

# NEVER NEVER SCHOOL HOUSING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

NN23  
APPLY NOW

APPLICATION FORM

September 3rd – September 10th 2023, Košice, Slovakia  
Send us your application by **July 15th 2023** to test  
and develop new collaborative forms of working together.  
[spolka.typeform.com/nevernever23](https://spolka.typeform.com/nevernever23)

# ABOUT NEVER NEVER SCHOOL

Never Never School is a unique space for community learning and research about cities. We invite you to Košice, Slovakia to join us for an experiment in co-creation centered on exploration and collective visioning.

Never Never focuses on peer-to-peer exchange and transdisciplinarity to create a rich learning space for all participants. In the course of the summer school, collaborative learning models and a variety of formats are tested and developed in order to foster collaboration beyond the school's frame.

## TOPIC

# What forms, policies, architecture, economics, collectivity, ecology, or law can help to mitigate inequalities in housing in the context of Košice?

Reading about housing, we have identified how it was formed by social factors - nuclear family, division of work and home, but also non-human factors - energy efficiency, accessibility of land, and financialization in the markets. The understanding of housing as a commodity, rather than a safe space (Madden, Marcuse, 2016), contributes to its constant unavailability. With other crises approaching we see urgency to react.

We believe a more imaginative approach to housing, crossing various sectors as well as changes in local discourse should take place. Firstly, we need relevant data and information. Drawing from recent events in Ukraine, local policymakers, architects, activists, the humanitarian sector, and academia, could and wish to work in a more intertwined way: exchange information and experience and work together. That could enable new approaches and models of housing: the architecture of change and possibility, beautiful and sustainable, delivering responses that in time promote the capacity for action, peace, and resilience.

Never Never School – as a platform – is a place to support such links, by creating collaborative and solidary safe space. Rather than seeing migration as an infrastructural, military, and economic problem to be solved, we want to find out and manifest different new layers of care, helping all of us feel safe without associating one's sense of safety with identity-based belonging (whether migrant or not). People are constantly on the move – 'temporality' is embedded in the housing as such. By integrating the experience and approach of the humanitarian sector in interdisciplinary spatial practice and vice versa participatory, context-based, sensitive, and collaborative approaches of planning into the humanitarian sector – we place importance on the processes that create space and affect everyday lives and also empower spatial planners and researchers to make this necessary positive change.

The context of Košice as a city in Eastern Europe has its peculiarities. Slovakia lacks public housing due to 1990's legislation on the privatization of state housing, the new is built sparingly and commercial housing is financially inaccessible for many. Slovakia faces huge problems of housing overcrowding: 1,7 people per room compared to the EU average of 1,2. Homelessness, especially in Košice, is disturbingly common. The global market puts a lot of pressure on local governments and their zoning strategies. In 2026 in the city of Košice, a new factory is to be built and an influx of temporary workers is expected. At the same time, around 1 mil. people entered Slovakia alone due to the war in Ukraine (UNHCR). The government and the public had to deal with emergency accommodation suddenly and unprepared. Moreover, many refugees are staying long-term (estimated 92 000 according to IOM) but can't be moved out of the 'temporary' sheltering, due to the poor housing reality.

Never Never School is a contribution on a level of innovation of the imagination of what housing can be, but also, what professional capacities are needed in the future, to co-create better situations for housing planning. Institutional education is often insufficient training for critical futures. It is important to step outside the predefined political terrain and understand planning as an interdisciplinary issue and education as a collective imagination.

## PROGRAM

The space of Never Never School is structured in such a way, that:

- the program allows for thinking together, there is enough space for non-learning activities and just hanging out,
- the program consists of intertwined lectures, workshops and groupwork activities,
- lectures and workshops are from local and international experts,
- parts of the program are available for the public,
- participants are encouraged in co-building the program.

We believe we can learn from each other the most. Therefore, we encourage the participants to take an active role in co-building the program before and during the summer school. Would you like to conduct a workshop, give a lecture or do anything else, that would benefit the group and foster the topic? Write it into the application! Therefore, a more detailed program will be announced in August 2023.

## APPLICATION

The summer school is open foremost to people from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, geography, and sociology, but we welcome anyone interested in the topics of space and urban transformation; may you be artists, photographers, designers, biologists, ecologists, lawyers, writers, illustrators, planners or simply urban enthusiasts.

We ask just for two things:

1. you must be comfortable communicating in English and
2. must be able to participate in the whole program from September 3rd – September 10th, 2023.

Due to limited capacity, we will select up to 20 participants to create a group with varied skills and interests. We ask you therefore to fill in [this form](#) and submit the following:

- a short CV concerning your background, interests, and field of work (cca 1 A4-page)
- your sketch, idea, or text about “Housing in times of crisis”. The recommended formats and lengths are image (cca 1 A3 page), text (cca 1 A4 page), or video (cca 1 min) – let there be no limit to your imagination!
- OPTIONAL: Your idea of a workshop, a lecture, or anything else, conducted by you, that would benefit the group and foster the topic.

**APPLICATION FORM:** <https://spolka.typeform.com/nevernever23>

Send us your application by **July 15th, 2023**.

We will communicate the selection results to everyone via email within +/- 2 weeks from the end of the Call.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## DATES

September 3rd – September 10th, 2023.

## LOCATION

Košice, Slovakia

## VENUES

Our main working venue will be the East Slovak Gallery and the streets of Košice.

## ACCOMODATION & FOOD

For people outside of Košice private accommodation is provided.

## PARTICIPATION FEE

Depending on your financial situation, please consider a solidary contribution fee (100 €, 200 €, 300 €). Lectures and workshops by various local and international guests, accommodation (for non-Košice residents), food (snacks, lunches, dinners), internet connection, studio space, and material costs are included in the fee.

Please note that the participants must provide themselves with visas, travel expenses to and from the summer school as well as their insurance.

## OTHER NEEDS

If you have any specific needs: diet, childcare, accessibility, ... we will try to accommodate them in the best possible way. Please communicate them with us before the summer school.

## TRAVEL

Participants arrange the travel themselves. Travel by train is possible via Vienna, Prague, and Budapest. Nearest airports: Košice, Budapest, Bratislava. We encourage you to use ecological forms of travel.

Please contact us for any further information.

[nevernever@spolka.cc](mailto:nevernever@spolka.cc)

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

**Spolka** forms sustainable cities for all. We involve the public in innovative urban development. We are a team of experts in the field of architecture and sociology.

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**Spoločným úsilím k zelenej,  
konkurencieschopnej  
a inkluzívnej Európe**

**KOK** KOŠICKÝ  
SAMOSPRÁVNÝ  
KRAJ

**HOUSE  
OF MINE**

**VÝCHODOSLOVENSKÁ  
GALÉRIA**



**Spolka**

**KOŠICE**