

**34 YEARS ARE NOT ENOUGH |**

**BIOLOGICO SQUAT**



**| Action Week 10.01 - 17.01 |**







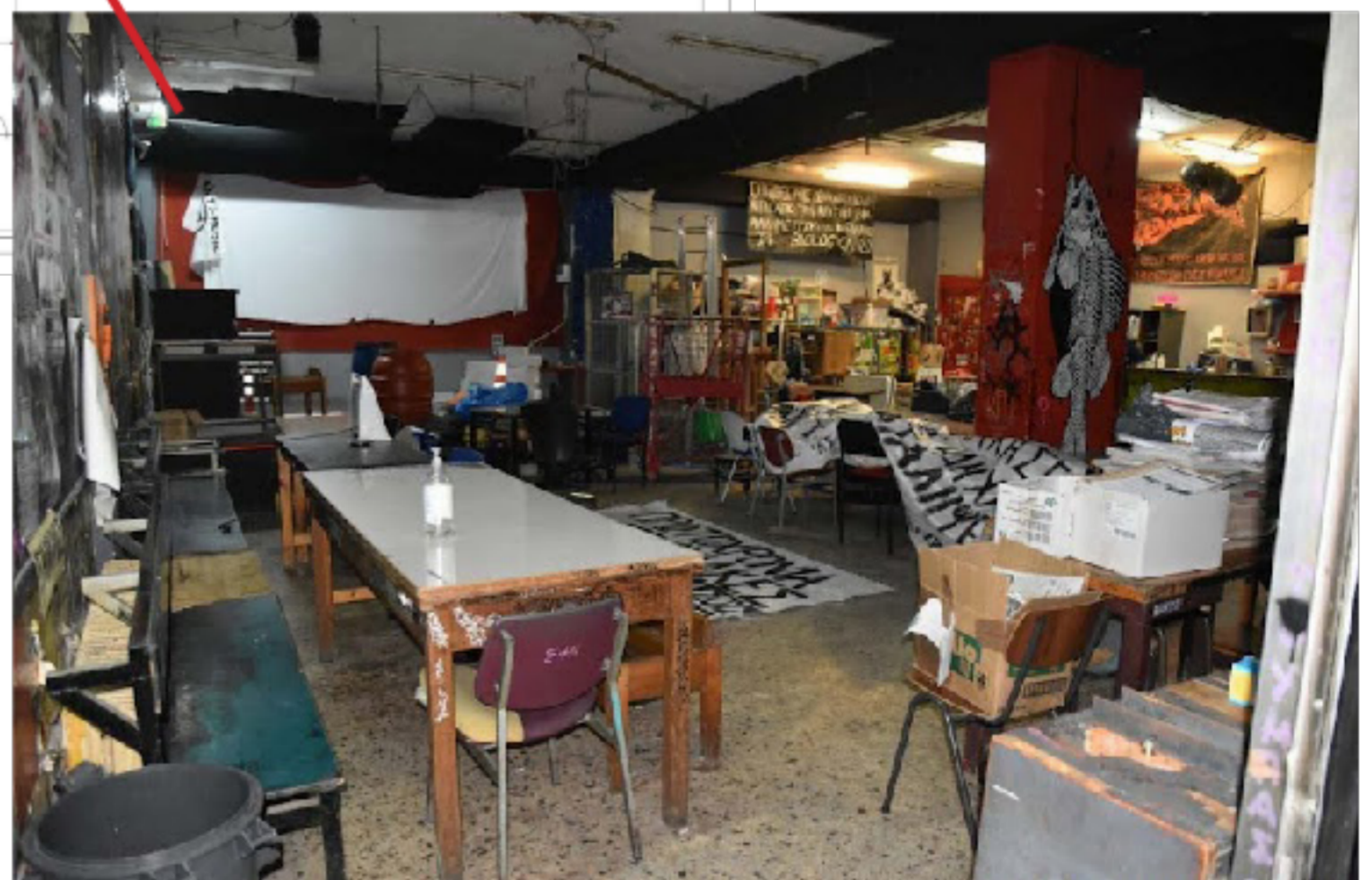
