

unconditional FREEDOM 2049

EUROPE, YEAR 2049. NOT SO LONG AGO THE CONTINENT WAS MARKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT AND PRECARIOUS WORK. JOBS ESSENTIAL TO SOCIETY WERE POORLY PAID BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DESPERATE TO BRING IN SOME INCOME ALLOWED EMPLOYERS TO GET AWAY WITH ALL KINDS OF ARBITRARY ABUSES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS BECAME A REALITY. IT AFFECTED EVERYONE, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE ALREADY SUFFERING DISCRIMINATION. THIS EUROPEAN MALAISE LED MORE AND MORE PEOPLE TO DEMAND GREATER JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS. THE IDEA OF A PROGRESSIVE, FEMINIST AND REPUBLICAN UNCONDITIONAL BASIC INCOME MADE ITS WAY FROM A FRINGE IDEA TO A TRUE EUROPEAN DEMAND. THE FOLLOWING PAGES TELL ONE OF THE STORIES OF HOW WE GOT HERE. THE PATH WAS LONG AND FILLED WITH OBSTACLES. BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.




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I LOVE IT WHEN YOU PICK ME UP FROM SCHOOL, GRANDMA!




YOU KNOW DEAR, WHEN YOU'RE THE BOSS OF YOUR OWN TIME, YOU FIND A LOT MORE OF IT FOR THE THINGS YOU LOVE.




BELIEVE YOU ME, BACK IN THE DAY YOU BARELY HAD ANY TIME FOR YOURSELF.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GRANDMA?




BACK WHEN YOUR MUM WAS BORN, I WAS WORKING 40 HOURS A WEEK. SURE, I LOVED THE JOB BUT I WAS ALWAYS EXHAUSTED AND WAS PAID NEXT TO NOTHING.

SO WHY DID YOU DO IT?



I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE! IN MY DAY, EITHER YOU WERE RICH OR YOU HAD TO WORK, EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE WHAT YOU HAD TO DO OR THE CONDITIONS.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY FAIR...



IT NEVER WAS FAIR. BUT IT TOOK US SOME TIME TO REALISE THAT. MAKING SURE EVERYONE HAD MONEY IN THEIR POCKET AND COULD DO THE JOB THEY LIKE WAS A REAL STRUGGLE.

MR. BAKER, WHY DO YOU MAKE THE BREAD YOURSELF? EVERYONE ELSE HAS MACHINES DOING IT. GRANDMA SAYS THAT THANKS TO THE MONEY WE RECEIVE EACH MONTH, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORK JOBS WE DON'T LIKE.



OH, BUT I LOVE THIS! BAKING HAS BEEN MY DREAM SINCE I WAS A BOY YOUR AGE. IT'S THAT MONTHLY MONEY THAT ALLOWED ME TO BECOME A BAKER...



FOR YEARS I WAS WORKING FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN JOBS THAT I DIDN'T MUCH LIKE. NOW, AT LAST, I'VE FOLLOWED MY TRUE PASSION AND OPENED MY OWN BAKERY.

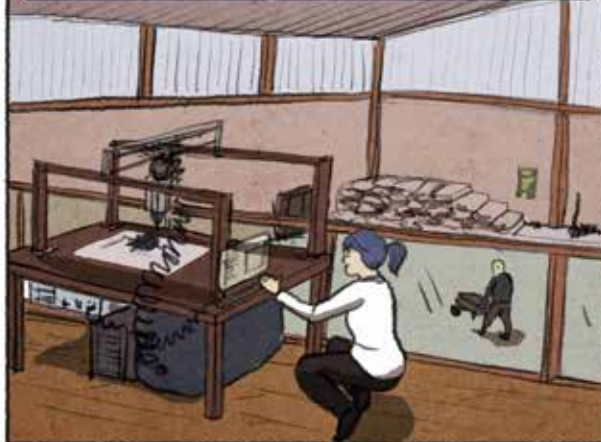


THAT'S BRILLIANT. ME, WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT!

"YOU REMIND ME OF MY CHILDREN, ALWAYS DREAMING. THANKFULLY MY SON GOT TOGETHER WITH SOME FRIENDS AND SET UP A FARMING COOP. THEY GROW MY GRAIN NOW, ALONG WITH ALL SORTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES."



