



**A vademecum
to participate in the preparation
of Firenze 10+10**

October 8th, 2012

1. Why Firenze 10+10

The Pan-European dimension

Social rights and democracy are attacked and destroyed across Europe at unprecedented pace since the outbreak of the financial and economic crisis in 2007 by EU governments, the European Commission, the ECB and IMF. While many struggles take place at different pace and with different scope and intensity at national levels to resist to these attacks, we still lack a pan-European convergence of these struggles.

Firenze 10+10 is organised in the context of the current crisis. It is organised in the spirit of the World Social Forum process and it will take place in the tenth anniversary of the first European Social Forum in Firenze in 2002, but it is not a European Social Forum: it is mainly a European event **with the aim to produce a step forward toward a common agenda and common actions**. It values horizontality, diversity and accountability – so no one should speak in the name of all; but it also highlights the urgency and necessity of finding convergences and common strategies.

A collective process

The networks, organisations, unions, campaigns and social movements that have started and joined to process to collectively build and prepare Firenze 10+10 share the analysis that we as movements in Europe (from old and new social movements, trade unions and other civil society groups) are currently fragmented in our way of struggling against the attacks on our social and economic rights and the destruction of democracy. This makes us weak and those struggles taking place at the national level – in particular in countries which are facing harsh austerity policies in order to be rescued by EU Funds – are not as effective as they lack visible solidarity from movements in other countries.

More than ever **we face the challenge to build a Europe-wide strategy to articulate the different struggles** and to block policies by EU governments and EU institutions that further advance the austerity policies **and to build a collective narrative of our alternatives for Europe**.

2. Objectives

The **main goals** of Firenze 10+10 are threefold:

- to **work collectively** towards the convergence of our struggles and the building of our alternatives
- to come out of Firenze 10+10 ideally with first elements of a **joint strategy of how to unite our struggles at the European level**, starting with one moment of **joint action / mobilisation** in the near future and
- to develop and set forth the **next steps** for the building of this process, ideally with a **mid- to long-term perspective (+10 years)**

Firenze 10+10 is about discussing and working collectively on how to connect our struggles, build convergences and an action and work plan for the months to come, in which we can all engage – regardless of what the starting point of our respective struggle is.

It is not intended as a space with many workshops and seminars in university style (a few presenting ideas with large audiences listening). It is not about convincing other groups to join in the struggles one is engaged in and coming out with a long list of days of actions and campaigns of different networks and groups as in the past. There will be physical spaces dedicated to meet face to face and for other forms of interaction that are not seminars and workshops (see the „Alliances Space“ below).

To achieve these objectives **we face the challenge to prepare seriously for Firenze** and to engage in Firenze with the other groups on that basis.

We surely will not be able to solve all the challenges we set out in Firenze, but it is important to work towards these objectives to unite our struggles, to develop a joint strategy and work on our alternatives.

What infrastructure for the meeting?

Firenze will be again in the Fortezza da Basso, where the 1st ESF took place. The following spaces are available:

- **5 big halls** (between 200 to 1000 people)
- **5 medium size rooms** (between 50 and 150 people)
- **20 smaller rooms** (between 20 and 30 people)
- The „**Alliances Space**“ - a building in Fortezza with set of rooms – all connected – dedicated to face-to-face meetings, materials exchanges, info on campaigns, etc.
- Other spaces for **media, theatre, video, expositions...**
- A **food court / dining hall** (which is also a convivial meeting space)

A few rooms (depending on attendance) will be reserved for last-minute or improvised meetings, for groups who request it during the 4 days.

3. Five areas (“alliance spheres,”) and 1 interconnection

In the meeting in Milan in September, **5 focus areas** (which we initially called building blocks, then pillars and now alliance spheres) were defined to organise the preparatory work and discussions in Firenze 10+10:

- 1) Democracy in Europe**
- 2) Finance - economic governance – debt - austerity**
- 3) Labour and other social rights**
- 4) Natural and social common goods + public services**
- 5) Europe in the Mediterranean and the world**

The **gender dimension** is transversal to all the areas.

There will be also a **sixth area: a transversal group** opened to all that will facilitate the emerging of both a proposal for a **general common action** in the short term and a proposal for a **joint common strategy in the long term** (which will be presented at the end of Firenze 10+10).

Working online

Within these five focus areas and the transversal group, the exchanges to collect proposals and ideas for strategies and actions that help building the convergence of struggles within these areas (but also across the areas) have started with online working groups – but need to be intensified and finalised.

The five working groups discuss by using separate mailing lists and a dedicated section on the website. The work and discussions during the first two days of Firenze 10+10 will be organised within these groups.

Each focus area have **three facilitators, chosen between the networks** that will propose self-organized working spaces, plus a **facilitator from the organizing committee** possibly supported by a Babels **linguistic facilitator** (babels.org). Facilitators have the role of aiding discussion and decision-making within each group. They also have the task to encourage the involvement of other social actors to join the process, and to stimulate a discussion on common strategies and on a common agenda as well as potential common actions.

