



The Economy of Francesco

*integral ecology guide
for local communities*



All links from the following
guide are available at:
<https://linktr.ee/eofpl>

The guide you are starting to read was prepared by young activists from The Economy of Francesco commissioned by Caritas Polska for the Caritas Laudato Si'.

The aim of our project is to increase ecological awareness, with particular emphasis on the inter-relationships of natural and socio-economic crises. In response to the appeal of Pope Francis, included in the encyclical Laudato Si', we are trying to increase not only awareness itself, but also provide you with specific tools thanks to which it is possible to make the change necessary to restore human dignity and justice – basic principles of Catholic social teaching.

This guide is such a tool. In it, you will find examples of specific projects whose authors respond to the natural crisis every day – not only in small decisions, but also in wider social activity. As you will see, the solution to this crisis is to return to the roots of the Catholic Church – to the community. Only together we are able to reverse the individualistic trend of contemporary consumerism, so that man and the relationships he builds with other people and, more broadly, with the entire environment, which is our common home, are again at the center of our daily activities.

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Part I

Introduction

“Hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 49

Idea and assumptions of The Economy of Francesco

Destruction of nature, overuse of raw materials, pollution of air, water and land, and the resulting global warming and extreme weather phenomena cannot be treated indifferently by a Catholic. By using the Earth in a way that prevents it from regenerating its resources, man defies God's plan and endangers his fellow humans who breathe polluted air, drink contaminated water, or struggle with the effects of rising temperatures (e.g. rising water levels that threaten coastal cities).

Pope Francis in his encyclical – *Laudato Si'* – draws the attention of the faithful to the threats that we ourselves, as participants of the economy, are a source of. The first of it is the destruction of the natural environment. *“Nature suffers because of human”*, said St. John Paul II during his pilgrimage to Poland.

The Holy Father Francis and the Orthodox ecumenical patriarch Bartholomew have no doubt that such state of affairs is not a necessary effect of human activity, but results from greed and not thinking about consequences of the pursuit of wealth.² The harmful actions of big companies, polluting land, water and air, are fueled by the immoderate consumption of their customers. We believed that we should use the Earth in an unlimited way, as long as we could buy another item of clothing or an electronic gadget cheaply. The price for this is to destroy the nature that God created to glorify Him and reveal His infinite goodness. That is why the Pope calls all of us to an 'ecological conversion'³, as destroying the environment is a sin⁴.

¹John Paul II, V pilgrimage to Poland, Białystok, 5 June 1991

²Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 7-9

³Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 216-221

⁴Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 2, 8

The second environment that is subject to degradation is the human and social environment. Focused on material goods, we neglect social relations and lose sight of our concern for other people. By destroying nature, we worsen the conditions in which our children and grandchildren will live. We can stop these processes if we turn from selfishness towards solidarity, from seeking happiness in individual consumption to finding happiness in friendship and community with other people. Otherwise, living conditions on Earth will become increasingly harsh, and society will become a small group of people fighting for scarce resources. The Holy Father appeals: *“mankind is called to realize the need to change the way of life, production and consumption”*⁵. In 2019, Pope Francis invited young people from all over the world to work together to work out a "pact for the new economy".⁶

The need to create a new economy arises from deep injustices and mechanisms that destroy the common good that are rooted in the modern economy. In response to this call, hundreds of people became involved in the network of The Economy of Francesco, patronized by Saint Francis of Assisi – a model of love and admiration for God's creation.

In March 2020, a several-day meeting with the Pope in Assisi was to take place, during which young entrepreneurs, scientists, activists and volunteers in discussions with world experts from various areas were to share experiences and ideas for a better future for the world. However, due to the pandemic, the event was postponed to November 2020 to the Internet space, and over 3,000 participants were invited to work as part of 12 virtual working groups (the so-called villages).

The variety of working groups (listed in the box below)⁷ shows how many areas there are in need of changes so that the economy serves the society respecting nature, and not society serves as much as possible to produce and consume.