"MY DAUGHTER WAS MORE OF A TECHY TYPE. HER 3D PRINTSHOP SHARES THE WAREHOUSE WITH THE COOP. IT'S FUNNY TO THINK, ALL THAT HI-TECH WIZARDRY NEXT TO TRADITIONAL FARMING. LIKE ME, THEY ALL NEEDED SUPPORT TO GET STARTED OF COURSE."



FORGET BEING AN ASTRONAUT, NOW I WANT TO BE A FARMER TOO. SEE YOU TOMORROW!



GRANDMA, THIS MONEY HAS REALLY CHANGED PEOPLE'S LIVES. IS IT TRUE WHAT MUM SAYS, THAT IT ONLY EXISTS THANKS TO YOU?

YOU REALLY ARE A CURIOUS LITTLE ONE, AREN'T YOU? WELL, IT WASN'T JUST ME. IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE PERSON, YOU KNOW...

COME ON! I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE IT ALL BEGAN.

"I WORKED HERE FOR YEARS, LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE IN THEIR OLD AGE. BUT THE HOURS WERE LONG AND THE PAY WAS LOW SO ONE DAY A GROUP OF US DECIDED TO STAND UP FOR DECENT CONDITIONS."

"THERE WEREN'T MANY OF US WHEN WE FIRST WENT OUT ON STRIKE. BUT WE KNEW THAT OUR CARE WORK WAS SO IMPORTANT TO SO MANY LIVES AND THAT WE DESERVED BETTER."

"MORE AND MORE WOMEN CAME OUT TO JOIN US. PLENTY WORKING IN EVEN WORSE CONDITIONS THAN WE WERE. WE WERE OUT EVERY DAY IN BIGGER NUMBERS AND LOUDER VOICE."



"NEXT THING WE KNEW, PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER WERE JOINING US. SECURITY GUARDS, TAXI DRIVERS, ALL UNDERPAID, UNCERTAIN OR OUT OF WORK ALTOGETHER. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN IMAGINE BUT BACK THEN, A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE COULDN'T FIND WORK FULL STOP!"



"FROM SIMPLY CLAIMING BETTER CONDITIONS FOR US CARE WORKERS, WE THEN DEMANDED A BASIC INCOME FOR ALL."

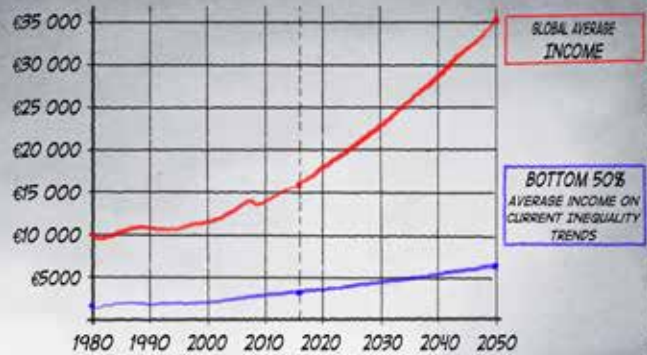


"SOME WANTED BASIC INCOME TO CHANGE JOBS AND FIND SOMETHING NEW, OTHERS TO BE ABLE TO KEEP DOING THE WORK THEY LOVED. OTHERS SAW IT AS A RIGHT FOR ALL IN A FAIR SOCIETY..."



"IT KEPT ON GROWING AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE JOINED. SOON OTHER CITIES AROUND EUROPE WERE FOLLOWING OUR EXAMPLE TOO."

GROWTH SET TO LEAVE BOTTOM 50% BEHIND



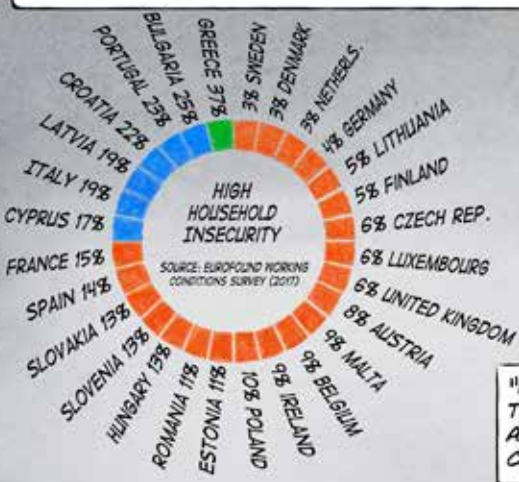
SOURCE: IWD, WORLD

"WE WERE SPEAKING TO PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER AND THE CAMPAIGN SPREAD ACROSS EUROPE. WE DIDN'T AGREE ON EVERYTHING, BUT EVERYONE SHARED A DESIRE FOR MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES."



