+++ Against the axis of shame: for open harbours and solidarity cities +++ Sealift: Thousands on the streets and demonstrations go on +++ From 23.7. across Germany: Women in Exile on Summer-Tour +++ Since 23.7. in many cities: Film about Juventa/Criminalization of Jugend Rettet +++ At 24./25.8. in Hamburg: big Ballhaus Assembly and germanwide coordination meeting for We’ll Come United +++ From 29.8. in Frankfurt: Yallah-Exhibition and Info-Events +++ Alarm Phone with endless calls from boats from Morocco+++ (Chain)Push Backs from Slovenia and Croatia to Bosnia +++ Calendar in September: from safe spaces for solidarity cities to the big We’ll Come United Parade at 29.9. in Hamburg +++ 20.9. in Salzburg: Demo against the summit of isolation and social control +++ Review: Summercamp We’ll Come United, International Demonstration in Ventimiglia +++ Outlook: 13.10. in Karlsruhe: Regional Demonstration against nationalism, racism, deportation; Transnational Social Strike Treffen im November 2018 in Stockholm +++

Dear friends,

It can always get worse?
In March, after the right wing election victory in Italy, we already mentioned the issue of the „axis of shame“: Salvini, Kickl, Seehofer... Within last weeks the reality overrun in a rush all what we had to fear. Civil sea rescue operations in the central mediterranean were brutally closed down and criminalized, to leave people drowning is justified more than ever as strategy of deterrence. Shifting camps to Albania or North-Africa, new border controls, socalled „Ankerzentren“ and hotspots, accelerated procedures and mass deportations - the gang of interior ministers is galloping on with foaming at the mouth. The horror-cabinet feels carried by racist sentiments and they sit in the corridors of power to escalate on all levels the policy of exclusion.

firstly a brief notice on our own account. The summer edition of our Kompass is this time a little bit later but more comprehensive and the next newsletter should go public already at the end of August. We hope and we want to contribute, that September will become a particular month of multiple and dynamic initiatives against racism and exclusion and for freedom of movement and for equal rights. A first preview can be found in the calendar below: from decentralized activities in reference to the 3rd anniversary of the „march of hope“ after 4th of September to the big We’ll Come United Parade in Hamburg at 29.9.!
by new decrees. Does this ghost-train rush on for further „Orbanisation“? Is it possible, that a (german) interior minister can keep his job while he celebrates the deportation of 69 people back to war in Kabul as a gift for his 69th birthday?

From indignation to resistance?
No doubt, we are in a defensive situation, more than ever. We try to stop the roll back against achievements, which developed in 2015/16 by the interplay of selforganised refugee- and supporting welcome-movement. In the recent polarization of the society the aggressive rightwing populism appears even more louder and more assertive. But some weeks ago already first hopes for an „anti-Trump-effect“ came up. Single voices of indignation intensified - latest through the stage-managed government crisis by Seehofer - to a chorus of criticism even in the mainstream medias. Seehofer obviously miscalculated by riding the wave of Salvini. And the starting points of a counter movement against the racist offensive generated considerable mobilizations in the meanwhile, in Germany, in Italy and all over Europe.

From Palermo to Sealift …
Let us mention several important moments of the last six weeks: in the beginning of June the party conference of the left (die Linke) confirmed its demand for open borders, Sarah Wagenknecht (most prominent person who questioned this position) and her right wing/nationalist course is inside the party more isolated then ever. When the interior minister of Italy, Salvini, announced the closure of the harbours for all rescue NGOs at the 10th of June, thousands protested in italian cities, including several mayors as Leoluca Orlando for Palermo and Luigi de Magistris for Naples. In the middle of June the call for „Solidarity not homeland“ was published, within two weeks 15.000 people signed it with their names. End of June the progressive municipality of Barcelona demonstrated practical solidarity with civil sea rescue services and also the senate of Berlin published a clear statement to welcome and accommodate new refugees.

