



VATICAN: THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO, FROM 19 TO 21 NOVEMBER ONLINE

Pope Francis and young people from all over the world for the economy of tomorrow

The presentation of The Economy of Francesco was held this morning, an international event featuring young economists and entrepreneurs from all over the world, which will be held from **19 to 21 November** in live streaming on the francescoeconomy.org portal. Confirmed, at the end of the three days, the “virtual” participation of **Pope Francis**.

The initiative has been developed following the invitation that the Holy Father sent on May 1, 2019, on the occasion of the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to economists, students and entrepreneurs under 35. Pope Francis, in fact, intends to start, with young people and a qualified group of experts, a process of global change to make today's and tomorrow's economy more just, fraternal, inclusive and sustainable, and leaving no one behind. The appointment was scheduled from 26 to 28 March 2020, and had to take place in Assisi with guests and visitors being physically present, but following the Covid emergency it was postponed from 19 to 21 November in live streaming. The next meeting, in presence, will be held in the city of St. Francis and is scheduled for autumn 2021, when the health conditions will ensure the participation of all.

The organization of The Economy of Francesco, as an online version, will allow all registered young people (2000 from 120 countries) to participate in the meeting in the same conditions, to share their experience, work, proposals, and the reflections matured in recent months. The program of the digital event will be innovative, inclusive, global. Assisi will host the “direction” of the event and the live broadcasts from the Franciscan historical sites: Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Church of St. Damian, Sanctuary of Rivortorto, Basilica of St. Clare, Sanctuary of the Spoliation, the Palace of Monte Frumentario. Space dedicated to conferences with young economists and entrepreneurs in dialogue with internationally renowned speakers to discuss the themes, proposals and perspectives of The Economy of Francesco. There will also be moments of meditation and reflection.

The 12 thematic villages carried out in recent months, represented the online working sessions of the participants: *work and care; management and gift; finance and humanity; agriculture and justice; energy and poverty; vocation and profit; policies and happiness; CO2 of inequalities; business and peace; Women for economy; business in transition; life and lifestyle*. Conferences with internationally renowned speakers, including the Nobel Prize **Muhammad Yunus** and, among others, economists and experts such as **Kate Raworth, Jeffrey Sachs, Vandana Shiva, Stefano Zamagni, Mauro Magatti, Juan Camilo Cárdenas, Jennifer Nedelsky, Sr. Cécile Renouard**, as well as numerous entrepreneurs with consolidated experience and skills. All the speakers will be available to listen to young people also with personal interviews and in interactive sessions with small groups of participants.

The world needs the creativity and love of the participants who, as *craftsmen* of the future, are weaving the Economy of Francesco, between the "already" and the "not yet".

The online event, both at organizational and practical levels, is entrusted to an Organizing Committee composed of: the **Diocese of Assisi**, the **Municipality of Assisi**, the **Seraphic Institute**, the **Economy of Communion** and the Franciscan Families, with the support, on behalf of the Holy See, of the **Department for the Service of Integral Human Development**, which sponsors the initiative.

Informative structure manager: Father Enzo Fortunato, Director of the Sacro Convento Assisi Press Office

Press and accreditation office manager: Roberto Pacilio, +39 339 54 49 531;

salastampa@sanfrancesco.org, www.francescoeconomy.org - www.sanfrancesco.org



Multimedia material, program, information and complete speeches are available at this link: <https://goo.gl/kkt14Q>

THE DECLARATIONS

SISTER ALESSANDRA SMERILLI, SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO

A cross-cutting theme in many villages is that of the re-evaluation of care within society and economy, as a key to shaping the future, together with the need for a more feminine point of view and greater participation of women for a more inclusive economy and finance. Young people have started as guests and are now becoming protagonists, they demonstrate a sense of responsibility, innovative ideas, capacity for dialogue that crosses the 5 continents: they are a 'present' (and not just a future) that must be heard. Thanks to Pope Francis they have had and are having spaces for listening, thanks to St. Francis they find inspiration to change the current economy and give a soul to the economy of the future.

