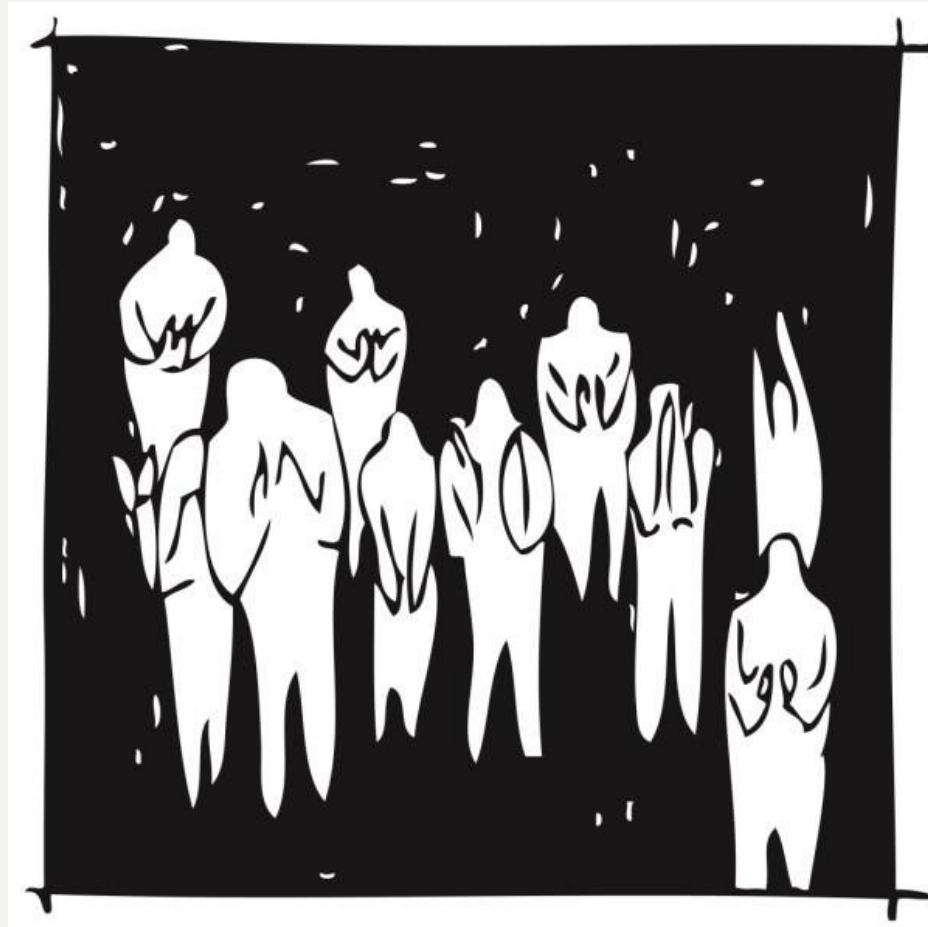


**SELF-ORGANISED
ADULT
EDUCATION**

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How can educators be more engaged in public pedagogy and create learning environment in the interest of learners and citizenship, an environment that embraces diversity and calls for the new forms of living together, environment that could unfold new educational approaches and empower learners to challenge the paradigms of the world around them?

Biesta (2012) accentuated the importance of the interest of **‘publicness’** as the main characteristic of public pedagogy. He suggests that public pedagogy is “a specific form of doing educational ‘work,’ in which pedagogy ‘operates’ in a public way”. This form of pedagogy links the Educational and the Political and locates both in the public sphere, supporting the conceptualisation of civic activism as the modern learning form.



Political space matters,
politicalspacematters.org

PUBLIC SPACE IS...

- *An ensemble of social connections, political institutions, and judicial practices.*
- *A forum, a group action, school for social learning, and common ground.*
- *In the Western tradition, public space has had a positive connotation that evokes the practice of democracy, openness, and publicity of debate since the time of the Greek agora.*
- *Democracy is inseparable from that of public space.*
- *A zone of social transition and possibility in the potential for new social arrangement and forms of imagination*

Post-communist societies with their fragile democracies are even more in need to reduce the state control and interventions and to broaden the borders of public spaces, in order to increase the possibilities to exercise their human and civil rights.

The post-socialist and transitional period is characterized by market led economy, dominance of private ownership with limited citizen participation governed by the non-governmental sector, and the beginning of reconstruction projects initiated by a foreign investor (Cvetinovic, Maricic, & Bolay, 2016).