„Sealift not Seehofer“ got a main slogan after 7th of July in a wave of protests, which started in Berlin, Hanover and Frankfurt with thousands on the streets and which still is ongoing in many cities with local demonstrations. At the 14th of July thousands of people demonstrated for open borders in Ventimiglia near the italian-french border. In the same day in Palermo the mayor and the archbishop used the festive day of Patrona St. Rosalia - with 400.000 people on the streets - for a common call for open harbours and for sea rescue. At the 19th of July the mayor from Naples invited for a conference, in which the opening of the harbours are demanded and Salvini was named as criminal, who has to go on trial (only one day before the rescue ship of Open Arms had documented, that the so-called Libyan coastguards left alone three persons on a destroyed rubber boat, only one person...
At 22nd of July in Munich despite heavy rain about 50,000 people took part in the demonstration „ausgehetzt“ (for the end of racist agitation) against racism and for safe passages...

**September-offensive?**
The outcries and protests of course have to be louder, wider and more sustainable to break the repressive-racist dominance. But that a lot of activities happen, despite the summer break, in Italy as well in Germany, appears as a good sign and demonstrate: much more is possible! The month of September offers many opportunities, from the local to the germanwide level. Particular important would be, that the new (mainly „white“) Sealift-initiative will win continuity and will come together latest at 29.9. in Hamburg with We`ll Come United. 25 buses are already booked for the big parade, first of all selforganised refugees and migrants will arrive by it. This number could be doubled easily, if all active groups get involved in the mobilization. Lets make September to a month of strong fights for the right to stay and for freedom of movement. The unbroken struggles of migration are the main points of reference: at the external borders and in the inner cities. Lets use the indignation and protests to build daily structures of resistance. For flight support and for safe spaces! Lets create real corridors of solidarity. From Athens via Velika Kladusha/Bosnia to Zurich, from the boats starting in Tanger via Barcelona to Amsterdam, from the central med via Palermo to Berlin: all flight routes remain contested spaces. Or to use the headlines of two worth reading new publications: „the power of migration“ meets, creates and needs „the utopian power of the cities“!

With solidarity greetings,
the Kompass-crew
What to read… recommendations!

Before the calendar, we want to start with some tips as to what to read. This compilation of current links and recommendations (partly only available in German) is by no means systematic, but it is not a random list either. The last weeks’ escalations – in the Mediterranean with the attacks against sea rescue, in Berlin with the ‘government crisis’ caused by Seehofer’s border control craze – did also result in good, courageous and exciting text reactions: from the call ‘Solidarity not homeland’, via reports against the isolationist policy and comments against the witch hunt atmosphere, to articles that ask why we do not at last open the borders! And this not only in the TAZ or WoZ, but also in the Spiegel and even in the FAZ. Here is the chronologically sorted mix worth reading:

‘The Power of Migration – ten talks on mobility and capitalism’,
publication of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
https://www.rosalux.de/publikation/id/38618/die-macht-der-migration-1/
Direktlink:

‘Solidarity not homeland’
Call by kritnet, medico international and ISM on 19.6.2018, which in the meanwhile has 16,500 signatories:
https://solidaritaet-statt-heimat.kritnet.org

‘What would happen if all borders were open? A scenario’
By Brand 1 of July 2018:
https://www.brandeins.de/magazine/brand-eins-wirtschaftsmagazin/2018/service/was-waere-wenn-alle-grenzen-offen-waeren

‘Why we need an immigration party’
Commentary in the Spiegel of 1.7.2018:
'The utopian power of cities'
Article in the WoZ of 5.7.2018, with a good overview of the efforts made on the subject of the Solidarity Cities:
https://www.woz.ch/-8e48

‘The fiction of Entry – Who would really come, if all borders were open?’
FAZ of 8.7.2018:
http://m.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/debatten/die-fiktion-der-einreise-wenn-alle-grenzen-offen-waeren-15679538.html?GEPC=s5

‘Report on the current isolationist policy’
A good TAZ report of 9.7.2018:
http://www.taz.de/Abschottung-der-Europaeischen-Union/!5516013/

