

FACTORIES RECOVERED BY WORKERS MULTIPLY IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

From Argentina, the factories recovered by their workers are gaining large space in the international debate. In January 2014 in Gémenos (Marseille, France) there was a meeting of the experiences ongoing in different countries like Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, France, Spain, Greece, Italy and Serbia.

The event is part of the initiative *Encuentros Internacionales de la economía de los trabajadores*, promoted by the [Open Faculty Program](#) of the Buenos Aires University since 2007. In France the meeting was organized in collaboration with the workers of the Fralib factory of Gémenos, the documentation center [Workers Control](#), the Spanish [Instituto de Ciencias Económicas y de la Autogestión](#), the Solidarity Association between Provence region and South America. The Organizing Committee also involved the Autonomous University of Mexico Xochimilco (Mexico) and the project *Officine Zero* (Italy).

The participants to the event have in common the determination of the workers in re-launching the production of the factories abandoned by their owners. The organization of the workers in production cooperatives, as in Argentina, is part of their perspectives, depending on their histories and countries laws, which can provide different types of support for workers interested in recovering the production.

All these experiences have succeeded in arousing the interest of the national press. Their stories also show that the workers point to a quality development rescuing territorial historical brands and products, opening initiatives for recycling and recovery of waste, producing natural and organic inputs.

In the [Fralib factory of Gémenos](#) (France), the organizer of the event, the 77 workers, after three years from the closure of Lipton Tea production, decided to recover the *Eléphant* brand created in the Provence region 120 years ago, to re-launch its activity. In their perspective there is the creation of a cooperative of workers *SCOP*.

[The workers of the Biscuiterie Jeannette in Caen](#) (France) a historic factory that produce *Madeleines*, a very famous dessert since 1850, did not accept the closure of the company and they re-launch the production, looking for new financiers and new forms of work organization.



Still in France, the artisans workers from Pilpa company re-launched the production of ice cream, they gave the company a new name [Fabrique du Sud \(ex -Pilpa\)](#) and they are organized into a working cooperative SCOP. [A debate is underway](#) at national level to create better incentives for the recovery of factories by the workers who are organized in a SCOP.



In Greece [the factory Vio.me in Thessaloniki](#) producing materials for civil construction was abandoned by its owners in 2011, without capital and without market due to the crisis of the sector in the country. In 2013 the 70 workers who are organizing the creation of a workers' cooperative, have resumed the production. The company currently markets cleaning products with natural ingredients, selling them in various Greek cities with support from solidarity organizations.



[Ri-Maflow factory](#) (Trezzano sul Naviglio, Milan, Italy) specialized in producing components for air conditioning systems of the major brands of cars, closed in 2008, leaving 320 people without job. 17 employees of the company decided to re-use the space and equipment, they formed a cooperative and currently they are developing activities of recovery and recycling of waste, including electronic ones. In Italy it is estimated that more than 160 factories have been recovered by their workers, thanks to a law from 1985, perfected in 1991, which established a fund and mechanisms to support the workers in the first steps of the recovery.



The experience of Argentina, with 350 recovered factories employing more than 25,000 people, remains the benchmark for these new trends of international impact. In

Argentina, the National Movement of Factories Recovered by Workers M.N.F.R.T continues to promote the necessary national reforms, in dialogue with the government bodies. The University of Buenos Aires, through its [Open Faculty](#) supports and internationally promotes, thanks to studies and research works, these new ways of dealing with the crisis in the industry, based on the role of the workers.



In the event of Gémenos, over 200 participants exchanged their experiences and during the conclusions agreed to work to create an international network of recovered factories by their workers and to establish a solidarity fund to support the initial and difficult stages of the recovery.



To know more

[Empresas recuperadas por sus trabajadores en Facebook](#)

[Article in mundo micro finanzas](#)

[Article about the event in bastamag.net](#)

[Article about Fralib in Le Monde](#)



[Fabrique du Sud \(ex-Pilpa\)](#)

[Article about SCOP in *lexpansion.lexpress.fr*](#)

[Article in EURICSE website](#)

[Study about 69 factories recovered in Brazil](#)

[Article in *Comune-info.net*](#)

[Recovered factories in Italy in *globalpress.it*](#)

[Study published in Spain by *academia.edu*](#)

[Movimiento Nacional de Fábricas Recuperadas](#)

[2010 Open University Report](#)

[IDEASS Brochure](#)

