



Green Academy

August 27-31 2022
Komiža, Vis

In the aftermath of the pandemic crisis and surrounded with the devastating impacts of the war in Ukraine, we are moving forward with the second decade of the Green Academy, an effort to provide permanent discussion and a learning platform for progressive, green and left social forces in the Balkans, Europe and internationally. While new energy and food crises are approaching quickly, the depth of the climate crisis and huge loss of biodiversity did not disappear. On the contrary, they are at its peak, continuing to challenge our generation's maturity to create conditions for the good life of the generations to come. And yet, achievements and successes, bigger and smaller, of green and progressive political platforms in Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Slovenia demonstrate that the green wave is spreading through Eastern Europe and the Balkans – and that the protagonists that might be carriers of systemic change, though surrounded by hostile environments and worsening conditions, are gaining more and more recognition and power.

Our event is traditionally located on the island of Vis, in the midst of the Adriatic archipelagos, but in this 8th edition we explicitly focus on symbolic archipelagos of epistemological, cognitive, practical and political “islands of change” that exist across geographical but also institutional, disciplinary and practical territories and imaginaries. Placing our conversations and learnings in time of turbulences and global turmoil, we aim to create conditions to dive deeper into ideas, cases or models of transformative practices where more autonomy and/or innovation is being exercised, with the final goals of ensuring just, secure, democratic and ecologically sustainable future. These emerging archipelagos spread across different division lines of class, gender, disciplines, sectors; as spaces of autonomy, emancipation and counter power to any oppressive, extractive, exclusive regime. It is the movement of these archipelagos that can open the door for paradigmatic shift and systemic change, which still appears to be very fragile.

During the 8th edition of the Green Academy we will dive deeper into our imaginary of change and search for the ways of mutual empowerment. We will revisit our roles and reflect upon our strategies; learn from various experiences and dive deeper into ideas that are based on more autonomy, more self-organisation and internal knowledge-sharing. Before the next wave of expansion, our archipelagos need time to reflect on achievements and failures which occurred in our collective experience. Our program is inclined to be more open to initiative and self-organisation. Therefore, besides keynote lectures, panels and workshops we will ensure sufficient time for participants to self-organize around certain topics and propose topics around which they want to initiate discussion (see Call for sessions).