Guest commentary by Norbert Blüm in the Süddeutschen Zeitung of 12.7.2018:

‘Solidarity City’ Berlin – a safe haven
TAZ of 17.7.2018:
http://www.taz.de/!5518024/

Interview with the Captain of the Lifeline in the Abendzeitung of 20.7.2018:

Against the axis of shame:
For open harbours and Solidarity Cities
In the last Kompass we reported on the ‘Palermo Charta Process’: https://alarmphone.org/en/2018/06/17/toward-a-coalition-of-solidarity-for-the-right-to-mobility-and-equal-rights-for-all/?post_type_release_type=post )
and in particular the articles recommended above, in the Berlin TAZ and in the WoZ, concerning the ‘utopian power of cities’, give a good overview of these hopeful beginnings, with which progressive city councils turn against national and supranational isolationist policies. The mayor of Napels invited people to a conference on 19-7-2018 in the context of which further engagements were made on the coordination of inter-municipal and transnational cooperation. For more boats will make their way from Libya and it remains urgently necessary that there are again open and safe havens at accessible distances, meaning in Malta or in Sicily. The mayoress of Barcelona, Ada Colau, gives an example, but her harbour is geographically too far away. A broad alliance or at least a good cooperation of all actors will be necessary to break the blockade in Italy, which country after all receives decisive backing from right-wing governments throughout the EU. To develop the political pressure which would force Salvini to tolerate at least the opening of individual harbours for sea rescue, appears at present a ‘mission impossible’. Yet it should not remain untried to develop Italy-wide AND transnational dynamics which would resolutely go against the current ‘crime against humanity’ and which as a Europe-wide movement with ‘relocations from below’ – meaning with the transfer and reception of refugees at city level – would
circumvent the national to supranational system of lethal isolation. ‘From the Sea to the Cities’ is the heading of a new call design, which is currently circulating transnationally and tries to rally and join the forces that want to devote themselves to real corridors of solidarity.

Sealift: Thousands on the streets and demonstrations go on
Up to 12,000 people in Berlin, 2000 in Hanover, up to 5000 in Hamburg, 800 in Frankfurt, 1200 in Kiel, 500 in Stuttgart, 2000 in Bielefeld, ... within last weeks spontaneous mobilizations happened in many cities to demonstrate solidarity with sea rescue and with the right to escape. And it will go on: at 24.7. in Cologne, at 27.7. in Kassel and Trier, at 28.7. in Lüneburg, Kaiserslautern, Osnabrück, Münster, Dinslaken and Hanover...
Find attached the general Statement from Sealift and their link below:

"WE CREATE SAFE HARBOURS. Letting people drown in the Mediterranean Sea to further seal off Europe and win political points is unbearable and against any humanitarian values. Migration is and has always been part of our society! Instead of closing borders, we need a Europe that is open, cities that show solidarity and harbours that are safe.

SEALIFT is an international movement, supported by several civil society alliances and people. We declare our solidarity with people who are forced to flee their homes. From German and European policy makers, we demand the establishment of safe routes for refugees, to stop the criminalisation of sea rescue and to receive them in a humane way whilst respecting their rights."
More information and all announcements for further demonstrations here: https://seebruecke.org/en/

Through Germany from the 23/7: Women in exile on summertour
The Tour: 23.7.: Magdeburg, Halle, Leipzig; 25.7.: Nürnberg; 27.7.: Regensburg; 29.7.: München; 1.8.: Freiburg/Basel; 4.8.: Frankfurt/Main; 5.8.: Potsdam, Berlin
"We from Women in Exile and friends want to continue the subject of „Women* Breaking Borders“ this summer. We want to travel to different cities in solidarity with you, esecially to Bavaria so as to voice our disapproval of the politics of new „interior and homeland minister“ Seehofer. (…) We rise our voices loud and clear to break racist and sexist borders! Racist and sexist borders, visible and invisible borders, borders which our society ignores or does not see because it is not directly affected. Borders that are called „cultural“ as well as those in our heads. We are aware of those borders and want to make them visible so that we can break them.
We want to perform political activities, always with the aim of empowering the refugee women. We want to do that together with you in your cities..."
Since 23/7 in many cities: Film about Iuventa