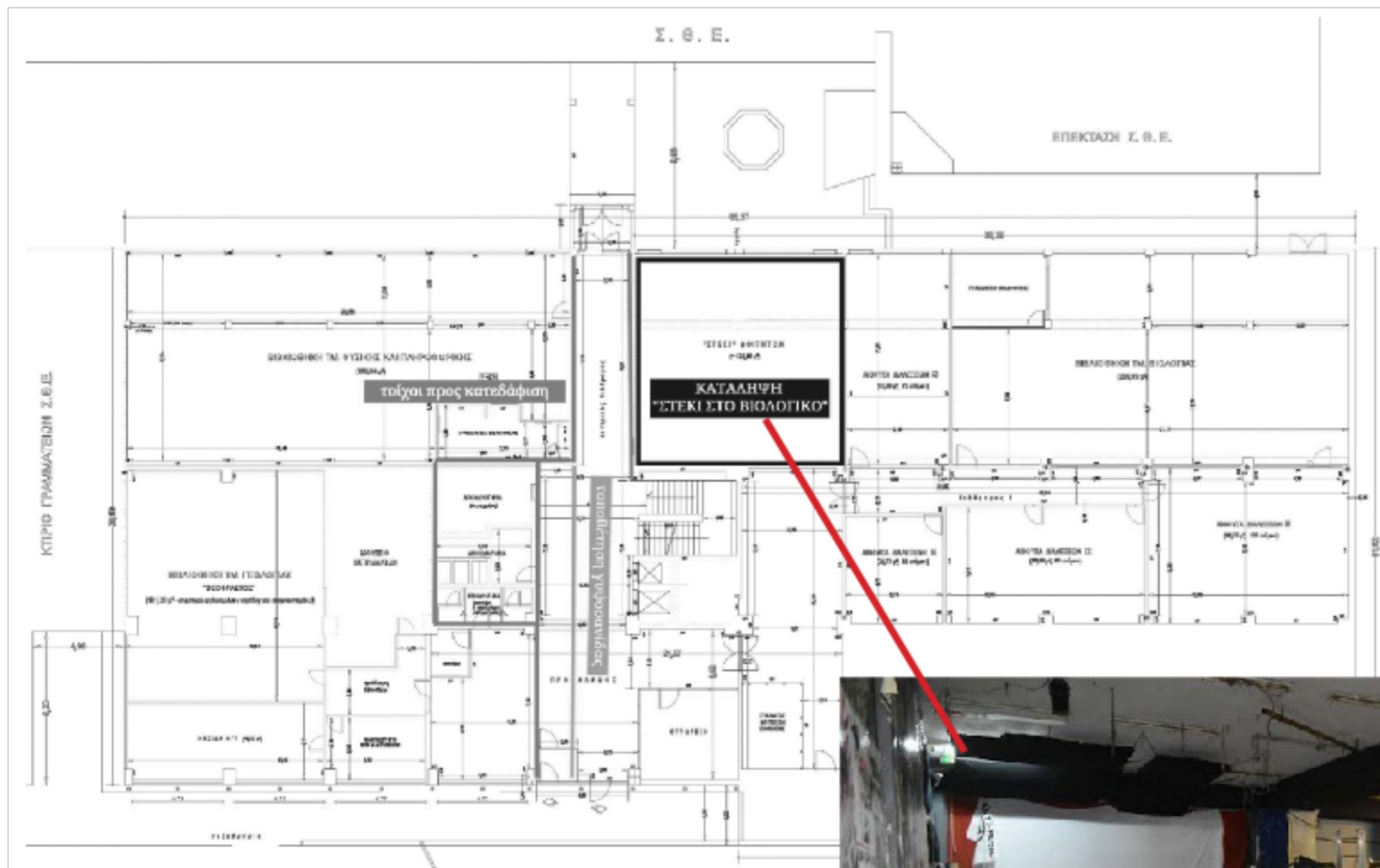
*"This brochure is a transcription of the Info-event for Biologico squat that took place on 07.01.2021 in Kadterschmiede, Rigaer94.*

