

FEDERACIÓ VALENCIANA

FEVE

CTA

D'EMPRESSES

**COOPERATIVES
DE TREBALL
ASSOCIAT**

Worker co-ops in the Region of Valencia



Worker co-ops in the Region of Valencia

- 1800 worker co-ops
 - Micro-enterprises: 7-10 members
 - Education, Business services, transport, industry, retail, social services, etc.
 - Regulated by their own separate law
 - Have their own specific tax statute
 - Privately own by their members
 - Operations with non members and profit distribution amongst the members are both limited
 - Can be altogether not for profit. In this case there is no profit distribution among the members.

¿What is FEVECTA?

- We are the representative organisation for Valencian Worker-cooperatives
- ¿What do we do?
 - Lobby on behalf of worker co-ops
 - Delivery of specialised services
 - Promotion of worker co-ops in the region
 - Support co-operative entrepreneurs
 - Disseminate co-operative knowledge
 - Support other key actors advising/helping entrepreneurs in the region

Case study: SOCIALIA

- SOCIALIA is a worker co-op set up in 2002 as a spin-off of another co-op: ESPIGOL
- ESPIGOL was a worker co-operative that provided social services during the 90's and until 2006. At its peak it had 700 members and employees.
- SOCIALIA's 6 founding members were counsellors working in the young offenders programmes managed by the original co-op (ESPIGOL)
- Conflicts start in ESPIGOL in 2000. SOCIALIA founding members identify a need among the young people they work with.

A little bit about Spanish Criminal Law

- Age of criminal responsibility is 14
- Young people 14 to 18 are held responsible for crimes. At the juvenile courts of justice, judges can decide more or less freely about the contents of the sentences. The usual ones are:
 - Community services/work
 - Participation in various programmes
 - Attendance to day centres for young offenders
 - Curfew orders
 - Incarceration at specialised centres

A little bit about Spanish Criminal Law

- The Regional Governments are responsible for the execution of sentences
- The execution of those sentences can be contracted out by the Regional Governments to not for profit organisations
- Organisations working with young offenders are under the supervision of the Regional Government, and the General Attorney.

Case study: SOCIALIA

- Most young offenders have a complex family background. They have often been removed from their parents' custody and live in institutions
- A number of young offenders show serious behavioural problems that cannot be dealt with at the regular institutions.
- SOCIALIA manages a residential facility for young offenders who show serious behavioural problems.

The Centre

- 14 residents aged 14 to 18. Boys and girls
- The residents have their freedom of movement restricted but it is not an incarceration facility
- Staff:
 - 1 director
 - 18 counsellors
 - 9 cook, cleaners and maintenance personnel
 - 6 security guards
 - 1 general practitioner
 - 1 psychologist

The Centre

- Average stay is 12 to 24 months. 36 is the limit
- The centre's main objective is to address the youngster's behavioural problems. Additionally, they support them in the servicing of their sentences.
- Entry is mainly ordered by a judge, but can be ordered by the Regional Government, as well. Young people are discharged when they have completed their programmes.

The Centre

- The building belongs to the city of Elche. The co-operative pays a preferential rent and has the responsibility for maintenance and improvements
- The service is contracted out by the Regional Government for a 4 year period.
- The cost per resident is about 3.500 € a month
- SOCIALIA is a not for profit co-operative. Any profits made are reinvested in improving the services provided by the co-operative.

The Centre: the resident's opinions

They are generally satisfied

Most residents say their stay has had a positive impact on their lives. Now they have less difficulties telling right from wrong and positive from negative influences in their lives. " The centre is useful if you are ready for a change. Otherwise it is not going to happen, no matter what others may do for you"

it does not matter what other may do for you, They say schooling outside the centre is very positive. They are unhappy about the lack of resources and about " being put under physical restraint" on occasions.

They would rather be closer to town.

Source: Spanish Ombudsman Special Report 2009