

Invitation to GLEN RENEw – 2018 in Felsőörs, Hungary (February 7 – 11, 2018)

Dear participants of the GLEN MTC 2017-2018, dear members, dear multipliers dear teamers, with this e-mail the core team members of this year's **RENew** want to warmly welcome you to and give you some further information and ideas about our seminar **in Hungary from 7th to 11th February 2018**.

We are currently preparing the structure and content of the seminar and are very happy to be able to share another few days with all of you, to reflect together on the MTC, to share experiences, to look at possibilities for further engagement, to be with and listen to each other.

Please register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/uCdEEBVybs1i47S22> until 24th of January.

Everyone is supposed to register - participants, teamers, guests, members and multipliers representatives.

It became a very long e-mail in the end but please take the time to read it till the very end since **important issues** are being addressed that will allow you to prepare mentally and logistically for the seminar. We will talk about:

- venue, arrival & departure
- schedule
- food
- atmosphere and Space on RENEw
- significance of the RENEw seminar
- GEA
- open day
- what to bring&material

- **Venue, arrival&departure:**

RENew will take place in a beautiful area in a small valley, in Alsóörs, at the edge of a small town called Felsőörs, near to lake Balaton, cca. 120km from Budapest. The venue is called [Snétberger Music Center](#).

Each of us is supposed to be at the venue by 15:30 on the 7th of February. We will start by 16:30 with an opening session. So, if possible, we would kindly ask you to **arrive between 15h00 and 16h00 (or earlier!)** so that there is time for you to check in and get a room before starting.

How to get to Alsóörs and the venue from Budapest:

You can arrive to **Alsóörs** by train from **Budapest Déli Pályaudvar (Southern Railway Station)** (you will have to change train in **Székesfehérvár**). It takes approx. 2 hours.

Then from Alsóörs (which is a small town at the lake Balaton) there are 3 options:

- [walk](#) to the venue (5km)
- take the public bus (every half an hour) which departs from the train station, and it takes 10 minutes to get to Felsőörs, then you walk a couple of minutes to the venue
- the venue provides us with a mini shuttle bus, which is especially thought for the participants who would not feel safe taking the bus.

Departure:

The seminar ends on the 11th with lunch. There are several buses then that we can take.

- **Schedule:**

The schedule is attached. You can get an idea of the content of the sessions already but minor changes might still occur in the meantime and further details will be shared with all of you during the welcome session of the seminar.

- **Food:**

Food will be **vegetarian** and vegan. This is a conscious choice which is linked to a rejection of the current meat production industry, amongst other issues that are linked to food production. We are aware that this choice of diet is not the ultimate solution to this issue and at the same time it seems to us the most convenient one in such a seminar setting. If you don't agree and feel like sharing your opinions, thoughts and convictions, we're happy to do so on the seminar. There will be spaces for a critical debate, for instance during the Open Day.

- **Atmosphere and Space on RENEw:**

The overall character of RENew does not differ much from our first two MTS. A major difference is that there will be no tutorials but mainly plenary and workshop sessions. And even though the core team organizes the overall structure, we should all feel responsible for co-creating the atmosphere and the spaces on RENew.

For us within the core team this includes that we try to **be as attentive as possible to each other's needs and different perspectives and positionalities**. We want RENew to be a space in which critical feedback is not understood as putting oneself above another person or conviction but as an offer for other viewpoints. Empathy for another person should thereby be in the centre of an exchange. We also want to move away from the 'we love mistakes' attitude towards an atmosphere of 'we take responsibility for our actions and non-actions'.

Talking about **different positionalities**: GLEN and therefore the RENew are still very white spaces. This is a fact we should acknowledge. The core team is white and the majority of participants are white and Alsóörs seems to be a place where Black or PoC persons are not seen very often. This is unfortunately the reality we find ourselves in right now and just by being aware of this fact the space does not automatically become welcoming for people who identify as PoC or Black, or are read as such. Rather the awareness seems to us only the first step to become more inclusive for different positionalities. This also means that BPoC participants, BPoC staff members, BPoC guest speakers might not feel comfortable in this very setting. While planning the seminar we tried to be very considerate of this fact and hope we will be able to create a fruitful atmosphere for everyone.

If you identify as BPoC and have – maybe also with hindsight to the first two GLEN seminars – some doubts or comments/things we should consider, please contact us!

- **Significance of the RENew seminar:**

The RENew is the last seminar in the GLEN MTC but it **should not be misunderstood as the end of our global learning engagement**. Global learning does not happen as an isolated event or action. What counts is our attitude that accompanies us on our way after the GLEN experience.

Thus, the RENew is to be seen in the context of the whole cycle. It is not only evaluating the internship or reconnecting with old acquaintances but also reconnecting with the topics that have been dealt with on the first two seminars and to dig deeper into their connection to our everyday life, the internship and to our future engagements.

Talking about engagement. It always sounds like a huge concept or being linked to some specific action but, again, **engagement is more an attitude than an isolated event**. That's why we think that the GEA concept as it stands right now might be misleading. We want to encourage each of us to think about sustainable activities or long-term commitments that influence our everyday surrounding. This could also be something rather small. Therefore it can be useful to think about what is bothering us, or worth changing, in our home societies ...

- **GEA:**

In the attachments you can find the GEA information and reflection sheet . As we know many of you have already some ideas, **please be as prepared as possible to present your ideas on the seminar!** There will be space for talking about your ideas in small groups and reflect on them in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses and to work further on the GEA. **The attached sheet will be helpful to write down your ideas and to reflect on them! Please make use of it before RENew!** The planned reflection space during the seminar is of course also for those who have already done a GEA. For the latter, please bring along your material. We will also have some space to look at it and reflect upon it in small groups. And please don't forget, the GEA is not necessarily supposed to be about your internship! It is more about what you are concerned about in your everyday surroundings on a daily basis and a topic you really would like to engage in...

- **Open Day:**

As you can see on the schedule, there will be an open day. Therefore you can already **think about topics, methods, issues you want to share during this space**. Maybe you want to discuss GLEN, internships in the Global South, maybe you want to offer a slack line or theater workshop, or you may present an association or project you're part of, or or or ...

- **What to bring & material:**

During the evenings we want to share movies, poetry, art, music or other media that we think are relevant to the topics we touch upon during the whole cycle or any socially relevant issues for that matter. Within the core team we had a few ideas on movies but we would like you to bring your own favorite ones and other material that you can propose to watch, listen to, discuss etc. with others during evenings and free time..

Linen, bed sheets and towels will be handed out by the hotel, so we don't need to bring these.

We may of course bring whatever makes us happy during free time: juggling balls, a Frisbee, a hammock, (card) games etc. ...

Evenly important: bring the material you need for an Open Space workshop, the films, music or whatever you would like to share during the evenings.

PheW..

Thank you for reading this mail to the end and if you have any questions which have not been addressed, other remarks, feedback, criticism or just want to tell us that you're looking forward to coming to RENew, don't hesitate to contact us. With any question please address both Mathi and Bua (mathildetomasella@hotmail.com , abulacik@gmail.com).

If you encounter any difficulties feel free to contact us also via phone: Mathi - 0049 01575 34 90 222 , Bua - 0049 1577 4310 540.

And once again: **please register here:** <https://goo.gl/forms/uCdEEBVybs1i47S22> **until 24th of January.**

All information about RENew 2018 you can find under this link: <http://glen-europe.org/renew-2018/>

Much love and we are happy to see you soon!

Your RENew Team

Mathilde, Bua, Sofia, Kristine, Silvija, Paula