⁵ Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 23

⁶ Francis, Letter sent by the Holy Father for the event "Economy of Francesco", 1 May 2019

⁷ https://francescoeconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Villages_EoF2020_V3.pdf

MANAGEMENT AND GIFT	FINANCE AND HUMANITY	WORK AND CARE	AGRICULTURE AND JUSTICE
ENERGY AND POVERTY	BUSINESS AND PEACE	WOMEN FOR ECONOMY	CO ₂ OF INEQUALITY
VOCATION AND PROFIT	BUSINESS IN TRANSFORMATION	LIFE AND LIFESTYLE	POLICIES FOR HAPPINESS

These groups organize open lectures available on Youtube⁸ and conduct internal discussions in search of the best forms of action to repair the economy. Each of the 12 groups in the November 2020 online event proposed one joint commitment, known as the "Assisi Pact", addressed to economists, policy makers, working people and global citizens. On behalf of the young and the poor, they ask for:

- slowing down this race that does not let the Earth breathe
- sharing cutting-edge technologies with low-income countries to overcome energy poverty and achieve climate justice
- placing the subject of managing the commons at the center of governmental and educational programs
- respect for every human being and not using economic ideas to insult and reject the poor
- the right to decent work for all guaranteed by the social policy of each country and the observance of human rights in each company
- closing tax havens
- reform and establishment of new supporting financial institutions
- sustainable and ethical financing and speculative taxation and predatory finances
- the establishment of independent ethics committees in large and globalized companies and banks with veto rights in environmental matters, justice and influence on the poorest
- justice and influence on the poorest
- supporting innovative entrepreneurs in the context of environmental, social, spiritual and management sustainability
- enabling high-quality education by states, large enterprises and international institutions
- providing working women with the same employment opportunities as men
- ending the allocation of available resources to the production of weapons and the fueling of ongoing conflicts necessary for their sale.⁹

⁸ Youtube: The Economy of Francesco Official channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVKz5pM4geof3NvZ07-GOylw>

⁹ <https://francescoeconomy.org/final-statement-and-common-commitment/>

The idea of civic activity at the local level

Developed postulates and online meetings are just the beginning of the road. Pope Francis, in the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, invokes the image of the Good Samaritan as an example of active citizenship and invites everyone to care for others: *“Every day we get a new chance, a new stage. We shouldn't expect everything from those who rule us – that would be infantile. We enjoy a space of shared responsibility capable of initiating and generating new processes and transformations. Let us be active in rehabilitating and supporting wounded societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express that we are brothers (...). It is possible to start at the bottom and, case by case, fight for what is the most concrete and local, to the farthest corner of the country and the world, with the same care as a Samaritan traveler approached every wound of a wounded man.”*¹⁰

The real Economy of Francesco, therefore, takes place 'in the field' among local communities that organize activities in new, atypical forms. Their goals may seemingly differ – from the production of "green" energy, through ecological farming, caring for people with disabilities, the poor, the elderly or the lonely, to enterprises that combine economic activity with the implementation of an important social mission. But in fact, as the Holy Father repeats, "everything is interconnected" ¹¹ and there are no separate crises – ecological and social, but one ecological and social crisis, the source of which is the lack of solidarity and individualism.¹² Each of us can join this Economy of Francesco in the place where he lives, organizing a project for the environment, the needy or the community. Speaking in Krakow in 2016 during World Youth Day, Pope Francis warned us against confusing happiness with a comfortable couch that puts us to sleep and paralyzes us in consequence, *“while others – maybe more alive, but not better – decide about our future”*.

¹⁰Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, pt. 77-78

¹¹Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 117

¹²Francis, *Laudato Si'*, pt. 119

He further persuaded us to *“follow the ways of our God, who encourages us to be political actors, thinking people, social animators. It stimulates us to think about a more solidary economy than the current one. In all the environments in which you are, God’s love encourages us to bring the Good News, making our lives a gift for Him and for others.”*¹⁴ There are many ways to do this, and the aim of The Economy of Francesco is to identify some of them which, from the bottom up, make our local communities and local economies more sustainable, fair and solidarity.

Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* after the Synod of Young People, notes: *“The Synod reaffirmed that a special feature of today’s youth is social commitment, although it takes different forms than in previous generations. Along with some indifferent people, many others are ready to engage in volunteering initiatives, active citizenship and social solidarity. They need to be accompanied and supported to reveal the talents, skills and creativity of young people, and to encourage them to take responsibility. Social commitment and direct contact with the poor remain fundamental opportunity to discover or deepen one’s faith and recognize one’s vocation. The readiness of political commitment to build the common good was also noticed.”*¹⁵ The Holy Father also writes further

about the value of work: *“When someone discovers that God is calling him to something, that he was made for it – it could be nursing, carpentry, communication, engineering, teaching, art or any other work – then he will be able to bring out his best skills, dedication, generosity and self-sacrifice. Knowing that you are not doing things in order to do them, but that they make sense, as a response to a calling deep within you to give something for others, makes this activity give our heart a special experience of wholeness. This is what the ancient biblical Book of Ecclesiastes said (Eccl 3:22): so I saw that there is nothing better than the fact that a man enjoys his works.”*¹⁶

