SCHOOL OF ARTIVISM

A toolkit for creative action

Tools and formats to run your own artivism workshop or school



School of Artivism

Co-funded by
the European Union

WHERE THIS KIT COMES FROM

In April 2026, 25 young activists and artists from 10 countries spent a week in Palermo, Sicily, for the first School of Artivism. Together, they tested a creative process, imagined actions on local struggles and took three of them to the streets of the city. Since then, they have run their own workshops and schools in Brno, Budapest, Athens and beyond. This kit gathers the tools that worked, so you can use them too.



HOW TO USE IT

This kit is for people with some experience of activism or art who want to facilitate. You don't need to be a professional facilitator: each tool tells you why, how, and what to watch out for. Take what you need, adapt it to your context, share it. This kit is under an open licence. (page 12)

- **I want to organise a School of Artivism**
  → page 4
- **I'm looking for one tool**
  → pages 5 to 10

THE PROCESS

Research — Know your ground

Learn about the issue, the place and the people that live and struggle here. Feed yourself with actions from the past.

Imagine —

Go for quantity

Have as many ideas as possible and build on each other's.

Evaluate —

Make the dream doable

Use tools to sharpen your idea. Go back to Research or Imagine whenever you need to.

Produce — Make it real

Artivism is about making things real, so let's act even if it's imperfect!

Conclude —

Step back together

Share how it felt and what you learned for the next one.



Adapted from the creative process of the Center for Artistic Activism (Research, Sketch, Evaluate, Produce).

School of Artivism

A 5-DAY SCHOOL

TIMELINE

Arrival evening — Meet. Icebreakers, a shared picnic, small "garden" groups for the week.

DAY 1 **Build the group.** A cooperation game, the space of freedom, roles for the week (page 11). Meeting a local partner.

DAY 2 **Research, Imagine, Evaluate.** Explore local issues, get inspired by past actions, brainstorm, then sharpen ideas with the audience circles, the spectrum of allies and the tactical star (pages 6 to 9). Each group leaves with its action, its roles and its needs.

DAY 3 **Produce.** Creation time in small groups. Workshops led by participants.

DAY 4 **Produce and act.** Last preparations. Public actions in the evening.

DAY 5 **Conclude.** Meta on the actions, "What will be my next action?", closing circle (page 10).

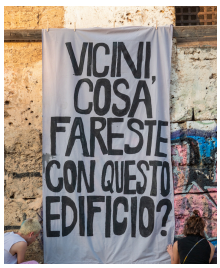
Tips

- One fixed place where the group can meet every morning.
- A local partner who knows the ground and its struggles. In Palermo, the Scuola di Restanza suggested the three issues the groups worked on.
- Arrive a few days early to meet local collectives and prepare the logistics.

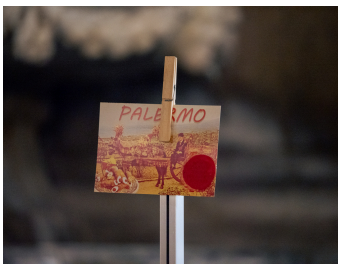
seen in Palermo

On 21 April 2026, three groups took three actions to the streets: scratch-off "tourist postcards" revealing questions on touristification, handed to more than 100 tourists; a banner asking neighbours what they would do with an abandoned building on Piazza Magione, with two discussion tables for three hours; and about 50 posters turning Scopa playing cards into portraits of Sicilian women.









TOOL 1: BRAINSTORMS

intention

Imagine

produce as many ideas as possible, including the wildest ones

a good idea makes people react, laugh or feel uncomfortable, and has not been done yet

30 min + 30 min to gather ideas

4 to 8 per brainstorm

level

paper, markers, sticky notes, a speaker and a playlist, 3 boxes

3 WAYS TO BRAINSTORM

1 Disco Brainstorm

Put on music and let everyone dance and move. About every 30 seconds, stop the music: everyone shouts out all the ideas that come to mind, and someone writes them down. Then the music starts again with a new song. Moving keeps the energy up and the inner critic quiet.

2 TV news Brainstorm

Four people stand in a line. They are TV reporters, describing live an action happening in front of their eyes. The facilitator points at one reporter, who starts telling the story, then switches to another at any moment, even in the middle of a sentence. The next reporter picks up exactly where the last one stopped. Someone writes down every idea that comes out.

