

Observatory Case update

La Fábrika de Toda la Vida, Los Santos de Maimona, Spain

July 2022

Author(s): Levente Polyak, Samah Ibrahim (Eutropian)

Contributor(s): Maryam Schah, Daniela Patti, Bahanur Nasya (Eutropian)



This document has been prepared in the framework of the European project OpenHeritage – Organizing, Promoting and Enabling Heritage Re-use through Inclusion, Technology, Access, Governance and Empowerment. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 776766.

The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily represent the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission is responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



La Fábrica de Toda la Vida

La Fábrica de Toda la Vida is an inclusive, participatory cultural space in Los Santos de Maimona in Extremadura, Spain. The industrial heritage site was an abandoned cement factory built in 1955. Initially, a crowdfunding campaign helped to collect microfinance support, complemented by the founders' financial resources. Currently, the project is supported by the profit of events and an alternative sharing system, including time-banking.

The main concept of La Fabrika was meeting people and sharing joy with them through events and activities, which is part of La Fabrika's identity. During COVID-19, they had to close their doors to the public and postpone their activities, which was a significant adjustment for everyone and left the organization with no revenues. However, La Fabrika considered the pandemic a remarkable period of self-reflection and a chance to update their strategies and shape their goals. To ensure community engagement during COVID, they only hosted events on a smaller scale. Many people lost their jobs due to the pandemic. However, La Fabrika tried to use their skills and knowledge, allowing them to work with them. With their community's help, La Fabrika could financially sustain itself during these challenging times. For instance, the municipality helped by providing the materials they needed for their projects. They were in touch with many organizations and collectives, which provided them with advice and economic support.

Additionally, they managed to stream some cultural events online and arranged open-air cinema screening events with a limited number of attendees where everyone brought their chairs to the event. Furthermore, the whole warehouse in La Fabrika was modulated of recycled materials from the city hall, and they arranged a workshop for manufacturing furniture for cinematography and theatre. With the help of experts, La Fabrika managed to plant a lot of vegetation after recovering the contaminated soil around the building through natural processes. During the past year and a half, La Fabrika arranged many collaborations with several organizations and applied for many grants to organize events in summer as they did before Covid. They created a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds and promote La Fabrika to finance rebuilding the last space in the factory and laboratory to make use of artist in residency model for local artistic creation.

One significant change during COVID was the reformulation of La Fabrika's contract with the city hall. It was an empowering experience for them and planted a new seed for a healthy relationship with the city hall. As per the old contract, La Fabrika was given the space in exchange for the site renovation and helping the city hall create activities for the village.

However, with the modifications added to the new contract, La Fabrika stated itself as an entity with national and international recognition.