#Iuventa, the ship that saved thousands of lives: a documentary about #hope and utopia #FreeIVENTA

Dates: 23.7.: Augsburg; 24.7.: München, Halle, Karslruhe; 25.7.: München, Berlin, Offenbach; 27.7.: Heidelberg; 29.7.: München, Berlin; 1.8.: Münster, Nürnberg; 2.8.: Leipzig, Erlangen; 4.8.: Potsdam; 6.8.: Braunschweig, Leipzig, Meppen ... all other dates, info, trailer and more:

http://www.iuventa-film.de

Update on the accusation against Jugend rettet (from 10.7.):

"...Jugend RETTET e. V. was informed, that concrete investigations against individual members of the crew have started. Thus the criminalization through Italian authorities continues. Privat technical equipment, which has been confiscated with the seizure of the ship, should be searched..."

More in german here: https://jugendrettet.org

24. and 25.8. in Hamburg: We`ll Come United – ballroom assembly and Germanwide coordination meeting

On 24/8, a little more than a month before the great parade in Hamburg – We`ll come united will start the final mobilisation with a press conference, a great assembly, and a mobilising meeting. The press conference will take place at 11 am in the Hafen City on the ship Stubnitz, the ballroom assembly will be at the FC St. Pauli stadium. The Germanwide meeting on Saturday 25/8, begins at 10 am at Veddel in cooperation with New Hamburg. The latter will be focused on arrangements for the about 20 motive wagons which will symbolically take everyday struggles to the streets on 29/9.

Further infos, including about the state of mobilisation, the 25 buses, further plans, will follow: http://www.welcome-united.org

From 29/8 in Frankfurt: Yallah Exhibition and Info-events

At medico-Haus, Lindleystr. 15, 60314 Frankfurt am Main.

Opening event on 29 th August 2018 at 7 pm

The traveling exhibition about the „long summer of migration“ 2015 and the current refugee politics centers on refugees and shows their perspectives on migration and Europe in numerous audio and video recordings. The exhibition also focuses on current European refugee politics. Our activists have made experiences in recent weeks which they will report in a number of accompanying events. All information and dates for the accompanying events can be found here:

http://yallah-balkanroute.uni-goettingen.de/y-in-frankfurt/
The Alarm Phone receives countless phone calls from boats from Morocco on the way to Spain

Every day and every night for several weeks people have reported to the 24h hotline of the WatchTheMed Alarm Phone. In small boats they try to get to Spain from Morocco across the strait of Gibraltar. The Alarm Phone works 24/7 and tries hard to make the Spanish coast guard bring as many boats as possible safely to Spain. Yet time and again boats are intercepted by the Moroccan Navy, which has been working closely with the Spanish coast guard for many years. The project, which as of the autumn of 2014 has been offering support and guidance on all Mediterranean routes to people who have to make their way to Europe by boat, reports up to 19 Mayday calls in one day (!). This apogee in the western Mediterranean also reflects the overall statistics. According to UNHCR the number of people who manage to get from Morocco to Spain, for the first time exceeds the arrivals across the central Mediterranean and the Aegean, see [https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean)

More than 21,000 people (score of 20.7.2018) have managed to leave Morocco, most of them surely not until the second or even multiple attempt(s), after they had previously been intercepted by the Moroccan Navy.