LUIGINO BRUNI, SCIENTIFIC MANAGER OF THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO

The Economy of Francesco has become the largest movement of young economists and entrepreneurs in the world. It also consists in building a global spiritual capital that the economy desperately needs. The publication of the encyclical letter "Fratelli tutti" has offered us further ideas which we cannot ignore in the workings of the event. The central idea in the encyclical, that the brother is not the neighbor, is also the very heart of the life of *San Francesco d'Assisi*. The Pope wrote the first word of this encyclical letter on fraternity with the choice of his name: *Francesco*. There is a continuity between the event desired by the Holy Father who in May 2019 wrote to young economists and entrepreneurs of the world inviting them to Assisi, the symbolic place and heart of the movement, and the encyclical letter on fraternity. A continuity that encourages us to continue along the path we have taken.

FATHER ENZO FORTUNATO, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER OF THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO

The pandemic is exposing the current economic system: choosing the lockdown and saving lives or continuing as before, putting people's lives at risk? What is certain is that we are faced with a system called to regenerate itself through that path that St. Francis with his children and the Pope indicated to the society of yesterday and today. We are called to rethink the prospects we dream of. We cannot forget the writings of St. Francis: "And I used to work with my hands and I want to work... I want everyone to work" is the expression that emblematically summarizes the historical moment we are experiencing. With joy in the heart of the historic signing last October 3, the compass for our journey, and the gaze of the Pope who appointed our Cardinal Custos at the service of the Church and of humanity, the journey towards a fraternal society continues

STEFANIA PROIETTI, MAYOR OF ASSISI

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The Economy of Francesco is an appointment, even if in digital format, of great importance to outline the new economy, and therefore the future of our planet, the fate of humanity. The Pact will be signed -although digitally- in Assisi, which with 'Laudato Si' and 'Fratelli tutti', places people and creation at the center of all our efforts, and this for us is a reason of pride and also of responsibility.

FRANCESCA DI MAOLO, ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO

We have many expectations towards these young people who, even if they cannot be physically in our city, have been working for months for a change of direction of the economy. Who, but young people, can still dream looking at how our tomorrow should be? A future without wars, without abandonment, in which an economy can grow that is able to welcome and defend life, which is at the service of mankind, inclusive and which takes care of creation. Many are waiting for this event.

FLORENCIA LOCASCIO, STAFF OF THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO

Online participation, with its limits, has opened up great opportunities for us: thanks to webinars, people from all over the world are becoming more and more the protagonists. On November 20, a streaming marathon will be held where, across the different time zones, each country will have a slot to show videos, activities or research data relating to a particularly relevant topic for their specific territory, naturally connected to the issues on which we have been working in recent months.

THE FIGURES

27 online preparatory conferences from May to October broadcast on Facebook and YouTube:

- Over 40 including Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Ivory Coast, Korea, Portugal, Cameroon, Poland, Colombia, Nigeria, Brazil, Spain, Switzerland, India, Chile, Belgium, Ireland, South Africa, Botswana, Cuba, Mexico, Philippines, Uganda and Pakistan.

Views - 45.569

Connected users - 23.334

Hours of watch time - 7.713

Participants in The Economy of Francesco from 19 to 21 November:

Average age /sex/level of education - The protagonists of the digital event under 35 are 2000 from around the world, 56% men and 44% women. They are economists, entrepreneurs, students, changemakers and social sector operators driven by the common goal of building a more equitable and sustainable world.

The conferences - The young economists and entrepreneurs registered for the event will be in dialogue with international lecturers. The conferences will be accessible to all in any case, through the official website.

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The testimonies - 5 from young people connected from Mexico, Lebanon, Brazil, Uganda, Italy.

Connected Nations - 120

The live streams - The entire event is live streaming. It will be 4 hours a day and a 24-hour marathon on November 20, thanks to the links and contributions of young people from 20 different Countries.

The places - The main location will be the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi connected with 5 other places that were significant for the life of the Saint: the Sanctuary of Rivotorto, the Church of St. Damian, the Basilica of St. Clare, the Sanctuary of the Spoliation and the Palace of Monte Frumentario.

The connected places - Participants from different countries have created HUBS, real structures to follow the event together, if the Covid regulations will allow it. This allows for involving other young people and entire communities to have a shared and in-depth experience even beyond the hours of the online program. To date, HUBS have been created in over 25 countries; only in Italy there are 13: <https://francescoeconomy.org/it/eof-hubs/>.

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