

## About: **Dear Hunter**

Dear Hunter ([www.dearhunter.eu](http://www.dearhunter.eu)) is a research practice on architecture, urbanism and planning based in Liège (Belgium) and Maastricht (The Netherlands) and was founded in 2014. Dear Hunter practices the Art of Hunting: conducting intense, qualitative research on specific areas or neighbourhoods using the metaphor of the hunter that immerses in its surroundings in order to learn about the environment and the prey.

As hunters, we work on site, in order to sense the project location. Descriptions of the place, how it's perceived and used by the people inhabiting it are being collected and translated into subjective maps. Together with more common and known ways of mapping this extracts insights and attempts a more profound connection between top-down and bottom-up knowledge and planning methods. We share these insights in action through reporting, presenting, intervening and educating.

Because we mediate between user and designer, our clients are (especially) governments, local authorities and design agencies. We also give lectures and workshops for educational and professional purpose. We work with a.o. the Dutch governmental organization Staatsbosbeheer, cities and municipalities in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany and the universities Zuyd hogeschool, Master of Architecture (NL), iArts Maastricht (NL), RWTH Aachen, Faculty of Architecture (D) and KULeuven, Faculty of Architecture Brussels/Ghent (B).



## The project: **Dear Euregio**

Dear Euregio ([www.deareuregio.eu](http://www.deareuregio.eu)) is a project for which Dear Hunter travels across the Euregion Meuse-Rhine: for two years, across three countries, five language regions and eight cities. All daily working, living and travelling experiences within this cross-border region will be captured. During every stay there will be worked on local assignments, which will deliver insights in local habits and the position of inhabitants. The results will be comparable due to the specific methodical approach.

By 'zooming in' and focussing for three months on a local situation in a project, financed by local authorities, we are able to understand this specific location (a street, building or even neighbourhood) and tell which improvements can be made in order to improve certain socio-spatial circumstances. By zooming out again we see the bigger picture of this cross-border region and are able to stimulate, for instance, international collaborations.

The project Dear Euregio is executed from two converted shipping containers, one for the team of Dear Hunter (Studio Euregio) and one furnished as a small hotel room (EuregiHotel), as an artists' residency. Now on it's third location, Dear Euregio delivered proposals and insights on social/spatial topics regarding the students' population in Aachen (Germany), the development of the R70 ringway around the centre of Hasselt (Belgium) and the connections between different neighbourhoods across the former highway A2 in Maastricht (The Netherlands).



## The proposal: **Redraw Europe**

Redraw Europe is an extension of the lessons learned during Dear Euregio, applied on European scale. The aim is to redraw the map of Europe by taking into account the descriptions of inhabitants of the places that matter most to them, and by this, create a map that is no longer defined by national and political borders but based on the subjective qualities of the area as experienced by the inhabitants.

In order to do so, we will travel to different locations in order to execute local projects. At the same time, we need to develop an online platform that enables every European to tell, upload or point out his or her personal story and, at the same time, show the work-in-progress of the map that is being created by visualizing all these individual impressions.

We look for funding for development of the platform (approx. €18.000) and local partners (i.e. regio, municipality) to co-create a local project and a stay on location of six weeks (approx. €12.000 excluding additional costs, VAT etc).

## Contact

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