

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE **3rd** EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MEETING OF WORKERS' ECONOMY

APRIL 12/14 2019

The first international meeting of workers' economy was held in 2007 in Argentina. It gathered workers from recovered factories and worker collectives, social and political activists, trade unionists and scholars. Since then, such international meetings are held every two years. They represent fora to meet, discuss and think critically about the challenges faced by workers in defending their livelihoods from the onslaughts of globalised capitalism, through self-management. Since 2014, regional meetings are held between one international gathering and the next one in Central and Northern America, Southern America, and Europe. As in Latin America since the 1990s, since 2008 the occupation and recovery of factories and enterprises, abandoned by capital, has been an effective response and an act of resistance undertaken by Euro-Mediterranean workers, most notably in France, Greece, Italy, Turkey as well as in Tunisia. First and foremost, it has been a strategy to preserve workers' jobs and means of life. However, on the long-term, it is also a tool for social transformation aimed at creating a new economy, freed from exploitation and oriented towards the satisfaction of social and ecological needs. In countries like Greece and Italy, the recovery of factories led to the launch of new and alternative productive projects.

WHY A MEETING OF «WORKERS' ECONOMY» IN EUROPE?

The first European meeting was held in January/February 2014 in the tea processing factory Fralib, close to Marseille (France). Under occupation at that time, the factory has been successively recovered by workers and transformed in the cooperative SCOP-TI. The second regional meeting, redefined Euro-Mediterranean, was held in October 2016 in the recovered factory VioMè, in Thessaloniki (Greece). The gatherings were attended by workers from occupied and recovered factories located in Bosnia, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, and Turkey. Similarly, several and diverse actors of self-management, trade unionists, researchers and militants engaged in supporting workers' self-management took part in them. The third Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Workers' Economy will be held in Italy, in the recovered factory RiMaflow, in Trezzano sul Naviglio in the suburbs of Milan and in a nearby farm house, confiscated from organised crime, named Libera Masseria, in Cisliano.



RECOVERED FACTORY RIMAFLOW
VIA BOCCACCIO 1 - TREZZANO S.N. (MILAN) ITALY

Since 2012, the factory Maflow was transformed in RiMaflow. It was first occupied and then recovered by workers willing to launch a new productive endeavour, opening it to the local population and in collaboration with it. In their fight to set up an alternative simultaneously at the local and global level, RiMaflow's workers have been among the promoters of the national network Fuori Mercato (Outside the Market), uniting food producers who resist to both the productivist drive and the exploitation of migrant workers that characterise contemporary agriculture in Italy and elsewhere in Europe. RiMaflow and Fuori Mercato represent laboratories to experiment new forms of resistance based on solidarity and mutualism, new social relations and forms of cooperation between urban and rural workers and new collective initiatives to meet people's social and ecological needs. Building on these experiences, the Third International Meeting of Workers' Economy will be the occasion for its further opening to the rural world and to agroecology.

THE RELEVANCE OF WORKERS' ECONOMY TODAY

From Argentina to Brazil, from Italy to Turkey and Kurdistan, notwithstanding the social and cultural differences of their promoters, recovered factories and worker collectives represent acts of resistance to the devalorisation of the workforce and the dismantling of productive structures as well as a response to unemployment and marginalisation. At the same time, they establish a different economy, alternative to the capitalist model of production: a workers' economy, based on self-management, aimed at the defence of the interests of those who earn their living off their own labour. These experiences entail recovered factories, self-managed farms, some specific forms of cooperatives, and of cooperative economy as well as workers' struggles for the self-organisation of work and the self-management of the economy. This movement unequivocally raises the following questions: what do we produce? How do we produce? And for whom do we produce? Through the establishment of horizontal processes, the whole society can get proactively involved in the production and distribution of wealth. Thus, direct democracy, workers' control, societal control and self-management stop being abstract concepts. Rather, they become vital tools to regain our dignity, preserve our means of life, create new and alternative economic and social relations.

Meeting definitiv PROGRAM

Friday 12 APRIL

From 9am: welcome/visit to the recovered factory RiMaflow.

11am: meeting of the organizing group.

12am -1.30pm: - **LUNCH**

2pm: Opening of the Meeting
(coordinated by RiMaflow and the International Network)

3-5 pm: First Plenary Session:

Working men and women of all countries. ...: self-management, conflict-oriented mutualism, trade unionism with a "multifaceted settlement", solidarity without borders.

6-8pm: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

– **Workshop 1:**

Agroecology, relationships between rural and urban movements.

– **Workshop 2:**

Social reproduction in the self-managed experiences and in the trade union activity.

– **Workshop 3:**

Recover the "public", as a necessary right for life, in the direction of an ecofeminist economy.
(coordinated by CGT, Spain).

– **Workshop 4:**

Labour and race: chains of exploitation and experiences of solidarity and mutual aid.

– **Workshop 5:**

Self-managed productions and distribution.

8.30pm: DINER, conviviality

10pm: Meeting of the organizing group

SATURDAY 13 APRIL

8 - 9.30am: BREAKFAST

10 -12.30am: SECOND PLENARY SESSION:

Self-managed labour, recovered factories, self-managed farms, workers' collectives.

1-2.30pm: LUNCH

3-5pm: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

– **Workshop 1:**

Conflict-oriented mutualism, trade unionism with a "multifaceted settlement".

– **Workshop 2:**

How to Build an Ecology of Solidarity Economy
(coordinated by Metacooperative, Hungary)

– **Workshop 3:**

Practices of welfare reconstruction from below
(coordinated by Commonfare)

– **Workshop 4:**

Economic autonomy and paths of exit from gender violence.

– **Workshop 5:**

Self-managed productions and distribution.

– **Workshop 6:**

The administration of historical and civilization monuments as common goods by the society itself.

5.30-8pm: THIRD PLENARY SESSION:

Agroecology, environmental struggles, relationships among rural and urban movements.

8.30pm: DINER

9.30pm: Music and concert, with the street brass bands:
**Banda degli Ottoni a scoppio, FONC,
Fanfare Invisible...**

SUNDAY 14 APRIL

8-9.30am: BREAKFAST

10am: 1pm: CLOSING PLENARY SESSION:

– 10 -11am: Reports of the workshops

– 11am -1pm: - Conclusions and proposals

Afternoon (for anyone interested): visit to the recovered factory RiMaflow and to the Libera Masseria di Cisliano (farm house, confiscated from organised crime).