European Networks, social movements, trade unions and civil society groups are invited to join these groups. The following email lists have been set up: you can join them here:

Democracy in Europe

[http://firenze1010.eu/mailman/listinfo/democracy_firenze1010.eu]

Austerity and Debt

[http://firenze1010.eu/mailman/listinfo/austerity_debt_firenze1010.eu]

Natural and social Commons

[http://firenze1010.eu/mailman/listinfo/commons_firenze1010.eu]

Labour and social rights

[http://firenze1010.eu/mailman/listinfo/labour_social_firenze1010.eu]

Europe and the world - peace/struggles

[http://firenze1010.eu/mailman/listinfo/world_struggles_firenze1010.eu]

Interconnection and common action

[http://firenze1010.eu/mailman/listinfo/inter-action_firenze1010.eu]

Each working group / alliance sphere also has a PAD, i.e. an online collaborative editing tool in order to co-draft documents that will be useful for the discussions in Florence.

The list of pads available can be reached from this link: <http://firenze1010.titanpad.com>

This is a big challenge for all of us, because we are used to rather present our own struggles and campaigns or to share our analysis on what is happening and discuss what we propose as alternatives. This is important of course. However - **if we wish to really build convergences and go beyond an exchange of analysis**, we need to create a space of discussion and dialogue that is centered around other questions, such as:

- who are our (common) adversaries?
- what are the next policy processes where our adversaries plan the next attack together at the European level where we should collectively act?
- what are potential ideas for strategies that can work in all our different countries and contexts and that allow to link the different struggles at local, national and European levels ?
- what strategic demands should we put forward all together?

4. Building the program and the working spaces

The **first two days** of Firenze 10+10 (**8th and 9th** of November) will be spaces for discussion, convergence, strategy planning and action planning within the five areas.

Social movements, networks, trade unions etc. coming to Firenze 10+10 have from now on the possibility to **send in registrations of their proposals of initiatives (seminars, assemblies, etc.) and actions.**

In order to be able to register an activity, **organisations are first required to register themselves on the website** (see below). All proposals will need to be presented by at least **3 different organizations and/or networks**, possibly from different countries, in order to encourage alliances and a common action and to avoid having a multitude of initiatives and workshops on non-related topics.

Proposals for common action and common strategies will be gathered and visible on the website and discussed on the mailing list of the **sixth group (Interconnection - “action sphere,,).**

The proposals for initiatives in Firenze 10+10 will be discussed and put together via these five “alliance sphere,, groups. The **facilitators will also help in connecting groups and promoting converging of activities**, whenever possible. If the preparation is done effectively, we will have as outcome seminars and activities with a wider range of promoters, which will have already worked on the more consensed and common aspects to strategize on in Florence.

5. The days in Florence – the structure and working spaces

During Firenze 10+10, we will have self-organized activities, converging moments, moments for street actions and numerous cultural events. Moreover, part of a building („Alliances space“) will be dedicated to the permanent promotion and visibility to the initiatives, campaigns, calls, actions of the participants, for each of the „alliance spheres“. It will be open all 4 days (though the first day will mainly be dedicated to setting it up) and it will be the main place of participation during the last day, on Sunday morning.

The proposed structure for the days in Florence is:

	Thursday 8th	Friday 9th	Saturday 10th	Sunday 11th
9.00 – 13.00	Accreditation and opening session	Self organized activities	Presentation of the work and proposal of strategy and actions of the 5 alliance spheres	Meetings in the “Alliances spaces” and Final gathering
13.00 – 14.00	lunch, laughs and networking	lunch, laughs and networking	lunch, laughs and networking	lunch, laughs and networking
14.00 – 18.00	Self-organized activities	Self-organized activities	Self-organized activities + Alter Summit initiative	Towards WSF 2013 in Tunis
18.00 – 20.00	Converging of the 5 alliance spheres	Converging of the common action sphere	Firenze 10+10 takes the Square: occupy and party – pre-final event	
Evening	Convivial dinner	Convivial dinner		
	Cultural activities	Cultural activities	Party in the streets	

Common meetings

Besides the self-organised activities (which should already have gone through a „convergence“ process online), there will be a number of **general meetings**, which all participants are invited to attend.

The **1st day** will be dedicated to the 5 areas, with a 2 hour session in the late afternoon dedicated to the „converging of the 5 alliance spheres“ in 5 separate halls).

The **2nd day** will be centered on the transversal area, interconnection and common action proposals, in one main meeting to try and sketch a strategy with wide consensus.

The **3rd day**, the morning will be dedicated to the presentation of the strategy / action proposals emerged from the work in the previous days.

And finally on the **4th day**, the discussion and outcome shall be focused on the which transversal common action can be launched from Florence. As well as what follow-up there should be.

