

hier eine übersetzung meines berichts „saint imier im august 2012“ (<http://nigra.noblogs.org/post/2012/08/15/saint-imier-im-august-2012/>) ins englische. die mühe gemacht hat sich ein „mirco“, der den text als kommentar (<https://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/comment/view/57282> und <https://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/comment/view/57283>) unter die indymedia-linksunten-version des berichts (<https://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/node/65479>) gepostet hat.

thanx for this nice and fair report.

i felt free to translate it, without asking you and i put some additional information, which i remembered.

here my translation: (...) = translators remarks, [...] = authors remarks

saint imier, in august 2012

much more than 3000 anarchists from the whole world and of each age met from the 08. until the 12. of august 2012 in the little swiss village st.imier and explored their possibilities and borders.

in former times

exactly 140 years ago, 1872, the anarchistic and anti-authorical [ex-]members of the 'international' founded the 'international antiauthorical workersassociation' in the swiss jura in st.imier.

the meeting

in occasion of the anniversary of this year the organisation-committee invited the worldwide anarchistic movement to st.imier. and they came: men from most [all?] of the european countries, from southafrica, middle- and southamerica, white russia, canada, the usa, camerun, japan etc. and participated in the 5-day-long meeting. mai dian from china couldn't realise his invitation, because the chinese government refused him to depart. (in the comment of this report: "for the completion of the text, there should be mentioned, that also people from marokko were invited, but the swiss government refused them, to travel into switzerland)

so many men came, that the designated tent-place on mount soleil had to been expanded twice and almost every room in the village with a population of 4700 was rented. wild camping was tolerated and many people slept in their buses.

the people's kitchen 'le sabot' (NL), 'kokerellen' (BE), 'maulwurfs' (DE) and a travelling bread-baker (what the writer forgot: 'lichtenstein kitchen' (LI), 'la marmite' (FR) and 'retroduktion' (CH) were also involved) three times a day took care, togehter with many volunteers, for vegan and organic food and for cold and hot drinks (water, tee, coffee). they also cared about people with allergies: they could sign in a list and note their allergy and became extra food (made by 'lichtenstein kitchen'). behind the espace noir, there was a crepe-stall and a meat-grill. at different bars was served beer, wine and other stuff.

the program was so various, that it was hard to decide between this uncountable topics. the event rooms were spread all over the whole city, but could be reached easily by foot in some minutes. again and again the amount of participants surpassed the capacity of the rooms.

in the 'salle de spectacle', the big city hall, there was a simultaneous translation, often in 4 different languages, which was transferred wirelessly to headphones. in other cases the translation was done

by the participants themselves, accordingly to their request.

in two different cinemas, there were shown uncountable films through all the 5 days, films of variously genres.

an important place of exchange and meeting was the well visited book-mess in the ice-hall. publisher, groups, federations, networks, unions and distributions from france, spain, scotland, germany, italy, switzerland and other [?] countries offered tons of books, brochures, flyers, films, pacats, stickers, buttons and other more or less sensefull gimmicks.

and for that parents could realise this offer, there was a multilingual children-occupation.

additionnally, to the prefixed program, many events and workshops were organised autonomous or spontaneously. this way, also topics like animal rights, creative anti-repression, regional/local networking and much more found its place and people, who were interested in.

wall journals informed about new topics, actions, scandals, changing of places, lifts/rides and also invoked for staying there.

a very big and important room was given to informally exchange, meeting and getting to know new people. anywhere and anytime people discussed, argumented, laughed, planned and networked.

at the end-meeting in the 'salle de spectacle' on sunday afternoon, many hundred of people took part in. there have been read several, and also critical, textes of different groups, networks and federations. in connection to it, many men gave their estimations and critics about the meeting through the hall-mic.

the together intended end-declaration stayed out for different reasons.

the population of st.imier was friendly, often also helpful and due to the meeting the city could make better sales, and brought the mayor to invite us for the next year [for me this would be more a reason not to go...]. remarks, like the ones of a son to his father in the supermarket, which is jammed by crusted punx, "first of all they should wash themselves", were rarely. for sunday evening there was a common dinner with the population planned [does anybody know more about?]. (jep, one comment says: the dinner in the hall, after the book-mess, was well visited, but dominated by black-wearing people. there were some casual clothed people, but it was hard to say, from where they were. and the people's kitchen one last time did a great job. -- and me says: jep, i think there were some 'city-people' and they enjoyed it also, and me as one cook of 70's have to say: it was a really nice dinner, it was enough for (hopefully) everyone, as much as i got to know, and it also raised a bit the cooking-standard - if i'm allowed to say this, hehe)

the community of saint-imier is quite conscious about its anarchistic history, for which surely also the relentless work of the selforganised collective espace noir is responsible. in this sense you find in the city at least at 3 public places, hints, installed by the community, in the form of signs and a little advertising column, which take reference to the anarchistic watch/clock-makers, the espcae noir and the hotel central, where the anti-authorical iaa 140 years ago was founded.

