for the elderly Come take a look at the integrated arrangements for gardens, which we have prepared together with children, parents, and local residents during the entire course of last year: parks with autochthonous types of fruit trees, flower beds with vegetables and greens, all inviting us to playfully obtain some practical knowledge, observe the process of growth, and even pick some ripe strawberries.
31 May, 2012 5:00 p.m. Leon Štukelj Square Maribor	BICYCLE PARADE Teleport, the Maribor Cyclists' Network On the last day of May everyone who enjoys cycling will poor onto the streets – some also dressed up in a magnificent choreography – as we parade through the streets of Maribor. And we call one and all: give people the chance to cycle safely and comfortably!
9 June, 2012 11:00 a.m. Borova Vas Maribor	Community GARDENS the opening of the gardens Community Gardens, Sustainable Local Supply (TLP), the Seed Library In the vicinity of the Zgornja Radvanja district of Borova Vas, together with the local residents, we have constructed an ecological community garden, which offers a self-sufficient supply of fresh produce, but is also becoming a place to get to know people, socialise, and encourage the organisation of communities.
7–14 July, 2012 Maribor and the surrounding area	THE TRAFFIC HIERARCHY IN CITIES an international workshop on traffic and mobility Teleport, the Maribor Cyclists' Network What exactly is the hierarchy of power among various participants in traffic? Can we change this hierarchy? At the workshop, recognised international experts will give tips for thinking about new and fresh concepts of mobility in both Maribor and beyond.
21–29 July, 2012 10:00 a.m. Jurovski Dol	HOUSE OF BREAD WEEK covering old cabins with hay Green Central, the Association of Green Central, the St. George Society of Rural Women Do you by any chance know how an old house gets its hay-covered roof? Every day for an entire week at the House of Break we will work: the young and old learning together and from each other, uncovering the richness of old cereals and good bread, knitting, baking, telling each other stories and building a house – an old hay-covered cabin – which will become a true "house of

28 July, 2012 3:00 p.m. Jurovski Dol	HARVEST Green Central, the Dediščina Heritage Tourism Association Come harvest from a field in the old way: with traditional singing and in vigorously good spirits we will reap, cut, thrash, get the old and original machines going, sometimes with oxen, sometimes with horses. Occasionally at the end we even do some ploughing and a little planting of beets or turnips, but we always finish with dance and music, bringing one and all together.
20 September, 2012 5:00 p.m. Leon Štukelj Square Maribor	BICYCLE PARADE Teleport, the Maribor Cyclists' Network In September we are getting on our bikes and taking them to the streets for European Mobility Week and for Car-Free Days. We will make stops at important and critical points along the road, symbolically taking them over with short cultural interventions, parties, and socialising to highlight the key problems that we face in Maribor.
15–21 October, 2012 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Jurovski Dol	 "Püshel." Fall Festival a week of wine and local farms Green Central and the local residents of Jurovski Dol Get yourself a map, a one-of-a-kind glass, and some physical stamina. Then take the path from a wine cellar to a different courtyard, with a fully set table; enter into a world of 200-300 immense presses, try the local cider, wine, bread and honey, and all while getting to know the smaller farms of Jurovski Dol.
10–20 October, 2012 CAAP	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE a global gathering for representatives of breakthrough movements and theories Urban Furrows After two years of work we at Urban Furrows will demonstrate what we have created in Maribor. This triumph will be seasoned with a large international conference where we will meet with individuals who have shaken and changed policies in their own countries, from Latin America to Asia. There will be a debate on self-organisation and the future with theorists, leaders of alternative unions, representatives of breakthrough movements, representatives of autonomous cooperatives, communities involved in rebellion, teachers and doctors from self-regulated alternative institutions, writers, directors, and fighters – to send a message and tell Europe all that she has suppressed.
5 November, 2012 5:00 p.m. CAAP	ROMANI ČHIB – THE ROMA LANGUAGE a presentation of the dictionary and literary work Ethnomobile, Frekvenca For the first time, the World Day of the Romani Language will be celebrated in Slovenia with a new and extensive Roma-Slovenian dictionary. The wealth of a national culture hides in its variety and in its recognition of smaller cultures. Romani Čhib will also be celebrated by the first work of literature by Roma author Jasmina Ahmetaj who, through her personal story, describes growing up, arranged marriages and the (im)possibilities of choosing between tradition and personal desires.
16 November, 2012 5:00 p.m. CAAP	THE CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE AND AUTONOMOUS PRODUCTION <i>the official inauguration of the centre</i> Association of Creators for Alternative and Autonomous Production After two years of establishing various innovative practices, Urban Furrows is officially opening the doors to the Centre for Alternative and Autonomous Production. CAAP is a place for new connections and designing alternative ways to answer the needs of communities: sustainable local supply, sustainable mobility, sociocultural work, re-using things and places, the preservation of biodiversity and the development of various socio-entrepreneurial initiatives. CAAP is a place where abandoned buildings in the urban environment rise from the dead and grow into lively centre for community work.