3 Brainstorm with constraints.

Prepare three boxes of papers.
Tone: funny, dramatic, joyful, parodic, serious…
Place: street, company headquarters, town hall square, beach, park, shop, library, tourist spot…
Tactic: march, performance, interactive format, hoax, dance, theatre, visuals.
Draw one paper from each box and invent an action combining the three in 5 minutes. Then draw again.

Rules of all three

- No judgement, quantity first, build on each other's ideas ("be for, not against"), write everything down. Sorting comes later.
- Start with a popcorn round: what helps you have ideas?

seen in Budapest

In June 2026, a participant ran an artivism workshop pairing Hungarian folklore creatures with today's social issues to imagine new interventions.

TOOL 2: THE TACTICAL STAR

intention

Evaluate

check your action from ten directions, so nothing important is forgotten

20 min

one star per action group

level

the star printed large, sticky notes



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10 BRANCHES

1. **Strategy:** which bigger goal does this action serve?
2. **Target:** who can make the change happen? Can we put pressure on them?
3. **Message:** what is the one idea people should leave with?
4. **Tone:** funny, serious, joyful, angry? Does it fit the audience?
5. **Timing:** why now? Which date, event or news can we use?
6. **Audience:** who will see it, on the spot or through the media?
7. **Allies:** who can join, support or share it?
8. **Group:** who does what? Are the roles clear?
9. **Care:** how do we keep each other safe and well, before, during and after?
10. **Resources:** time, money, material, skills: what do we have, what is missing?

STEPS

1. **Each group fills in its star, one branch at a time**
2. **Look at the links: changing one branch often moves the others**
3. **End with three lists: your objective, the material you need, your next steps**

Facilitation tip

- The star is a checklist to find blind spots, not a form to fill in. Walk around the groups and note their needs.

TOOL 3: AUDIENCE

intention

Evaluate

choose who you want to reach, and why. "The general public doesn't exist."

15 min

a large sheet per group

Draw circles around your action, from the closest to the furthest: the people doing the action; the target; passers-by; people who will hear about it through the media; and the people who will tell the story later. Then decide who matters most for your goal and adapt the action to them.



