



THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO: TURKSON, SACHS AND TORERO OPENING THE FIRST DAY DEDICATED TO YOUNG ECONOMISTS

It is possible to follow the event live from the francescoeconomy.org website

Today, Thursday 19 November, the first of the three days of The Economy of Francesco was held, an international event featuring young economists and entrepreneurs from all over the world as protagonists, which will be held in live streaming on the francescoeconomy.org portal. The various "Villages" presented online the projects for a new economy on a human scale, conceived over the months of remote work.

The event opened at 2pm from Assisi with "Listen to the cry of the poorest to transform the earth", a video by the International Movement ATD Fourth World. In his introductory message, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Cardinal Peter Turkson, addressed the young organizers: «You have decided to build a global network of young leaders and bearers of change in the economic field, a network that can "give a soul to the economy of the future"». And in response to the pandemic, you are trying to help Pope Francesco, the Church and the whole world to come out better by imagining and developing a different, inclusive and sustainable economy that can help us behave as brothers and sisters living in a common home. Thanks for your hope and perseverance».

Some members of the organizing committee also took part in the event. The Bishop of Assisi, Domenico Sorrentino, welcomed young people in the city of the Poverello: «Francesco understood that money is only an instrument. As such, it serves to build a beautiful economy, rich in meaning and gift, which cannot exclude anyone and which, on the contrary, must aim for the good of everybody, and especially of the poor». The mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti, also addressed the new generations: "You young people can now consider Assisi your city, your home, your land, where you can feed and experience the new economy, guaranteeing the continuity of the process started by Pope Francesco». The president of the Seraphic Institute of Assisi, Francesca Di Maolo, spoke as well, with an exhortation to young people: «Build an inclusive economic system, which no longer produces even a single victim, nor a single person set aside. There will be no development or progress without taking care of the most fragile members of society. You can change the current economic system».

The online meetings saw the participation of important international speakers. The economist Jeffrey Sachs opened the conferences with "Perfecting Joy: three proposals to let life flourish". During the event, the proposal for a Child Flourish Index was presented, an index to evaluate the well-being of children. The same prof. Sachs said he was willing to collaborate in the project: «The Sustainable Development Solutions Network that I manage has developed various indices concerning happiness, based on data and indicators also of child well-being. We need pioneering ways, and some of these can be very useful. There are ways in the interconnected world that allow us to obtain this information today to be processed and then to propose solutions to political operators».

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In the meeting "Peace economics and industrial reconversion: a recovery plan for the world" the lecturers Raul Caruso, Juan Camilo Cárdenas and Susy Snyder, addressed the issue of the relationship between economy and peace. In particular, the Director of CESPIC and professor of Peace Economics at the Catholic University of Milan, prof. Raul Caruso, dealt with the delicate issue of the relationship between public interest and the private sector in the pursuit of peace: «This aspect is particularly relevant if we look at the military industry in which private incentives often tend to collide with the interest of the community. There is also a role of the private sector in allocating its resources to investments that are not a harbinger of conflicts but rather are engines of resolution of the same».

In the panel "The state of food insecurity", the Chief Economist of FAO, Maximo Torero, addressed the issue of poverty and food crises in times of pandemic: "Even before the arrival of Covid-19 there were significant challenges, with 690 million hungry people in the world. The pandemic has exacerbated the situation even more and increased inequalities».

Tomorrow's program, November 20th, includes further meeting: from 2.10pm to 3pm "Generativity, Relational Goods and Civil Economy" with Mauro Magatti, Consuelo Corradi and Leonardo Becchetti; from 4.40pm to 5.30pm "An economy of abundance: how to foster bottom-up development?", with Vandana Shiva and Pauline Effa. At the same time, "Work & Care: New pillars of work", with Jennifer Nedelsky, Paolo Foglizzo and Francesco Baroni.

On November 21st from 3pm to 3.50pm, "We are all developing countries", with Kate Raworth and John Perkins. At 5.30pm, the "virtual" participation of Pope Francesco with a video message addressed to the young participants connected via the web with the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi.

The complete program is on the francescoeconomy.org website, the multimedia and informative material is available at this link: <https://goo.gl/kkt14Q>

This was announced by the director of the information structure, Father Enzo Fortunato.