Reports of the Alarm Phone here: [https://alarmphone.org](https://alarmphone.org) and here: [http://watchthemed.net](http://watchthemed.net)

(Chain)Push Backs from Slovenia and Croatia to Bosnia

In the last issue of Kompass we already mentioned: „Thousands of people succeeded to cross the turkish-greek land border during last months and they go on in direction of North. Many travelers use the new „Balkan-coast-route“ via Bosnia, hundreds of them camp out in parks in Sarajevo or Bihac and at the Croatian border they face illegal push backs of the EU border police.“ Activists from Zagreb and Ljubljana visited several times the camps along the bosnian-croatian border, particularly in Bihac and in Velika Kladusha. Big parts of the local population try their best to support the refugees and migrants. But the activists also met many people, who have reported about (chain) push backs from Slovenia via Croatia back to Bosnia. Already on Slovenian territory they have been arrested and beaten, their money was confiscated as well as their mobile phones. Obviously the EU (!) border police
from Croatia and Slovenia is aiming on deterrence at any cost (at the potential new route), similar as it was practiced last years at the serbian-croatian border. Just to remember: these push backs are absolutely unlawful and a break of the refugee conventions. But the slovenian and croatian governments and responsible authorities can be sure to get support by Austria, Italy and Germany.

Following sentences from a recent report of the welcome initiative in Zagreb:

"…Push backs even happen to the people who have documents and who were in Slovenia before where Slovenian authorities took their fingerprints and photographs. Almost all refugees have an experience with push backs from Croatia to B&H, over green borders, while also being victims of confiscation of money, destruction of their documents and mobile phones, and sometimes police officers took photos of them while humiliating people who seek protection. Such practice became a pattern of police behavior that involves violence and dehumanization of refugees, and it moved from the Croatian-Serbian border to the Croatian border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the link attached, you can find recent reports on the conditions in which refugees live in Bosnia and Herzegovina. .." See here: [http://vijesti.hrt.hr/451162/s-migrantima-u-kladusi-i-bihacu](http://vijesti.hrt.hr/451162/s-migrantima-u-kladusi-i-bihacu)

Preview Calendar in September

From safe spaces for solidarity cities after 4.9. to the big We’ll Come United Parade at 29.9. in Hamburg

As written in the introduction the plans for September offer many opportunities to create new dynamics of antiracist mobilization. And in this fights, in this polarization of society, the more comprehensive question is on the table: „In which society we want to live?!“ Flight and migration are pushed from the right wing forces as a crucial topic of exclusive identity, and - as mentioned in the call of We’ll Come United - dodging is no option anymore. Rather we want and we will continue our struggle, offensively and by any means necessary against the regime of deportation and exclusion.

„Three days in September - Safe Spaces for Solidarity Cities“

is the title of an initiative, which calls for three days of actions - in reference to the 3rd anniversary of the march of hope, the break-through on the Balkanroute in the beginning of September 2015.

„In the unions-house or in rooms of a church, in a university or in a theatre, in a park or on public squares, in a social center or an alternative bar: the proposal is to open up for three days as many spaces of solidarity against deportation and exclusion as possible. We want to set a very practical sign of solidarity and to open safe spaces against deportation where people can find a moment of safety who are currently threatened by deportation.

In these spaces there could be three days of program: screenings of movies, local press-conferences, events and exhibitions, discussions and workshops. If possible these spaces should be open also during the night and declared publicly as safe spaces to welcome explicitly people who are threatened by deportation.“

So far groups in Rhine-Main (Hanau, Darmstadt, Frankfurt) as well as in Berlin started with preparations. More cities have ideas to join. Moreover a campaign is planned with prominent persons until 6th of September as „action for citizen asylum“ („Aktion BürgerInnenAsyl“). Mainly VIPs from the cultural sphere are requested to support safe spaces and citizen asylum and to take position against deportation: „I would hide people just to protect them against deportation“.

Who is interested to contribute to these initiatives for safe spaces and for „Aktion BürgerInnenAsyl“, pls contact kmii-hanau@antira.info.
More Demonstrations and Festivals in September:
In some cities already local demonstrations and festivals are announced, which explicitly mobilize for the 29.9. to Hamburg. In Hanau a local alliance calls for a We`ll Come United-Demonstration at 15.9. and it interconnects antiracism with other demands of social justice and peace. In Aschaffenburg a festival for solidarity cities will be organized at 22.9.. And very probable we will see more sealift mobilizations in this period.