¹³ Francis, Vigil as part of the World Youth Day, Krakow (Campus Misericordiae), 30 July 2016

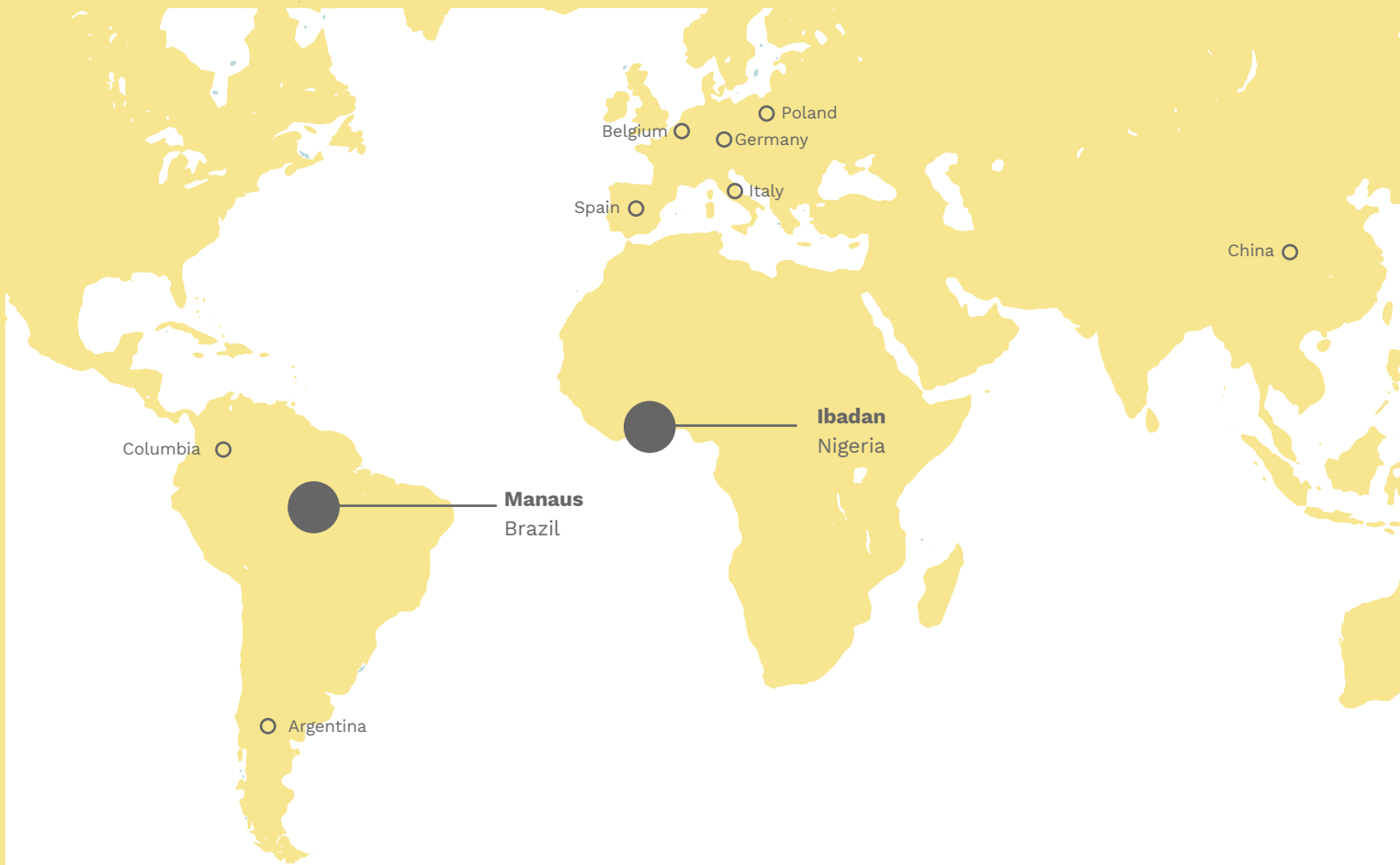
¹⁴ Ibidem

¹⁵ Francis, *Christus Vivit*, pt. 170

¹⁶ Francis, *Christus Vivit*, pt. 273

Part IIa

**Initiatives
of The Economy
of Francesco**



The Farm of Francesco

Village: Agriculture and Justice



Field

agriculture, education, food processing, sustainable income generation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change