BASIC INCOME. BASIC RIGHT

"WE WERE STANDING UP AGAINST POVERTY AND FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. INEQUALITY ACROSS EUROPE WAS BAD AND ONLY GETTING WORSE, WITH THE RICH GETTING RICHER AND THE POOR LOSING WHAT LITTLE THEY HAD."



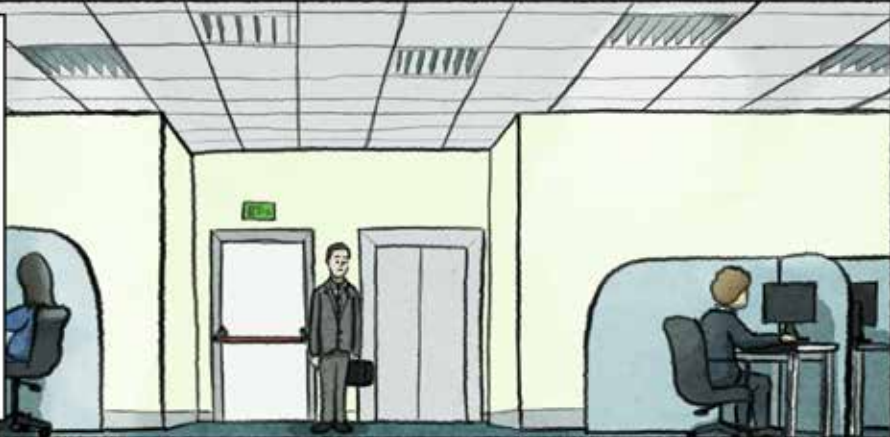
THE EU MULTINATIONAL TAX DISCOUNT (2011-2015)



"FACED WITH HARD TIMES AND GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL TROUBLES, CALLING FOR THE SAME BASIC INCOME FOR ALL ACROSS EUROPE BECAME THE MOVEMENT'S COMMON CAUSE."



"IF YOU MUST KNOW, THINGS DIDN'T ALL HAPPEN AT ONCE. WHEN EVERYONE STARTED RECEIVING THE BASIC INCOME, THINGS REMAINED PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS BEFORE. PEOPLE IN JOBS THEY LIKED CARRIED ON LIKE NOTHING HAD CHANGED. THEY WERE HAPPIER, SURE, BUT THEY DIDN'T REALISE THEY WERE LIVING THROUGH A REVOLUTION."



"BUT PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN INVISIBLE BEFORE, STRUGGLING FOR WORK, DOING ODD JOBS HERE AND THERE, AND OFTEN FALLING INTO POVERTY, THOSE PEOPLE WERE THE FIRST TO SAY ENOUGH. NOW THEY COULD SAY NO AND ASK FOR DECENT CONDITIONS."



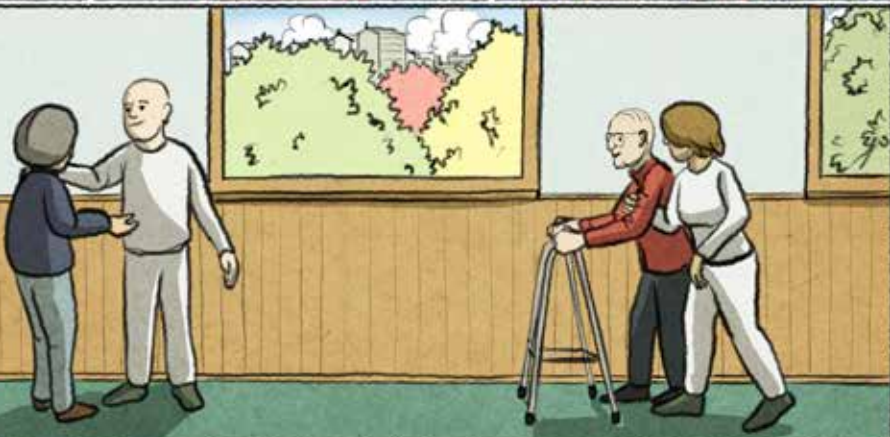
"FOR THE FIRST TIME, JOBS THAT NO ONE HAD REALLY WANTED STARTED TO BE WELL PAID. SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD LEFT THOSE JOBS WENT BACK TO THEM. NOW, NOT ONLY WERE THE CONDITIONS BETTER, BUT PEOPLE VALUED THEM MORE TOO."