Tip

- think of your audience through the media, not as the media

TOOL 4: ALLIES

intention

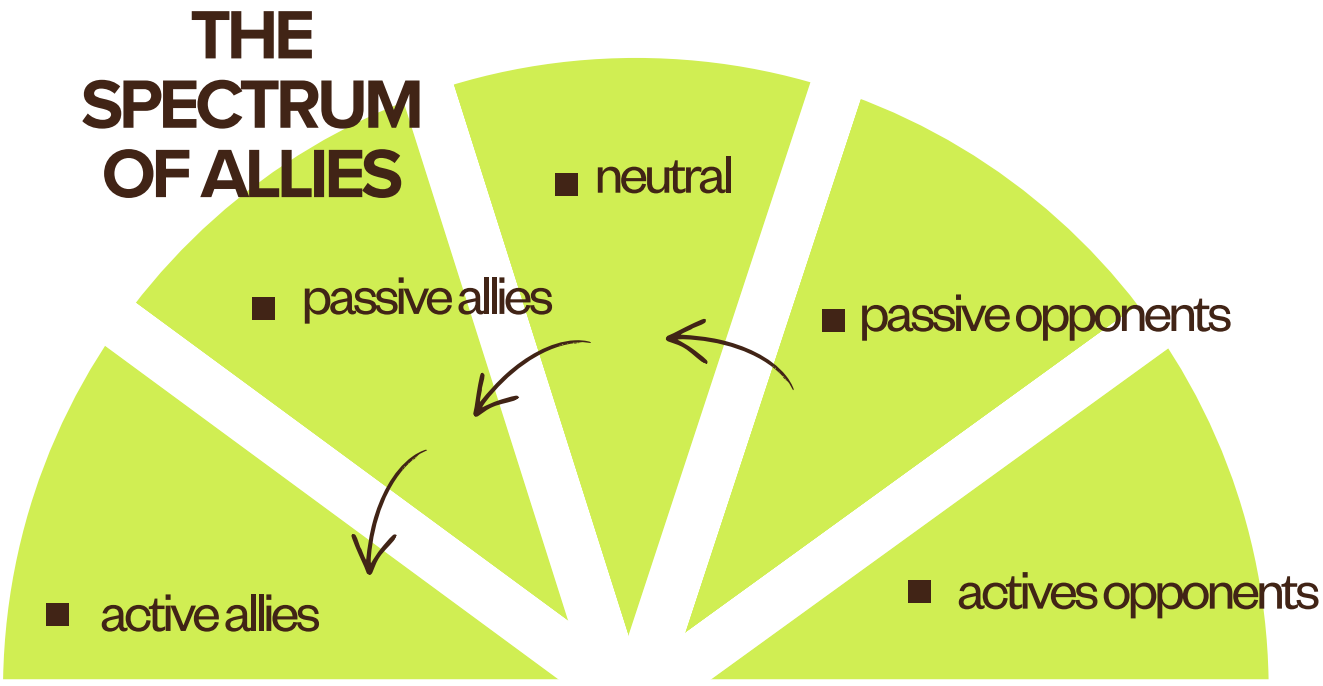
Evaluate

see who is with you, and help them take one step closer.

15 min

a large sheet per group

Draw a half-circle in five parts: active allies, passive allies, neutral, passive opponents, active opponents. Place the groups and people concerned by your issue. Your goal is not to convince your opponents, but to move each group one step towards you.



Tip

- offer different ways to join. In a climate action in Belgium, a group of grandparents brought food and transport: they went from passive to active allies.

seen in Palermo

One group wanted to reach the neighbours of an abandoned building. Instead of speaking for them, they hung a banner asking them: "Vicini, cosa fareste con questo edificio?" ("Neighbours, what would you do with this building?"), and listened for three hours.

TOOL 5: PRODUCE & CONCLUDE

THE ACTION SHEET

Produce

intention

turn your idea into a plan everyone can share

15 min

a large sheet per group

Fill in one sheet per action: title · struggle · type of action · where and when · target · audience · goal · roles · material · next steps

THE META

Conclude

intention

learn from what you lived together.

45 to 60 min

a large sheet per group

1. Feelings: how did I feel before, during and after the action?
2. Behaviours: what did I notice in myself and in the group?
3. Learnings: what helped? What blocked? What would we do differently?
4. KISS: what do we Keep, Improve, Stop and Start?

Rules

- speak in "I", listen without reacting, keep what is said in the room

WHAT WILL BE MY NEXT ACTION ?

Each person fills in an action sheet for an action back home. In small groups, each person presents their main challenge, and the others share ideas (35 min per person).

seen in Brno

Five months after Palermo, a participant organised a three-day School of Artivism in Brno with about 20 participants, hosted and funded by the Faculty of Fine Arts of Brno University of Technology.

THE COOPERATIVE POSTURE

The Space of freedom

At the start, ask the group what it needs to feel good together, then complete with these principles. It is a frame to open, not to close: adapt it to your group.

- kindness, towards yourself, others and the organisers
- active and curious listening
- sovereignty
- be for, not against, and the right to make mistakes
- speak in "I"
- shared responsibility for the space

Weather and gardens

Every morning, the same small group of 4 checks in: how is my head, my heart, my body?

Roles

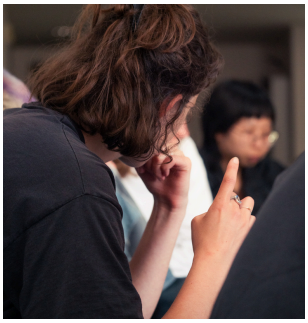
Share the work of holding the group: time keeper, collective memory, logistics, evening plans, guardian angel (the person who watches over everyone's well-being).

Cooperation gestures

Simple hand signs to agree, ask to speak, ask for silence or ask for clarification.







RESOURCES, CREDITS, LICENCE

To go further

- Center for Artistic Activism, The Art of Activism: the creative process this kit adapts
- Beautiful Trouble: a toolbox of tactics, principles and stories
- Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination: art and activism, by Jay Jordan and Isabelle Fremeaux
- The Yes Men: twenty years of hoaxes and lessons
- Actipedia: a database of creative actions
- Aric McBay, Full Spectrum Resistance: how to build a movement
- Srdja Popovic, Blueprint for Revolution: humour and strategy against dictators
- Starhawk, The Empowerment Manual: organising in groups, for the long term
- Ulex Project: training for activists, and the source of our tool sheet format
- Fertîles and Université du Nous: cooperation and shared governance

CREDITS

Written by Le Bruit Qui Court with European Alternatives and Studio Rizoma, from the School of Artivism 2026. Thanks to the 25 participants, the Scuola di Restanza and the Teatro Garibaldi. Design: Angèle Hérissé.

LICENCE

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