

Saturday/Sabato/Samedi

13 Aprile/April/Avril

h. 15-17 Workshop 2

**3<sup>o</sup>** INCONTRO  
EUROMEDITERRANEO  
DELL'ECONOMIA DEI LAVORATORI  
E DELLE LAVORATRICI

12/14 APRILE 2019

FABBRICA RECUPERATA RIMAFLOW  
VIA BOCCACCIO 1 TREZZANO S.N.  
ITALIA



# HOW TO BUILD AN ECOLOGY OF SOLIDARITY ECONOMY?

## Workshop Proposal for the Third Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Workers' Economy Metacooperative (Hungary)

The Hungarian Solidarity Economy Facilitation Group is a group of local solidarity economy workers, scholars and activists. It was created by seven solidarity economy initiatives in March 2018, with the mandate to prepare and organize a nation-wide meeting for economic democracy initiatives. Currently organizations are active in agroecology and in the service sector. Our aim is to build an integrated cooperative movement in Hungary that channels different productive activities into a self-protective ecology. We believe that integrated ecosystem of the already existing worker-owned initiatives could protect existing resources from the extractive processes from capitalist production and can keep, circulate and incorporate resources more effectively than the single worker-owned initiatives.

We propose a workshop about a possible way of strengthening worker-owned initiatives: on the feasibility of collaboration between cooperatives and trade-unions. We think that this type of cooperation can be beneficial for both parties since it could strengthen workers' control over the reproduction of their lives, and it can build networks of mutual help and self-sustainability that are getting even more important in the age climate crisis.

Some of the questions that can be discussed in the workshop:

- What are the experiences from the already existing union-coop collaborations?
- Lack of financial resources: how to build shared financial tools? How to deal with the financial bottlenecks? How can unions finance worker-owned initiatives?
- How to multiply the entry points into these ecologies? How to network different functions (production; consumption; housing; etc...) together? How can worker-owned initiatives and individual members work together?
- Role of expertise and knowledge production in an integrated ecosystem?
- Difficulties of building workers' owned ecosystems on the peripheries of the EU (f.e. oligarchic regimes, foreign currency loans, crisis of social reproduction and the importance of family-based self-sufficiency)