Becoming targets of speculation, many former sites of welfare and cultural services (hospitals, schools, parks, theatres, cinemas) have become endangered species, calculated as potential buildable square meters instead of potential contributions to life quality (Patti & Polyak, 2017, p.14).

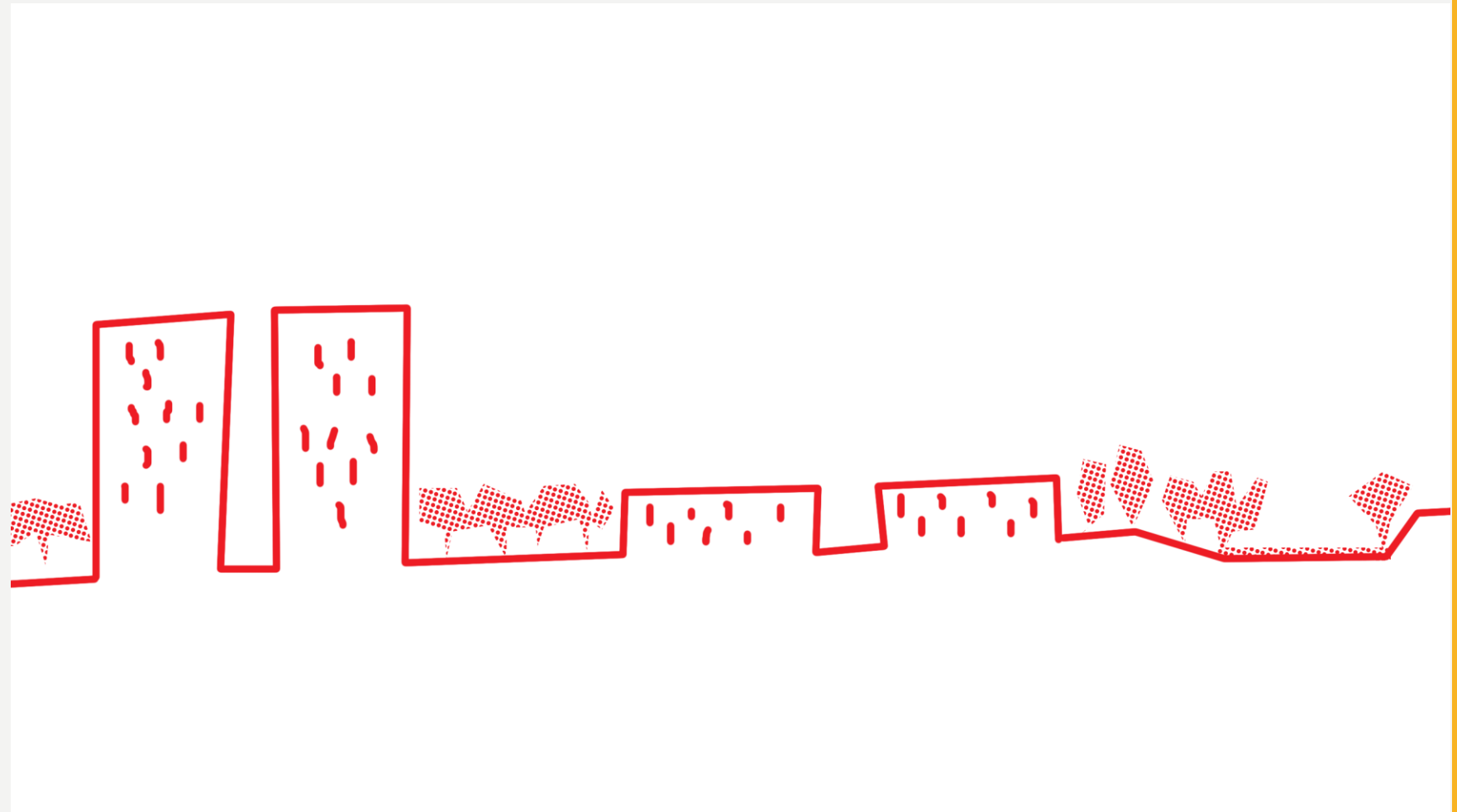
SELF-ORGANISATION

Self-organisation is the daily production of a non-profit climate of self-empowerment. Non-institutional individuals who work in a self-empowered way are self-organised. They do not receive any benefit from the system, but they still work hard (to articulate the urge) to express themselves, directed towards the public from the bottom up.

Inclusive socio-spatial interventions have reinforced horizontal decision making based on the needs of local communities, unlike the leading urban public institutions.

LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Spaces become educational, and learning is emerging through the active creation of space that is in constant movement that unfolds through the interaction of ideas, inside and outside, personal and social.



“442 crew” is part of the global *Bridge the gap* movement, consisting of “Belgrade Urban Running Team” from Serbia and “Zagreb runners” from Croatia, which aim not only to raise awareness about the importance of sport and recreation for health and well-being, but also to cross and **question the national borders**, to fight against **nationalism and xenophobia** and to nurture friendship by running from Belgrade to Zagreb.



***BRIDGE THE GAP* MOVEMENT**

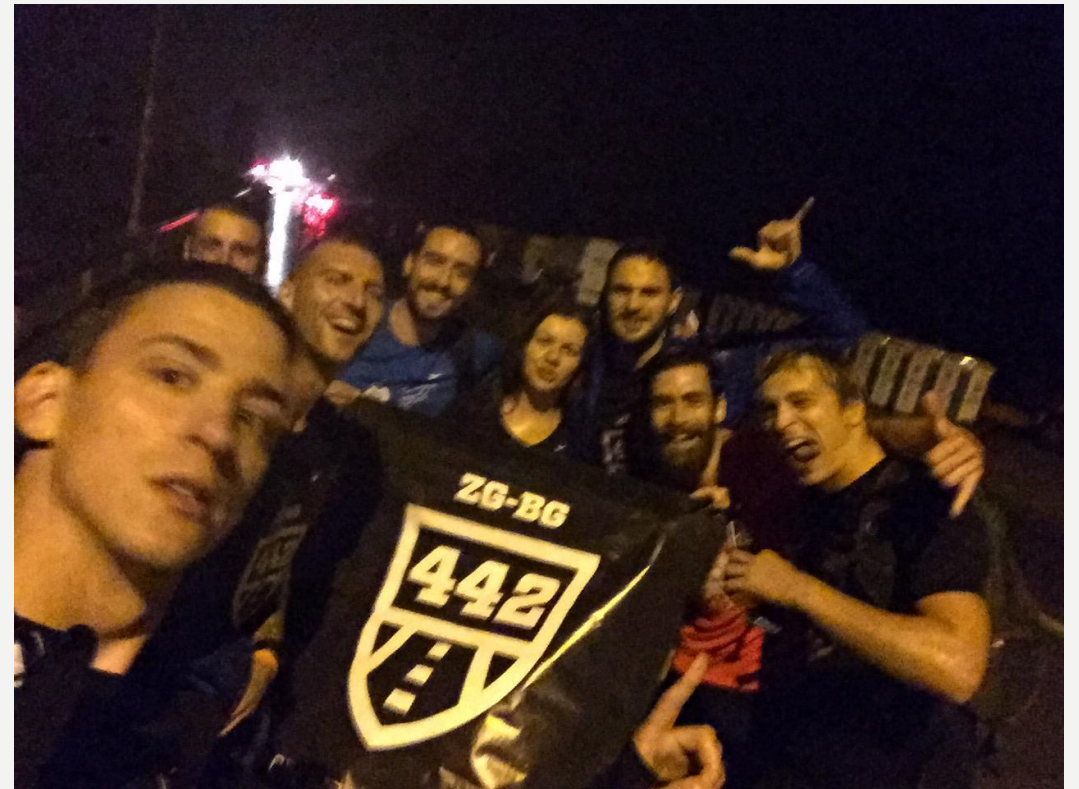
The various crews are not running groups, but rather crews of like-minded and creative souls that are connected to the pulse of their city, the unspeakable rhythm of their home.