Sewer
Cleaner

VERY WELL PAID
SHORT HOURS



"I'D ALWAYS LOVED MY JOB AND CARRIED ON WORKING AT THE CARE HOME. BUT SOME COLLEAGUES LEFT TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND NEW PEOPLE JOINED TO TAKE THEIR PLACE. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT, THE NUMBER OF MEN WHO WANTED TO WORK WITH US!"

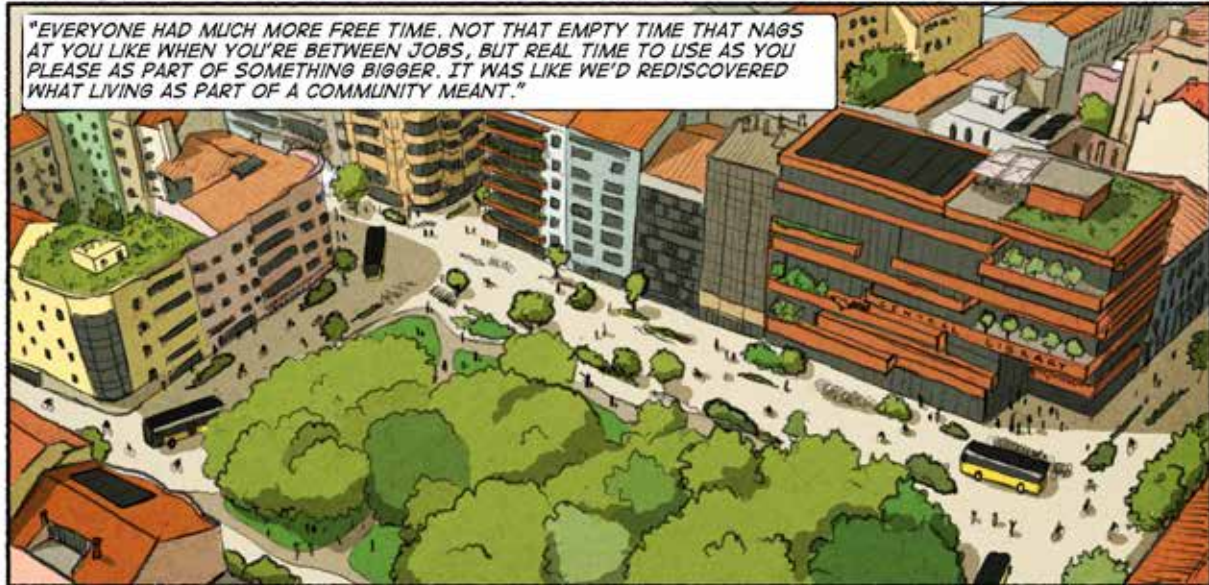




SO WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MUM WAS BORN?



"BY THEN I WAS ALREADY WORKING FAR FEWER HOURS. I WOULD PICK YOUR MUM UP FROM SCHOOL WHENEVER I WANTED. WE HAD A LOT OF FUN THOSE DAYS. IT'S A BIT LIKE HOW YOUR DAD HAS TAKEN MORE TIME OFF TO LOOK AFTER YOUR OTHER GRANDMA NOW SHE'S A BIT OLDER."




"EVERYONE HAD MUCH MORE FREE TIME. NOT THAT EMPTY TIME THAT NAGS AT YOU LIKE WHEN YOU'RE BETWEEN JOBS, BUT REAL TIME TO USE AS YOU PLEASE AS PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER. IT WAS LIKE WE'D REDISCOVERED WHAT LIVING AS PART OF A COMMUNITY MEANT."




YOU SEE, IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY. IT WAS INTENSE, IT WAS TIRING, BUT IT MOST CERTAINLY WAS WORTH IT.




YOU ARE A TRUE HERO, GRANDMA!



EVERYONE IS A HERO IN THIS STORY, LITTLE ONE. EVERYONE DID THEIR BIT, I WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ANYONE ELSE.



I'VE DECIDED WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP.



I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.