



Assisi, 30 Apr, 2026

At the Roots of Economic Ethics

800 Years of Poverty and Wealth in the Name of Francesco

Assisi, 7–9 May 2026

More than 100 scholars, researchers, and practitioners from over 30 countries will gather in Assisi to reflect on the ethical foundations of economic life 800 years after Saint Francis

The international conference *At the Roots of Economic Ethics* will take place from 7 to 9 May 2026 in Assisi. Promoted by the **Economy of Francesco Foundation** in the context of the Franciscan Centenary, the initiative is organised in partnership with *HEIRS – Happiness Economics and Interpersonal Relations* and with the support of the *Comitato Nazionale per la Celebrazione dell'Ottavo Centenario della Morte di San Francesco d'Assisi*.

The conference seeks to explore how the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition can contribute to addressing today's pressing economic challenges — including inequality, ecological crisis, technological transformation, and the search for more inclusive and sustainable models of development. Bringing together economists, social scientists, and interdisciplinary researchers, the initiative is conceived not as a conventional academic event, but as a space of dialogue where different perspectives converge around fundamental questions of economic ethics.

The program includes keynote lectures by **Helen Alford**, **Giacomo Todeschini**, and **Luigino Bruni**, alongside parallel sessions featuring contributions selected through an international Call for Papers. Rather than focusing solely on disciplinary outputs, the conference emphasizes exchange across fields, encouraging dialogue between economic thought, social sciences, and the Franciscan tradition. It also features an entrepreneurial dimension embedded within sessions, where participants move beyond theory into practice through short pitches, presenting real initiatives, testing ideas, and opening spaces for collaboration.

The event will be held at the **Serafico di Assisi**, a historic institution dedicated to care and inclusion and one of the founding institutions of the Economy of Francesco Foundation. Here, the themes of the conference are not only discussed but lived daily, offering participants a concrete context in which dignity, vulnerability, and the value of every human life are experienced and practiced.

From research to lived experience, participants shape the conversation

Beyond academic discussions, the conference highlights the importance of connecting theoretical reflection with concrete realities and practices. Participants will engage not only



through formal sessions, but also through shared moments of encounter, cultural experiences, and informal exchanges, reinforcing the relational dimension of economic ethics.

The diversity of participants is one of the defining features of the conference. Coming from different countries, disciplines, and professional backgrounds, they contribute to a plural and dynamic reflection on the future of economic life. Among them are scholars whose work exemplifies how research can engage directly with pressing social, ecological, and institutional challenges. Among them, **Ivan Gozum** (Philippines) explores how integral ecology can reshape economic thinking in contexts marked by environmental degradation and governance challenges. In Ireland, **Sophie Manaeva** examines the role of cooperative models and community wealth building as alternatives to extractive economic systems. From Mexico, **Ana Paula Perez** focuses on the development of care policies in Latin America, investigating how principles such as subsidiarity and solidarity can inform more inclusive economic frameworks.

Together, these contributions reflect the interdisciplinary and global nature of the conference, where economic ethics is explored not only as a theoretical field, but as a lens through which to interpret and respond to concrete realities.

A broader reflection within the Franciscan Centenary

The conference is part of the global commemorations marking **800 years since the death of Saint Francis of Assisi**. In this context, the initiative contributes to a wider reflection on the relevance of Franciscan thought today — not only as a spiritual legacy, but as a source of insight for rethinking economic systems in light of fraternity, care, and the common good.

Full conference program and details: francescoeconomy.org/at-the-roots-of-economic-ethics/
Press contact: press@francescoeconomy.org

About the Economy of Francesco

The Economy of Francesco (EoF) is a global community of young economists, entrepreneurs, and changemakers committed to rethinking and transforming socioeconomic cultures and structures in the light of fraternity, care, and the common good. Launched in 2019 by Pope Francis and inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, EoF brings together participants from over 100 countries across disciplines and cultures, fostering dialogue, research, and concrete initiatives aimed at building a more just and sustainable economy. Through its academic, educational, entrepreneurial, and community-based activities, the Economy of Francesco promotes a renewed economic vision rooted in human dignity, relationality, and responsibility toward society and the environment. The Economy of Francesco Foundation supports and advances this global process, nurturing collaboration and long-term initiatives inspired by the values of the Pact signed in Assisi in 2022.