**TO MAKE A CONNECTION WHERE
THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE.**

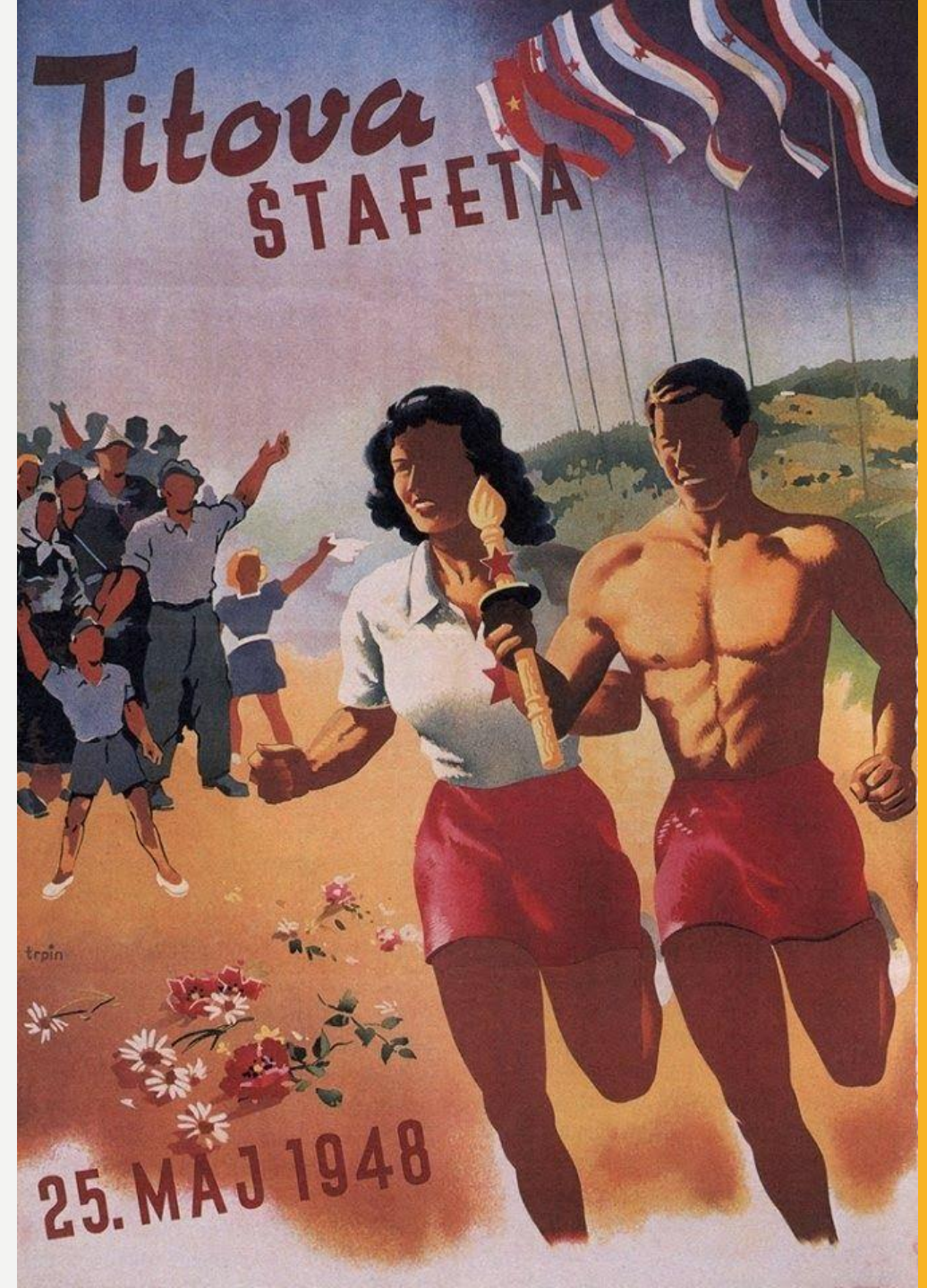
“442 CREW” - LOCAL IMPORTANCE

- the region that was dominated by nationalist and xenophobic discourses and post-war resentments
- Challenge hyper masculinity related to militarization of society that took place in the 90s that encompasses nationalist values as part of belonging
- High unemployment, no trust in institution and system, feeling of injustice
- This movement aims to connect the countries, symbolically questioning nation borders, and send the message of peace, tolerance and friendship – alternative but acceptable masculinity

THE BORDER BETWEEN SERBIA AND CROATIA WAS CLOSED FOR MOTOR VEHICLES FOR SEVERAL DAYS DUE TO MIGRANT CRISIS



A BIT OF HISTORY...



Two cities, two nations, two running crews UNITED in one family, one crew - 442 crew! Belgrade Urban Running Team and Zagreb runners” (442 crew, 2014 - 2017).

Learning as active creation of the new social reality, through the individual – community interactions and contributions, in a broad human-right framework





“CONNECTED BY LIFE ON THE RUN, MUTUAL SUPPORT AND A HOPE FOR BETTER TIMES.... WE FOUNDED BELGRADE URBAN RUNNING TEAM SOMETIME IN JUNE OF 2014 WITH THE IDEA TO ENCOURAGE OUR FELLOW CITIZENS TO GET OUT OF THEIR BEDS AND OFFICES AND LIVE AN ACTIVE LIFE, ON THE GO. ALSO, WE FEEL THAT EVERYONE IS OBLIGED TO DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY THEY LIVE IN AND MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE”

