The interview with Dr. Paolo Santori who - among others - is coordinating the project:



What is The Economy of Francesco School?

It is an online advanced training course on the topics of the Economy of Francesco. Guests of the EoF school will be outstanding persons from academia, the world of business and enterprises, and society. Each speaker will be followed by a respondent, who will be chosen from among the young participants of The Economy of Francesco.



How was the idea of The EoF School born?

The idea came from the work of the villages. There, different kinds of 'schools' were theorized as projects. Some were put into practice as the School of Civil Happiness, but all were aimed at one common objective: to gain and disseminate knowledge regarding The Economy of Francesco. All the villages realized that for a change in the economy to happen, we first needed a cultural change in the way economics is taught in academia and the way businesses are run.



Did the past event (in November) provide some new perspectives or produce new ideas?

Yes, absolutely. To mention two, the speech of the Pope and the final statement of the young people of EoF were two important sources of knowledge about the past and the future of The Economy of Francesco.

One aim of the school now is to ponder the topics raised by the Pope and by the young people to arrive at the next event with clearer ideas and concrete proposals.



What will be the main issues addressed?

We will move around three pillars: Pope Francis' teachings, Franciscan economic thought and institutions, and some of the topics which grounded the EoF villages. To give you an example, we want to rethink the economics of 2021, starting from the topic of the commons.

What would happen if we substituted the centrality of private goods with the commons in economics? This question connects the three pillars of our school, and it is one that we will consider in-depth during the seminars.



What will be the format?

It will be a one-hour online class. One keynote speaker will give a 30-minute lecture; then we will have a respondent chosen from among the outstanding young EoF scholars and entrepreneurs.

The respondent will have roughly 15 minutes to comment on the keynote speech and to underline important insights for the Economy of Francesco as a whole. Then we will leave time for a Q&A session.



What is the difference between the EoF school and the EoF on-life

The seminars have taught us an important lesson: EoF knowledge also grows with the guests, their speeches, and their ideas.

From that awareness was born the idea of an Economy of Francesco School: trying to develop the lessons we have learned from the best scholars and professionals from all over the world. For this very reason, we also thought to offer handouts before the lessons so that EoF knowledge can start to be consolidated and grounded.



Why should I participate?

If you are already within The Economy of Francesco, you should participate for the very same reasons that brought you to join in the first place: because you see that there is something wrong in the economic system today, you believe something is missing, and you want to contribute to the change.

If you are not part of The Economy of Francesco but you have heard or seen something from EoF and you are interested in advanced training on economics and business, then you should participate.

Thanks, Paolo! More coming soon! Stay tuned!

