

The School of Creative Solidarity

July 25th to August 14th 2022

hybrid

in Germany (Frankfurt Oder/Ślubice)

and Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivsk)

The “School of Creative Solidarity” (SCS) is a dialogue and art program focused on solidarity and displacement, for activists and artists between 18-28 years from Ukraine, Belarus and Germany, taking place simultaneously in Germany and Ukraine.

In light of the ongoing war escalation in Ukraine, the SCS tries to offer a safe space for participants to exchange their thoughts, experiences, hopes, and wishes through the means of art. The necessity to relocate, especially the double displacement experienced since 2014 by Ukrainians and since 2020 by Belarusians has stimulated the flexibility of solidarity networks. Inviting other members of European community with similar experiences, we propose to elaborate more on the potential of such networks to sustain and expand, coming up with new methods and strategizing the improvement of the existing ones. The general questions being asked are: What does solidarity from the distance mean to the local and international communities? How can we balance between experiencing and reflecting, collective action and individual practices, action and coping? How and what can we do to keep solidarity alive, especially in most challenging situations such as political pressure or/and physical war? And most of all: how to speak about the war and war crimes in Ukraine, violence, fear and forced migration? Using different artistic tools shall be a facilitator for social change as well as a coping strategy for participants.

Main working language will be English.

Participation is free. The program covers the accommodation costs for the participants in Frankfurt Oder and Ivano-Frankivsk for the duration of the project, as well as travel and food costs.

Duration and Location:

The SCS is an experiment in a challenging time – Covid, increased political repressions in Belarus and war in Ukraine. These difficult circumstances have increased the need for social exchange, solidarity and creative expression to a maximum. Therefore, SCS is more than an exchange program; it offers participants the chance to get (some) rest and support in a challenging moment of their lives. SCS tries to help to get active as well as staying active.

As it takes time to establish a trustworthy atmosphere which offers room for developing creative expression – especially under these circumstances – the SCS will take place for **3 weeks, between July 25th and August 14th 2022**. The format of communication will be **hybrid**, proposing both online and off-line meetings, digital interaction between the two groups, and in-person sessions with mentors in two countries

For the group in Germany, accommodation for the whole time as well as a workshop space for the in-person session will be provided in Słubice/Frankfurt Oder. This way, participants from all over Germany, especially displaced artists and activists from Ukraine and Belarus, can stay together during the whole time - if wanted and needed by each participant individually.

For the group in Ukraine, a workshop space for the in-person session will be provided in Ivano-Frankivsk (workshop space: Asortymentna Kimnata¹).

Program

Together with **artistic mentors**, other **professionals in art and activism** will be invited to give workshops during the program. **Art and human rights experts** will share their knowledge and skills practically and theoretically with the participants.

Participants will be proposed to join one of the mentored groups:

- 'Urban space and activism'
- 'Critical writing'
- 'Collective archive'
- 'Decolonialization of memory practices'
- 'Solidarity and Human Rights'

! When registering, please choose the thematic clusters you are interested in.

Among invited mentors:

Vadym Denysenko – researcher on urban mobility development.

Mariya Grishenko – sociologist, researcher on urban studies

Clemens Poole – artist, curator, currently works on topic of 'fictional memory'

Borys Filonenko (Negotiating) – art critic, curator, editor of IST Publishing. He writes about contemporary Ukrainian art and comics.

The topics of the lectures and workshops will touch on the self education and mutual education in communities as tools for epistemological liberation, books making, visual and artistic research, choosing the theory to rely on, collective writing and diary practices, critical reading, product design challenge and perspectives as well as artist talks from Ukrainian and international artists.

Among invited Lecturers:

'Locus' project – it is an education for academic and non-academic researchers in the social sciences and humanities.

Dariya Badior – culture editor, critic, and journalist.

Melina Borčak – Bosnian/German journalist and filmmaker.

Oleksandr Manukians – architect, industrial designer, artist.

¹ [Асортиментна кімната – Асортиментна кімната \(asortymentna-kimnata.space\)](https://asortymentna-kimnata.space)



levgen Velychev – illustrator and designer.

Result/Product/Exhibition after the SCS

After the workshop phase, the participants can determine if, with whom, and in what form they would like to develop their projects further. They will get the chance to be professionally mentored online in developing their art projects in small groups.

Depending on the participant's ideas, their creative outcome can be exhibited in autumn 2022. The format of the final presentation can differ (digital diary, exhibition, performance, video, website, blog, app etc.).

If you have any questions about the program contact us via culturalgeos@gmail.com.

The project is funded under the grant program "MEET UP! Youth for Partnership" by the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ) Foundation and the Federal Foreign Office.