Time of origin/activity

since June 2020



Location

Ibadan, Niger & Manaus, Brazil with members from Argentina, Columbia, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Poland and China



Legal form

Brazil and Nigeria: limited liability companies, Italy and United States: non-profit activity pending, Other countries: no legal form



Financing

currently from own resources



Website

<https://linktr.ee/agriculture.justice>

Purpose of the project

The Farm of Francesco's vision is to reverse the trend of agricultural soil degeneration and to create opportunities for a decent income for farmers while working in harmony with the cycles of nature. In other words, the Farm of Francesco promotes and develops regenerative agriculture through the economic and social development of young people.

The Farm of Francesco brings its vision to life by creating Demo Farms. In this way, a model of vocational education is created, thanks to which young people can build a regenerative farm in their native village, and thus create a place of work and income for themselves. The third element of the model developed by the Farm of Francesco is the development of a company processing food produced by the established farms.

People and history

The inspiration of creating the Farm of Francesco was a call of Pope Francis, and the spiritual patrons of the project are Saint Clare and Saint Francis of Assisi.

The Farm of Francesco was created in response to Pope Francis' invitation to "heal the Common House", which the Pope addressed to participants of the Economy of Francis. Due to the pandemic situation, the work of the Farm of Francesco Village, which includes the Farm of Francesco, moved to the remote formula and continues to this day. The group was established in June 2020, the operating model was agreed at the turn of September and October 2020, and the team is still actively working on the implementation and development of the Farm of Francesco.

The project is implemented by a group of 13 people from nine countries of the world, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Poland

and China, who responded positively to the invitation of Pope Francis to "cure the Common Home". Currently, the group cooperates with each other in the form of a fully remote voluntary service, no one from the Farm of Francesco team has met another team member from the beginning of the cooperation to this day.

Projects in Brazil and Nigeria take the legal form of limited liability companies in both countries and the Farm of Francesco team is currently working on registering the organization as a non-profit operation in Italy or the United States. The project is currently being financed by private funds from some of the members of the Farm of Francesco in order to implement the model. The team is working on the legal and financial structuring of the project to make it self-financing.

More about history of the Farm of Francesco you can find here: <https://youtu.be/pEkLULbWtQ8>

What?

In each location, the Farm of Francesco focuses on three elements:

- **development of model farms (currently in Brazil and Nigeria, in the future in other parts of the world)**
- **building a model of vocational education**
- **development of a food processing company**

At a global level, the Farm of Francesco promotes regenerative farming practices and the development of models that allow young people to enter the farming industry. An example of these activities is the partnership with Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.:

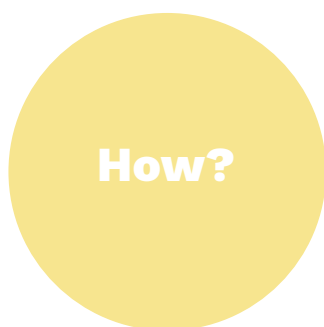
<https://environmentaljustice.georgetown.edu/agriculture-justice-the-farm-of-francesco/>



To whom?

At the local level, the project targets young people who want to become regenerative farmers but would not have had the opportunity without the support of the Farm of Francesco.

At a global level, the Farm of Francesco promotes the development of regenerative agriculture and the development of food systems that are regenerative and equitable.



establishing model farms

development of the educational program

lobbying for the promotion of regenerative agriculture



European Carbon Farmers

Village: CO₂ of Inequality



Field

agriculture, regenerative farming, coal farming, mitigation and adaptation to climate change



Time of origin/activity

since May 2020



Location

Poland with a range of operations covering the European Union



Legal form

limited liability company registered in Poland



Financing

equity and funds obtained from the market on a commercial basis



Website

<https://www.europeancarbonfarmers.com/>

Purpose of the project

European Carbon Farmers implements the mission of placing farmers at the center of efforts to adapt and mitigate climate change in a way that is profitable for them. This mission is implemented through the promotion of coal farming and the development of agricultural carbon payment mechanisms in Poland and more broadly in the European Union.

The ultimate goal of European Carbon Farmers is to change the operating model of agriculture from conventional to regenerative in a way that does not threaten the financial viability of an individual farm.