During the preparatory meeting in Milan, **two proposals for common actions were put forward:**

- A **pan-European mobilisation/demonstration** (at the beginning of 2013)

- and, for the longer term, the **Alter Summit** - a process that will start in November 2012 and have several stages including various mobilisations, such as the Eu Summit in Bruxelles in March 2013 and a culminating point in late spring, probably in Athens.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to discuss these possibilities in the Interconnection group (n.6), alongside with the possibility of proposals to connect Firenze 10+10 with initiatives such as the **WSF in Tunisia** (March 2013).

6. Deadlines

The following deadlines for the preparatory process have been adopted:

- 1) **September 20th:** establishment of the 6 mailing lists / online groups; proposals are circulated and discussed.
- 2) **September 24th:** registration for organizations and participants **opens**
- 3) **October 20th:** registration of activities and common actions proposals **closes**
- 4) **October 31st:** the program is finalized.

7. Budget and participants' contribution

Firenze 10+10 is a **self-financed and self-organized event**; for this reason **the contribution of all participants (individuals and organizations) is needed to make it possible** and to build a sense of ownership. The Italian organising committee (made up of 15 national organisations and open to others) has put 35.000 Euros for the initial budget. To cover all costs – in particular also the cost for translation (Babels) and technical equipment, more funds are needed – in total around **90.000 euros**. We are running a low-budget event, but are doing our best to insure that what is needed shall be there. All the people working on it are volunteers. The solidarity fund is on top of this budget (see below) and managed separately.

Here are the main costs:

Description	Estimated cost
Logistics (Firenze Fiera – includes energy, heating, cleaning, insurance, etc.)	30.000 euro
Setup and equipment (chairs, ampli, projectors, setting up and dismantling the rooms, etc.)	38.000 euro
Interpretation (through Babels network)	15.000 euro
Communication and other expenses for the organisation	6.000 euro
Financial costs	1.000 euro
Total	90.000 euro

Details of the budget are being posted on the website and will be updated periodically.

Participant's and organisations' contribution

We ask a **contribution of 20,00 euro** (for the 4 days) to all participants, in order to help cover costs. This includes a wi-fi pass, the use of headphones for the interpretation, access to a special public transport ticket for the 4 days at a special price, discount on meals and accommodations.

For those who cannot afford to pay the 20,00 euro, they can contribute with less but are required to register as well.

Those who can afford to contribute more are welcome to do so: they can make a donation to the Organising committee and / or **contribute to the solidarity fund** to facilitate participation from Eastern and Southern Europe.

Organizations, networks and groups are asked to contribute with at least 100 euros on top of their members contributions. This includes the possibility of having a space with a table and chairs to publicize their activities (so long as they are available – on a first come, first served basis) . They are also invited to contribute to the Solidarity fund (see below), in order to help cover attendance cost for participants who don't have the means.

It is possible to **pay online via the website while you register**: it is important to do so as early as possible, in order to make funds available and secure the necessary logistics.

A fundamental contribution to the budget is the coverage of the costs to setup and equip the seminar and conference rooms. Here is what is available:

N. of rooms/halls	Maximum occupancy	Equipment
20	Up to 30 people	Basic: chairs
4	Up to 50 people	Chairs + table
3	Up to 100 people	Amplification/mics and <i>possibility to have video / interpretation</i>
1	Up to 150 people	Amplification/mics and <i>possibility to have video / interpretation</i>
2	Up to 200 people	Amplification/mics, video and interpretation booths (3-4 lang.)
1	Up to 300 people	Amplification/mics, video and interpretation booths (3-4 lang.)
1	Up to 500 people	Amplification/mics, video and interpretation booths (3-4 lang.)
1	Up to 1000 people	Amplification/mics, video and interpretation booths (3-4 lang.)

If you are proposing an activity, you can do it directly on the website (under Propose/Register an activity). *Costs and options are available on the website as well.*

We will also share on the site the updates on fundraising.

8. Solidarity fund, transportation, accomodation

The Firenze 10+10 organising committee is working on facilitating as much as possible the participation of everybody, and finding ways to make the stay and travel more affordable if not free..

Solidarity fund

The organising committee will help establish a direct contact between networks and organizations to try and meet the needs of those who request a solidarity contribution to participate in Firenze 10+10 . We are proactively looking for ways to ensure participation from Eastern and Southern Europe and engage in fundraising. An online donation campaign has been launched.

Public Transport

Participants who have registered (and payed their contribution) will have access to a special ticket for public transport (ATAF) that covers the 4 days of the event for only 5 euro.

The organising committee is trying also to reach an agreement with the train company, for a discount for registered participants.

Accomodation

A campaign („Occupy my room“) has been launched among residents to ask for free hospitality; hostels and low cost b&b's and hotels are being contacted for special prices for participants. And some large spaces / buildings for sleeping-bag accomodation are being requested as well.

Visa, invitations and special needs

For any specific request, you can contact directly the Organising committee through at info@firenze1010.eu – or through skype: firenze10.10

What next?

On the website www.firenze1010.eu you will find more information and updates. A section called „Networking“ also allows to get to know the participants beforehand and exchange ideas, information and proposals.

If you haven't done it yet, **register as participant and/or organisation right away!**

Firenze 10+10 organising committee*

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