*This event was organised by a working group of Rigaer94 as part of the collective's participation to the International call for the action week in solidarity with Biologico squat (10.01-17.01) and its mobilisation."*

**Working group of Rigaer94 in solidarity with Biologico Squat**



# LOCATION OF THE BIOLOGICO SQUAT





# HISTORICAL CHRONIC OF THE SQUAT

Since the late 1970s, self-organized concerts are held in squares and university spaces (either after taking permission or during temporary squats that lasted for a few hours). At the same period, in the early 1980s the first housing squats are taking place in Greece and especially in Thessaloniki, mainly from people that had met the "European model" of radical way of life.

1980s: Young and alternative people, punks and freaks gather in public spaces and squares in Thessaloniki and, especially, in Dore (a square right across the White Tower) and in Proxenou Koromila. In a framework of a more general wave of state repression, people are chased away from the public spaces and, therefore, the need to create reference and meeting points is created.

1985: The Squat of the Old Philosophy building: The squat in the Old Philosophy building starts is created out of students (in the old building) which gradually gathers more student groups, autonomous people and people who did not have anything to do with the university who were looking for a meeting and reference point to host their actions and their entertainment away from bars and state repression. Various events such as screenings, parties, zine and photography exhibitions took place, as well as assemblies of many collectives (such as the "Accessibility" collective of that time).

**November 1987: Biologica Squat: During the students' struggles there is the need for a new social space and, thus, the Biologica Squat was created by students of the Biology department. The area who was meant to be a library earlier in the years, now functions as a self-organized coffee place, an area of anti-information and a starting point for the social and student struggles. From the very beginning of its existence the people forming its core and the actions that take place in there support the various aspects of the struggle, since people from different backgrounds co-host their needs (from students' groups, left groups, ecologists, theatre and**

**fine art groups, autonomous and anti-authoritarian people).**

October of 1999: Anti-commercial, self-organized concerts are being held every Saturday which partially cover for the lack of concert activity in the city. The concert collective consists mainly of members of DIY bands (Gulag, Nausea) with experience regarding the movement and contacts with squats and band abroad, as well as relations with the self-organized radio stations of the city (Radio Kivotos, Radio Utopia). The initial members are basically the ones that later continued the concert group of "Hell Enterprise".

With the according change of the form of the group the name changes initially to "3x4" (from the meters of the stage) and later to "3x2" (due to half of the members leaving the collective). The Squat of the Old Philosophy building was the starting point of the first attempt to create a "self-organized music scene" in Thessaloniki which while collaborating with other self-organized structures such as the self-organized radio stations contributes to the creation of other parallel structures, such as the various distros and zines (zines of the particular period that were distributed either independently or with the participation of the people of the squat).

1991: Squat at the Medicine department: Students create a new Squat in the Medicine department. Some well-known collectives that were active in the squat were "In the deep well" that was distributing a zine with the same name and "Λιποτάκτες από την Μιζέρια".

Since 1991, various collectives are using the Biologica Squat as well as the concert collective which according to the changes in the group change their name, some examples are "Όταν δη μισθαίνω", "We deny the lethal" to conclude to "Spring in the Wasteland".

Christmas of 1992: With the intervention of macho syndicalists students the door of the Biologica Squat is built with concrete (for 3 times in a row in the 27th, 29th and 31st of December) in a more general framework of repressing its activity.

Since 1994: in the Biologica Squat the collectives of "Black Sun", "Women Flies" (a feminist collective), theater collectives, left-wing groups, autonomous students' groups and the "Initiation for the Self-organization of the squat" find a common ground while, at the same time, initiations for self-organized self-defense classes and Greek courses being taught to Albanian immigrants, also, take place. They frequently collaborate with other groups and structures regarding the use of the squat, such as solidarity initiations for the total rejection of militant service or solidarity groups for imprisoned revolutionaries. At the same time, collective kitchens, bars, screenings, and events such as that of "The tatters" and Radio Utopia are taking place.

**1998-1999: The Biologica Squat hosts assemblies of anarchist students during the time of students' squatting movement.**

2004-2005: At the Biologica Squat, members of the "Black Sun" together with new members rename the existing concert collective to "Animal Farm".

2005-2006: After the leaving of some people and the entrance of new ones, the concert collective of the Biologica Squat changes their name to "Eraserhead", while left-wing students and the autonomous groups of the Biology, Pharmacy, IT and Physics departments are using the space as well.