People and history

The European Carbon Farmers team is Mateusz and Paweł Ciasnocha – the founders of the Company. Mateusz is a participant in the Economy of Franciszek. Moreover, the company is supported by a ten-person Advisory Board and accelerators Climate Accelerator (<https://climateaccelerator.pl/>) and Startup Heroes (<https://opnt.olsztyn.eu/startup-heroes/>).

The European Carbon Farmers company was established on the basis of the experience of the Ciasnocha family in running a negative-emission farm in Żuławy Wiślane and the international perspective on the trajectory of agricultural development in the context of the goal of emission neutrality by 2050, achieved by the Company's founder, Mateusz Ciasnocha.

Mateusz shares his experience in 5 small steps to regenerative farming in the end of this Report, pp. 89-91.

What?

European Carbon Farmers carries out its mission through three activities:


- promotion of carbon farming
- development of agricultural carbon payment mechanisms
- cooperation with the industry regulator in order to design an agricultural policy that supports the change of the agricultural business model from conventional to regenerative



To whom?


European Carbon Farmers works with three stakeholder groups to develop values. These groups are:

farmers




they deliver emission reductions to the market for which they are paid, while converting their farms from conventional to regenerative

smart companies



they buy agricultural carbon credits to off-set (compensate) the impact of greenhouse gases emitted by them into the atmosphere

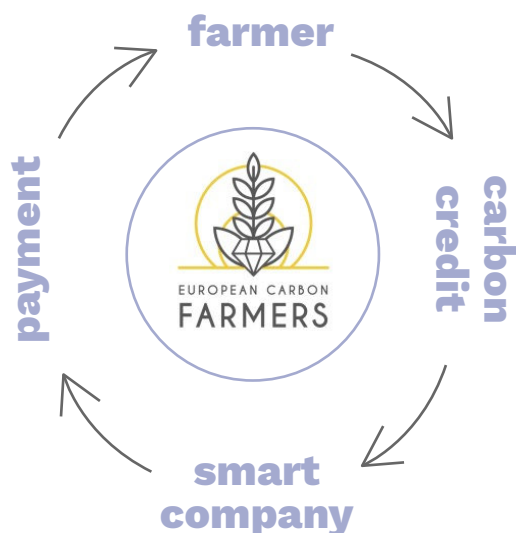
regulator



the success of the agricultural carbon credit market that is under construction depends on the introduction of an appropriate legal framework, therefore precisely for this purpose, we cooperate with the regulator

How?

European Carbon Farmers implements its mission by developing the agricultural carbon credit mechanism in Poland:



An agricultural carbon credit is a financial mechanism under which a farmer changes his agricultural practices (especially by reducing the intensity of cultivation and covering the soil with vegetation 365 days a year through the use of catch crops) in order to store additional carbon in his agricultural soil. This additional stored carbon dioxide is sold to a company that wants to off-set its greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere in the formula of a carbon credit. European Carbon Farmers is at the heart of this process and is making it possible.

The process of creating an agricultural carbon credit takes place annually and consists of four stages:

measurement

The first step is to measure the current levels of soil carbon sequestration

methodology

The second stage is insertion these measurements into an international methodology - in the case of European Carbon Farmers it is the Cool Farm Tool

<https://coolfarmtool.org/>

verification

The third stage is the verification of the measurements under an international standard - in this case it is the ISO14064* standard. At this point in the process, an agricultural carbon credit is created

*<https://www.iso.org/standard/66453.html>

commercialization

The fourth step is to sell the agricultural carbon credit on the voluntary market to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

More about European Carbon Farmers in the package: information and marketing materials of the Company:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r1h94k9ckh51d3d/AADQc5Y6LSSASrPUVhS6MpC-a?dl=0>

presentation of Mateusz Ciasnocha as part of the European Congress of Agribusiness Managers:

