

**Cultural Center REX, Belgrade, Serbia, Jevrejska street 16**

**Monday, 5th of December 2011 at 7pm**

**The Public Consultations / Under the Bridge - Helsinki**

A public discussion with cultural workers, artists, activists and theorists from Serbia, Germany and Finland

<http://www.rex.b92.net/sr/ovogmeseca/tribineDebate/story/4063/JAVNE+KONSULTACIJE++UNDER+THE+BRIDGE+-+HELSINKI.html>

The project **“Under the Bridge – Helsinki”** aims to provide a broad picture about the social and political situation of Roma migrant workers in Europe and to establish sustainable concepts for their housing using artistic and political methods. The initial stage of the project was the mapping of the situation of Roma migrants from the Balkans working and living in Helsinki. In the second phase of the project concrete concepts for housing solutions were developed. Artists, activists, politicians and theoreticians contributed innovative methods and specialized strategies to tackle the issue from different perspectives and come up with sustainable ideas.

At Cultural Center REX will be held a public event and meeting of the members of the research group that was formed for the first phase of the project titled **“The Pull Factor / Under the Bridge - Helsinki”** in November 2010 and the contributors of the seminar and staged debate **“The Housing Agenda / Under the Bridge - Helsinki”** that took place in September 2011 in Helsinki.

The following speakers will take part in the discussion: **Saara Hannus** (Helsinki, artist and participant of the X-OP Study Group), **Paula Lehtonen** (Helsinki, artist and participant of the X-OP Study Group), **Vladan Jeremić** (artist, political and cultural worker, author of the project Under the Bridge Helsinki), **Dejan Marković** (Roma politician and activist), **Nebojša Milikić** (Cultural Center REX), **Lidija Mirković** (activist and Roma/Gypsy artist), **Sonja Prodanović** (architect, urbanist), **Johanna Raekallio** (Helsinki, artist and participant of the X-OP Study Group), **Rena Rädle** (author of the project Under the Bridge - Helsinki), **Jovana Vuković** (Regional Minority Center) and others.

The aim of the public consultation is the evaluation of the results until now and a re-thinking of future measures. Relevant suggestions and ideas for the further conceptualization of the project and the existing document “Helsinki Housing Manifesto” will be considered in consultation with invited guests and the public.

Invited guests from Helsinki, Saara Hannus, Paula Lehtonen and Johanna Raekallio, will present their contribution and talk about possible critical points or fruitful methods.

Participants of the Helsinki seminar will reflect on their role and thoughts within the project.

### **More information about the “Under the Bridge – Helsinki” project**

During their stays as artists in X-OP residency in Helsinki in 2010, organized by MAA School from Helsinki and during 2011 at HIAP residency, Vladan Jeremić and Rena Rädle have continued their long-term project connected with the growing problem of violent evictions of Roma settlements in Europe. This year they initiated the elaboration of an agenda for the housing of precarious Roma migrant workers and other precarious migrant workers. In the course of the process participated and contributed numerous activists, workers, artists, theorists and politicians from Finland, UK, Germany and Serbia in the working groups and debates.

## **The Pull Factor / Under the Bridge – Helsinki**

During a workshop in the frame of the residency X-OP in November 2010, Vladan Jeremić and the X-OP Study Group of artists and activists from Helsinki have done an interviews about the situation of the Roma precarious migrant workers and the activists at the social center Satama in Helsinki. Identified soon as a “Pull Factor”, the social center was closed down by the authorities. The settlement was in September 2011 destroyed by the city authorities, with the assistance of the police, and with the inhabitants being expelled. The drawings and memory minutes from the encounters and conversations with the inhabitants and their supporters, city officials, police and others were published in the booklet “The Pull Factor – Under the Bridge Helsinki”, printed in various languages and distributed.

You are kindly invited to download the publication/booklet The Pull Factor / Under the Bridge - Helsinki in printable resolution, to share it and to distribute it.

[http://www.modukit.com/raedle-jeremic/media/thepullfactor\\_helsinki\\_pages\\_print.pdf](http://www.modukit.com/raedle-jeremic/media/thepullfactor_helsinki_pages_print.pdf)

Authors are: Johanna Raekallio, Paula Lehtonen, Saara Hannus and Vladan Jeremic. The publication includes a comic-strip / info-chart by the Zampa di Leone collective, which is published in English, Romanian and Serbian.

## **The Housing Agenda / Under the Bridge - Helsinki**

The seminar and staged debate “The Housing Agenda” in Ateneum Art Museum was organized by Vladan Jeremić and Rena Rädle during “Paths Crossing” HIAP residency, to come up with a proposal how the housing problem of Roma and other precarious migrant workers in Europe can be solved. As a result, the contributors of the conference issued a document, the “Helsinki Housing Manifesto”. It supports the idea to build a trans-urban network of “migrants hotels” in many European cities for Roma precarious migrant workers and proposes a set of common principles for local housing solutions that would be developed with support of the European Social Fond.

<http://www.hiap.fi/event/housing-agenda-under-bridge-helsinki>

Participants included: Vladan Jeremić (political activist and artist, Serbia), Dejan Marković (Roma politician and activist), Lidija Mirković (artist, Germany), Silvia Modig (member of the Finnish Parliament, City Planning Board), Damian Le Bas (writer, UK), Panu Lehtovuori (architect, professor of urban studies, Helsinki), Marita Muukkonen (curator, Helsinki), Gareth Rice (social thinker, writer, urban political economist, University of Helsinki), Rena Rädle (artist, activist, Serbia), Roman Schatz (journalist and writer, Helsinki), Ivor Stodolsky (curator, researcher, writer, Helsinki-Berlin), Miranda Vuolasranta (executive director in the Finland’s Roma Forum, Helsinki), Eetu Viren (theorist, activist of Free Movement, Helsinki), Thomas Wallgren (Member of Helsinki City Council).

**The Public Consultations / Under the Bridge – Helsinki is supported by Cultural Center REX, Biro Beograd, FRAME and Finnish Art Council**