



CALL FOR TWO RESEARCH POSITIONS

The Economy of Francesco Foundation

in collaboration with

CEI – Service for the Promotion of Economic Support to the Catholic Church (SPSE)

Promoting Institutions:

The initiative is a collaboration between:

- **The Economy of Francesco (EoF Academy)**, promoting interdisciplinary research on new economic paradigms;
- **CEI – Service for the Promotion of Economic Support to the Catholic Church (SPSE)**, promoting Church financial support and reflection on transparency, shared responsibility, and the common good.

The objective of this call is to support young researchers working on topics of common interest, capable of generating both scientific knowledge and cultural, pastoral, and communication impacts. Scientific coordination, administrative management, and research supervision will be provided by the Economy of Francesco Foundation.

Position 1: Principal Investigator

Area: Spiritual and narrative capital as an economic, social, and institutional resource

Duration: 12 months (June 1, 2026 – May 30, 2027)

Introduction:

The Foundation aims to promote a research project dedicated to the study of spiritual and narrative capital within the theoretical and value framework developed by The Economy of Francesco. The project seeks to explore and develop the concept of spiritual capital as an analytical category that contributes to contemporary debates on economy, society, and integral human development. The initiative lies at the intersection of high-level academic

research and the production of outreach content, aiming to make the results accessible to a non-specialist audience.

The Foundation intends to select a Principal Investigator (PI) who will be directly responsible for the project and will form and coordinate an interdisciplinary and international research group. The project will be supervised by one or more members of the EoF scientific community to ensure methodological rigor and alignment with the initiative's objectives.

Research Focus:

- Definition and measurability of spiritual and narrative capital
- Role of institutions in generating spiritual and narrative capital
- Spiritual capital and community resilience
- Impacts of spiritual-narrative capital on economic behavior (gift, shared responsibility, solidarity taxation)
- Interaction between “narrative capital” and existing frameworks in the context of sustainable development

Candidate Profile:

The candidate should have an interdisciplinary academic profile with proven experience in research on economic, cultural, and institutional topics, and a transdisciplinary orientation integrating philosophy, economics, and literary studies. Particular attention will be given to dialogue between economy and culture, historical and contemporary implications, and the study of Franciscan thought and its reinterpretations in contemporary socio-economic contexts.

Candidates must be familiar with the themes promoted by The Economy of Francesco and with the debate on spiritual capital, with at least one relevant academic publication explicitly referencing EoF.

Key Qualifications:

- Ability to develop innovative theoretical frameworks
- Experience in leading and coordinating research groups
- Ability to operate in interdisciplinary and international contexts
- Ability to translate research into high-impact scientific and outreach outputs

Responsibilities of the Principal Investigator:

The PI will take scientific responsibility for the project and coordinate the international research group, ensuring concrete results within 12 months, including:

- Clear scientific positioning on spiritual and narrative capital
- Production of original scientific contributions and outreach content
- Design and execution of cultural materials and activities to disseminate research results

Objectives:

- Produce original and relevant research on spiritual and narrative capital
- Form and coordinate a feasible and coherent research group
- Contribute to academic and cultural debates promoted by EoF
- Develop outreach tools and materials for a non-specialist audience
- Understand how spiritual capital influences willingness to provide economic support
- Highlight the Church's role as a generator of intangible goods for society

Eligibility:

- PhD in economics, sociology, political science, philosophy, literature, theology, religious studies, humanities, or related disciplines
- Postdoctoral research position at a university or research institution
- Documented experience in coordinating research groups
- Strong academic background
- Original research project aligned with the thematic area
- Interest in social and cultural impact
- Willingness to work interdisciplinarily and in teams
- Adequate knowledge of Italian and English

Position 2: Early Career Researcher

Area: Common goods, relationships, fraternity, and care in the contemporary economy

Duration: 12 months (June 1, 2026 – May 30, 2027)

Introduction:

The Foundation offers a research fellowship focused on common goods, relational goods, fraternity, and care practices in the contemporary economy, with particular attention to inequalities and the development of artificial intelligence. Fraternity is considered a central relational category, integrating objective dimensions (reciprocity, cooperation, institutional openness) and subjective dimensions (trust, proximity, relational disposition), contributing to the understanding of contemporary economic and social processes.