And in Hamburg-Veddel at 15.9. a 14-day long big Festival for Solidarity Cities will start. „New York, Toronto, Veddel- two weeks of theatre, performance, installation, music, discussion and encounters. We declare Veddel to be a Solidarity City.“
And this festival, carried by the church community/ Kirchenkreis Hamburg-Ost and by „deutsches Schauspielhaus“ will lead directly into the big parade at 29.9.!

Where the We`ll Come United Parade will start at 29.9.?!
At 11 a.m. the meeting point is at the main train station. At 12.00 the trucks (Motivwägen) will be set up at Rathausmarkt, from where the demonstration will start and move through the inner city to the port. Here the parade will change into an antiracist promenade. From 4 to 6 p.m. the trucks (Motivwägen) will be presented again and all participants and visitors have a chance for exchange about the respective daily struggles and campaigns.

20.9. in Salzburg:
Demonstration against Isolation and social Control
„On the 20th of September, EU-leaders will meet in Salzburg, Austria. There they will talk about “security” and the “fight against illegal migration”. Austria’s new racist government will be in charge of the meeting.
What does that mean?
1) They want more police controls, more surveillance, higher punishments, and stricter laws. That means: More rights for the state and the police; less rights for people.
2) They want to make it even more difficult for migrants to come to Europe. And they want to make it even more difficult to stay in Europe. That means: More border fences, more prisons, more deportations and violence; less rights and less freedom and safety for refugees.
We are against these policies. We are against racism and exploitation and for a better future for all. When the EU-leaders meet in Salzburg, we will protest together in the streets. Come along to Salzburg for the protests on the 20th of September! We will fight together for freedom and equal rights!…“
Call in many languages and more here: https://summit-salzburg.mobi/en
Summercamp We`ll Come United:
From the 5th to the 8th of July the Summercamp from We`ll Come United took place in Brandenburg. About 250 activists participated, in the majority selforganised refugees living in Berlin and Brandenburg, but also from other cities. In several workshops an exchange was organized about practical experiences in daily struggles against deportations. And in trainings people have been empowered to talk into cameras and to play theater. Finally the camp ended with a nice concert and a good atmosphere of dancing…

International Demonstration in Ventimiglia:
At 7th of July an international demonstration took place in Ventimiglia near the Italian french border, a region, where the reality is characterized by permanent push backs and repression against migrants and their supporters. Several thousand people from various cities and countries participated in the protest for open borders. From the call:

„For a European Residency Permit - International Solidarity Day Progetto 20k invites all the realities, the associations, the independent unions, the groups and every single person that deals with themes regarding immigration policies or that believes in solidarity, to participate in the organization of the 14th of July mobilisation in Ventimiglia. We foresee this common journey as a unique opportunity of sharing and cooperation among those that, although in different territories and coming from different backgrounds, still share the same horizons of meaning: the idea of a society without borders, without class, class, gender or national boundaries and a need of a European residency permit, while rethinking immigration policies….“
Report in german in Tagesschau:
13.10. in Karlsruhe: Regional Demonstration against Nationalism, Racism, Deportation
Against nationalist and racist agitation! Stop the competition of exclusion and deprivation of rights! Equal rights and a good life for everybody!
See http://stop-deportation.de

Transnational Social Strike Treffen im November 2018 in Stockholm
Against the Logistics of Exploitation.
November 23-24th // 2018 – TSS Meeting Call Out
„All across Europe and in its peripheries, workers, migrants, precarious are confronting neoliberal reforms, intensified exploitation and institutional racism. Experimentations of cross-border organization against global giants such as Amazon, migrants striking the borders of Europe, the women of the global feminist strike and the workers and students on strike in France and elsewhere: these are signals of an insubordination that makes capital reorganize. Yet the lack of a common political initiative on a transnational scale urges us to come together: present and future struggles are in need of coordination efforts. …“