19 November, 2012 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. CAAP	FARMER'S FEAST Cooperative – the villages of Jurovski Dol, the Distribution Centre, Sustainable Local Supply (TLP), the Seed Library, Urban Gardens, and others
	Mmm, it smells so good! At the farmer's feast, after two years of creative work, we will show you what sustainable local supply truly means. There will be a presentation of the first alternative farming cooperative, which we set up together with smaller producers in Jurovski Dol. There will be a lot to eat and much merrymaking as we look back on the path we have come down together and realise that we now have available autochthonous seeds, which will lead to a properly prepared and served Gibanica cake!
20 November, 2012 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. CAAP	SUPERHEROES ON BICYCLES Teleport, the Maribor Cyclists' Network
	After two years of "teleporting" the Maribor Cyclists' network within CAAP, we will present a socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable direction for our cycling programme. In order to achieve the goals we've set, there has been a constant need for superheroes on bicycles – heroes with bikes and funny costumes, who have made it clear than the roads are also (and mostly!) made up of cyclists.
21 November, 2012 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. CAAP	DANCING WITH SOCIAL RIGHTS First Step, Prednost
	A local space, the smell of coffee and tea, chatting all around. From now on the Street Counselling Cafe, under CAAP, will conjure up a refuge for the lost, and those who have been marginalised. On Open Day, at an interactive workshop, we will present the steps to ensuring rights and plot the network of institutions that are obliged to accept and help individuals on this path.
22 November, 2012 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. CAAP	JEKU, DUJ, HOP! (ONE, TWO, GO!) Ethnomobile, Frekvenca
	On Open Door Day, through film, music and general everyday mischief, we will show how we socialised at Poljane, visited Roma neighbourhoods, conjured up games without a playground, concerts without instruments, and understanding without language; how we connected with each other and built communities where there were none.
23 November, 2012 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. CAAP	DIGITAL NOMADS TAKE OVER THE COSMOS The Centre for Digital Nomadism
	The Centre for Digital Nomadism will help everyone, especially the most marginalised people in society, to stay in touch with our home, always and anywhere, even though it may be thousands of kilometres away. We will also learn a little something about digital mischief, and obtain new computer knowledge based on open source operating systems.
24 November, 2012 6:00 p.m. Jurovski Dol	A WINTER'S EVE Green Central and the local residents of Jurovski Dol
	A gentle event in a warm place, when it is bitterly cold outside: stories, preparing feathers by hand for soft pillows, spinning rabbit hair for warm sweaters, making wicker baskets from flexible reeds and perhaps the funniest of old games: "funny mail", "slap on the bottom", "broom dance" All with local artisans and producers.
From 2 December, 2012, to 2 January, 2013 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. Jurovski Dol	New Year's Eve celebration in the Countryside Green Central
	Mulled wine with horsemen, pastry cakes, and warm bread from local housewives, strong tea with homemade brandy, eggs fried sunny side up. Stories, exhibitions, and music with young local artists, snowball fights under the stars and kissing under the mistletoe New Year's Eve celebration in the countryside.



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