The project aligns with the theoretical and value framework of The Economy of Francesco and aims to strengthen both scientific and public debates on inclusive economic models based on relationships, communities, and non-market institutions. The project will be supervised by members of the EoF scientific community to ensure methodological rigor and alignment with objectives.

Research Focus:

- Common goods (material and immaterial): governance, hybrid institutions, role of communities
- Fraternity as a relational category: objective and subjective dimensions in economic and institutional dynamics
- Relational goods and quality of economic relationships in digital and high-automation contexts
- Gift, care, and reciprocity as alternative economic categories
- Impacts of AI and digitalization on work, relationships, trust, and social cohesion
- Connections between economic, technological, and relational inequalities

Candidate Profile:

Advanced PhD students, post-docs, or early-career researchers with training in economics, social sciences, philosophy, or humanities, with an interdisciplinary orientation consistent with the EoF paradigm. Candidates should demonstrate interest in common goods, relational goods, fraternity, and care practices, with attention to inequalities and AI/digital impacts. Interest in the Social Doctrine of the Church and Catholic economic thought is a plus.

Responsibilities:

The researcher will be responsible for the scientific development of the project and achieving results within 12 months, including:

- Clear scientific positioning on the chosen topic
- Execution of academic and cultural activities consistent with the initiative's goals
- Participation in dissemination and valorization initiatives

Objectives:

- Analyze the role of common and relational goods in supporting social cohesion and shared value in contexts of inequality and technological innovation
- Explore fraternity as a key relational category for interpreting contemporary economic processes
- Provide insights on the role of communities and non-market institutions in producing relational goods and care practices
- Contribute to developing an economy oriented to fraternity, reciprocity, and the common good

Eligibility:

- PhD students (from year 2), post-docs, and early-career researchers
- Disciplines: economics, sociology, political science, philosophy, theology, religious studies, social data science, humanities
- Preferably under 35
- Strong academic background
- Original research project aligned with the area
- Interest in social and cultural impact
- Willingness to work interdisciplinarily and in teams
- Adequate knowledge of Italian and English

COMMON RULES FOR BOTH POSITIONS

Required Documentation:

Candidates must submit a 12-month project proposal including:

- Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum
- Complete list of publications
- Relevant scientific publications (up to 3 digital attachments)
- Research project (see “Research Project Structure”)
- Motivation letter (max 1 page)
- Scan of valid ID
- Optional reference letter

Research Project Structure:

- Project Title
- Abstract (max 250 words)
- Section 1 – Scientific Framework (max 1000 words)
 - Objectives
 - Methodology
 - (PI only) Research group composition (names, profiles, CVs of involved candidates)
- Section 2 – Results, Impact, and Dissemination (max 500 words)
 - Results: description of research outputs during the fellowship (publications, events, activities)
 - Impact: expected impact of project results
 - Measures to maximize impact: dissemination, communication, and valorization strategies
- Section 3 – Work Plan (max 1000 words)
 - Work packages with a timeline
 - For each: title, duration, description, expected deliverables

Evaluation Criteria:

- Candidate profile: relevance of profile, quality and relevance of publications, motivation
- Research project: clarity, scientific relevance, alignment with EoF objectives, scientific excellence, research group diversity, organization, and feasibility
- Top candidates may be invited for a short interview (online possible)

Fellowship Duration and Amount:

- Annual, with possible renewal for a second year, subject to evaluation and funding availability
 - **PI Fellowship:** €14,000 gross per year
 - **Early Career Researcher:** €8,000 gross per year
- Amounts are all-inclusive.

Application Procedure:

Submit all documentation in Italian or English in PDF format to:

scientificboard@francescoeconomy.org by April 30, 2026. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selection Results:

Results will be communicated directly to applicants. The Selection Committee may request interviews and reserves the right not to award a position if requirements are not met.