Since 2006: the concert collective of the squat takes its present name as "Biologica".

From April 2011 to May, the students' squatting movement takes place for several months due to the abolition of the asylum in the university campus and new education bill. The Biologica Squat was a reference and starting point during the students' struggle.

**Since 2012: the University Asylum is abolished.**

Since the summer of 2013 a lot of repressive actions against the Biologica Squat and other liberated areas in the University campus take place. These include sabotaging the locks with glue, articles and propaganda with the casual points regarding areas of "lawlessness" as the locking of departments and side doors start taking place. Due to these repressive actions, an open assembly is called in the Biologica Squat with all the self-organized structures of the University campus, the autonomous groups which aimed at the radicalization of their actions.

12th of March 2014: During a Biologica concert 3 riot police units invade the squat, using as an excuse some riots that reached the nearby area of the campus. One of the squads actually makes it until the door of the squat, where companions stayed inside and succeeded in preventing the invasion using their bodies while the rest of the cops proceeded in arresting people that was moving at this time in the campus.

September of 2014: For the first time after many years the Biologica squat functions using a monthly plenum of all collectives that participate and are active in the squat, to improve the way, they interact and co-exist in the liberated area.

14th of February of 2014: Just before the beginning of a "Biologica" concert 3 people from IRS (Σ.Δ.Ο.Ε, unit that checks for legal, business documentation such as receipts for buying and selling products) make their entrance in the squat, corresponding to many repressive acts of the Rector. (They tried to enter the squat using the mindset of a commercial bar, asking how the musicians and the workers are getting paid and whether they give receipts for the drinks). They were chased away from the area after it was made clear that this was a squat.

Since the beginning of 2015: the plenum of all the autonomous and students' groups that were active in the Biologica squat, change its name to "Biology's Open assembly".



Since 2016, the Solidarity Fund for Imprisoned and Persecuted Revolutionaries hosts its structure in the Biologica squat.

From 2017 to 2020: Libertarian Initiative of Thessaloniki (Ελευθεριακή Πρωτοβουλία Θεσσαλονίκης) decides to realize its assemblies in the Biologica Squat.

Since August 2020, after the (temporary) eviction of Terra Incognita Squat, the political collective decides to host its ideas and events in the Biologica squat.