a solidaric critic to the organisation commitee and to the critics/reviewers of this meeting

the ones who were once involved in the preparation of such a big meeting, know, how much work it means: press-work, organising event-spaces, inviting presentators, grapple oneself with the local

authorities, gain the goodwill of the population, find money, producing infomaterial, duplicating it, distributing it, make a website and maintain it, administer e-mail-accounts, plan all the time, get the police off one's back, getting different material like tents, translation technics, chairs, tables, beamers, computers, cables in every length and size and many things more. the ones who have a wagework and others f.e. family responsibility, suddenly have 2 fulltime jobs to do. exactly this work the few people of the committee [concerning my information these were around 20 people] have accomplished over many months. and because they are humans, they have overseen things, or simply forgotten or ignored in their excessive demand. they have distinctly asked for support before and during the meeting.

i got angry about the demand for perfection of some harsh critics. it often got the taste of consumerism and awakened the suspicion that these critics forgot, that we were on an anarchistic meeting: if i don't like something, i search for comrades and we head the problem on our own [what happened everywhere in st.imier, wherefore i understand the critic yet much worse.]. again and again the lacking skills of the volunteering simultaneous translators [they gave their best: thanks very much for the sometimes funny or appalling translations.] or the completely missing translations in some events have been named and shamed [whom, except to the attendants, human wants to blame this?]. there was criticised the not anywhere present accessibility [a big restriction for the affected people. how could we have resolved that solidarically and practically?]. the not prepared safer space made many comrades angry [they organised it highly motivated by themselves]. the selling of meat made many vegans and animal-right-fighters angry [they surrounded the grill and extinguished it with water.]. the missing rooms were annoying [we went outdoors.]. the fix-price-politics of the evening events and of the camping space made us sick [a photovoltaic soundsystem made sound outdoors for everyone and someone negotiated an autonomous camping space.].

drugs consuming, too much middle-european white men, (and too the often read critic of unfriendliness to deaf: in one kitchen there were deaf people and yes, despite we managed it, because we were willingly to) an outraging partner, campers, shitting in a permaculture-garden of a local resident, cigarettes on the ground, t-shirt selling, no alcohol in migros, too much alcohol everywhere, annoying photographers, heroes of the scene, too less attention by the press, too less discussions, too less arguments, too much arguments, a creme-fraiche-dripping unionist, israel-fans, palestine-fans, dog owners, (masters,) full parked streets, graffiti, too less women, overloaded wlan, too much jabbering, too less action, no toilet paper, chasdays 2012 in karlsruhe, ... there was something for anyone.

an optimistic conclusion

the organisation committee and we all give our best, which often wasn't enough or insufficient. for 5 days we came together from all the parts of the world and some learned, that also anarchists, just because they fight for a world free of domination, are still characterized by capitalism, sexism, racism and all the other odds of our unperfect and unfair world.

we have the best intentions, many good ideas and we're on a hard but also nice way. we are united by the knowledge, that the human is a social being, which can deal solidary and affectionate to each other and others and that we don't need either a government, a police, a church nor an everything destroying capitalism. we've been separated by much less, than we think.

and the good thing is, that we can learn from our faults. we all take new experiences at home. our brains will still run, process and analyse days and weeks after st.imier [in this sense also this text is just a hasty extract from this 5 days.]. men, who never heard about the concept of safer space, will

present it at home. anarchists, shitting in permacultures, read something over sustainable self supply and discover the commons to anarchism. anarchistic men will reflect their present sexism. anarcho-feminists will network worldwide and meet under each other in two years. the organisation committee of the next meeting trusts in all of us, learns from the people's kitchen and will invoke no fix prices. we all will back the next meeting better and there will be an unbelievable translation, all rooms we will do accessible for everyone and the meat on the grill will be made out of seitan. insurrectionalists, plattformists and other tendencies from our movement will fling their arms around their necks [without strangling themselves] and we will screw the government.

thanks, that we all were there.

long lifes the anarchy