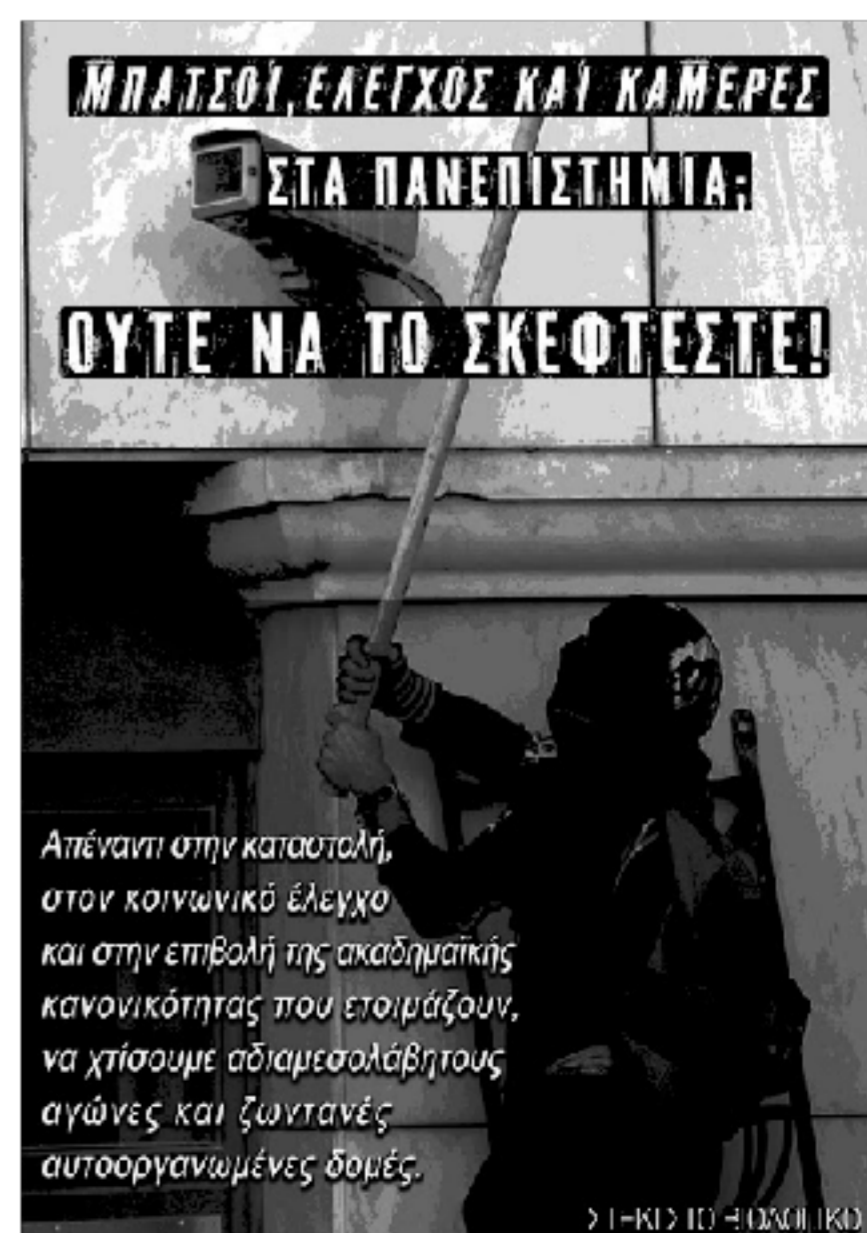
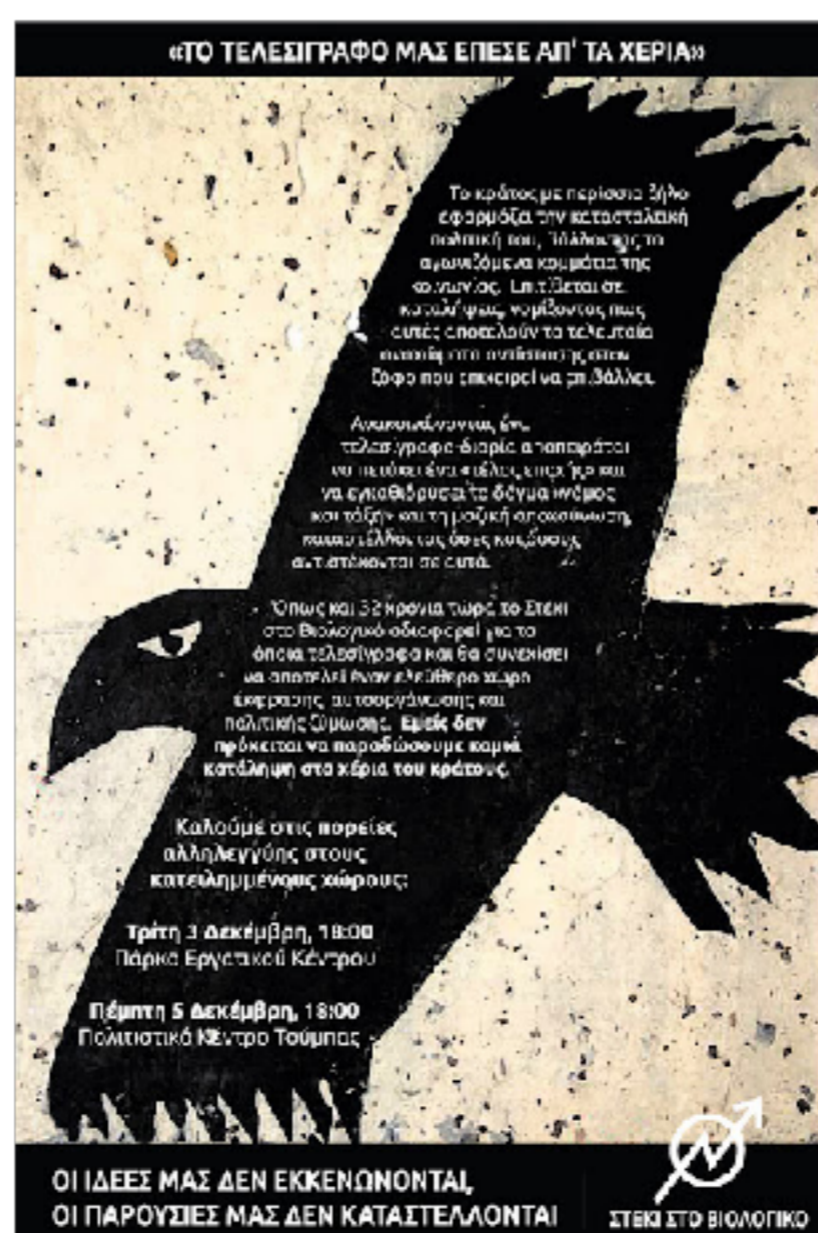
Nowadays, 2021, in the Biologica squat co-exist the collectives of "Biologica", the "Solidarity Fund of Imprisoned and Persecuted Revolutionaries" and "Terra Incognita squat". All 3 collectives form collective decisions regarding various issues monthly in a common plenum (every last Sunday of the month), while they weekly hold their own assemblies.

**November 2021: Rectors and workers claim the responsibility to remodel the ground floor. In their plans the squat is to be turned into a waiting room.**

**December 31.12.2021: Biologiko gets evicted by cop forces and construction workers.**



**The Biologica squat exists as a liberated, squatted area for the past 34 years inside the Aristotle University campus and continues to function as a reference and meeting point with the ideas of self-organization and anti-commercialism, the solidarity to the imprisoned and persecuted revolutionaries and the every-day struggle for liberation as fundamental ideas. Many collectives have found a home between these walls, some of them for a longer time and some others for a smaller one, yet all of them maintained the diversity of expression and action for the struggle. The repressive mechanisms oppressing the squat derive mainly from the rectorate authorities and the deaneries. People from the collectives, students, and collectives themselves have been targeted by the state for their active participation in the squat.**



Recent posters (2021) of Biologico squat and the struggles that participated, inside and outside the university campus



# **PARTICIPATION OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**

## **The importance of the greek universities and their specific role in society**

The majority of the people on greek territory lives in the two big cities Athens and Thessaloniki. Both are cities with universities. Universities were and are central for most of the political movements from below. This reaches back to the November uprising against the military junta. The insurrection which was fought down bloodily in november 1973 had its centre in the polytechnic school, that many of the protesters used to retreat. The pictures of the tank breaking through the main gate are burnt into the people's memory. This had as results that the 17th of November became an annual people's holiday and that after the junta's fall the university asylum was implemented, which denies access for state security forces.

From that time on the anarchist and student movement traditionally use the universities for meetings, to organize, to agitate and to prepare and carry out actions. The biggest social unrests and confrontations always had an important base in the universities.

## **How this affects the society**

Greece is a relatively unproductive country with an economy still based partially on familiar property and enterprises. Workers autonomy and massive social struggles still exist and the state accordingly is not able to act as a sovereign on many fields. This is visibly represented by the universities: many departments are laced with graffiti and there are many illegally and permanently squatted rooms. Entire parts of the universities like the Polytechnio get repeatedly squatted or are even used as a steady, freely accessible and open meetingpoint of social struggles.

Generally one could conclude that the modern transformation of the universities as for example happened in germany is in greece still far from being complete. They are not yet those pure factories to generate lobotomized expert staff. The operating mode of greek universities is often affected by strikes or occupations. The future elite of the country spends an important chapter of their lives in this environment which allows them a deeper understanding of the society and its struggles. They get in contact with other groups of society, with the anarchist movement, with the hostile and militarized police, they find themselves in uprisings, strikes and unrests, in short: there they get politicized.

All this makes the universities so important and in the same time gives the reason for the state to transform them.

## **How does the state attack... legally**

Since the existence of the university asylum the state has plans to abolish it in order to remove this obstacle in its way to unfold power. The 80s brought the first mitigation of the law and since then the asylum is dismantled step by step. First through the possibility of a council within the university apparatus to call in the police. Later the decision of the rectorate sufficed to do so. Additionally the police's intervention was legalized for felonies and finally, in 2012, any legal restriction got abolished. 2021 the bill 4777 was passed, which scheduled a new policeforce exclusively for the universities which is subordinate



### **...practically**

The temporary suspensions of the university asylum in 1985 and 1995 were moments of extreme tension and are as peak points of the struggle part of the anarchist movement's legacy. The legal possibility of the suspension was always limited by the allergic reaction of parts of the society to scenes of the police in the universities. For example during the biggest insurrection after the Junta, which happened in 2008 and had of course its base of retreat in the universities, there was no such break of the asylum. This though does not mean, that there were not always undercover operations and smaller violations of this social convention. In the university of Thessaloniki for example there were frequent civil cops' interventions with occasional arrestements during riots.

### **...combined**

What we are facing at the moment is a strategic state attack on the university asylum. Aiming at the total power and control the government passed the bill 4777 in the middle of the pandemic and virtually over night. In the meantime there was decision for the renovation of the biologic department of the Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki, which hosts for 34 years now the Biologico Squat as a historical point of convergence of social and anarchist activities. Now, on the 31st of december, during the winter holidays where most of the students leave the city, the eviction and immediate destruction of the room took place.

### **The attack on the University of Thessaloniki in a more global frame**

Globally the law 4777 and the eviction of Biologico squat, can be understood as a part of a generalized authoritarian offensive. Only 1,5 years ago the most important anarchist squat of the Terra Incognita Collective was evicted. This comes as the effects of a liberalized and cut health system affect the mobility of the society in the pandemic state of emergency while the police- and military forces are massively upgraded and equipped. Additionally the political centre of the anarchist movement in Athens is paralyzed by the states attacks. The Polytechnio there has been made partly inoperative to undermine its historically grown importance. Numerous squats in the surrounding district of Exarchia are already evicted and a strong police force is present now in order to proceed with the gentrification in Athens' city centre. The exact plan exists for Thessaloniki, with the anarchist movement as an obstacle to be removed.

By the conquest of spaces like Biologico squat the state gains ground in the universities; with the introduction of the new police unit and the security concept we get closer to the dystopical universities resembling the german example, where it's all about the creation of educational factories for an elite of workers and the perfectionized exploitation of students. Meanwhile, in case places like Biologico squat can not be taken back or replaced, the state will not just take the universities but more and more parts of our lives and of our autonomy. If so, attacks from above will not have to face any resistance any more.



# INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

**What does it mean for us?** Often we receive calls for international solidarity in a very short-term situation, what makes it difficult for us is to react on it. If you follow the anarchist counter-information media, you will find some call every week. Either for repression cases and prisoners or a territory under attack. This challenge can be an opportunity to broaden our own perspectives.

Who opens an international call also starts a dialogue with this, mostly to unknown people. To reply to these calls is a chance to develop connections, relations and exchange between individuals and collectives, between cities and regions. The dialogue with words and actions between different anarchist spaces and in the international squatting movement already started some years ago and produced a lot of actions and attacks on the enemies' structures or symbols.

**But what is the impact of a solidarity action?** Maybe a lot of actions or heavy attacks, in case of Biologico against greek interests, can influence some decisions. Since we must not refer in our actions to the states authorities but to our comrades, who face the same enemy. Giving solidarity breaks the logic of capitalist values because something is given without the condition of getting back something. By taking some risk and leaving the apathy of modern society, we give strength to the people who started the call. They learn that their information was noticed and that we share their position in the conflict.

By exchange of theories and content, informations and practical skills, the anarchist or autonomous space can develop a common ground. This is important to not remain within a limited framework, which may hit the only local focused scenes – the opposite of a movement. Participation in any revolutionary process means leaving the position of a spectator – and act.

With the call of Biologico, which hosted the evicted collective of Terra Incognita, the collectives of "Biologica", the "Solidarity Fund of Imprisoned and Persecuted Revolutionaries", we learn about the situation of the resistance in Greece. Terra Incognita had also launched an international call in the past – and gave solidarity to threatened squats in Berlin. The state machine in Europe is synchronizing its aggression against their internal enemy to individualize and alienate us.

**Solidarity is the tool to break down their imposed borders.**