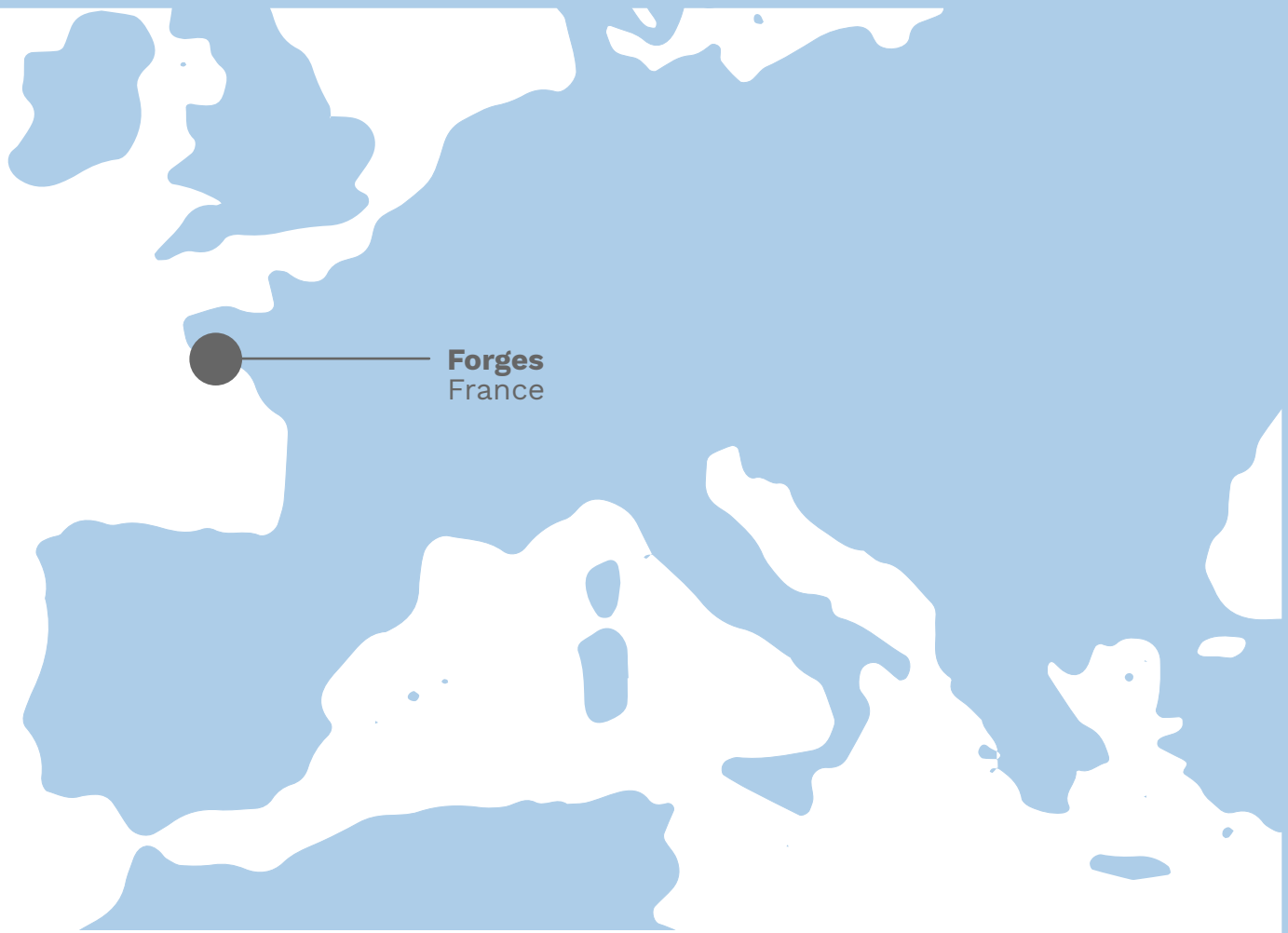
<https://kongresagrobiznesu.pl/>

<https://youtu.be/YXq100S3DyA>

presentation of Mateusz Ciasnocha ESCP Business School:

<https://escp.eu/fr/node/55929>

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/x156vis7qgf3kfi/AADvs5HFRq2f48-RRv_-4Hq6a?dl=0



Campus de la Transition

Village: Life and Lifestyle



Field

formation, education, science, community



Time of origin/activity

since December 2017



Location

Forges, France



Legal form

non-profit association registered under French law



Financing

long-term, non-profit initiative, funds obtained from various sources, incl. donations and trainings conducted in the residence



Website

<https://campus-transition.org/>

Purpose of the project

Campus de la Transition presents as its main goal the promotion of an ecological, economic and humanistic transformation in response to the challenges that shake our world.

This vision is related to the implementation of a specific mission, which includes such spheres as:

- new economic models
- new quality and performance indicators
- new ways of production and consumption
- management of existing resources
- reference to time (long-term integration) and space (local to global)
- the criteria for distinguishing what is good for humanity and the planet and what is not
- reflection, coordination and decision making processes.

Campus de la Transition is the first of its kind in France to gather all new knowledge, thoughts and emerging concepts in the following aspects. The aim is to ensure that new generations and companies are passed on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful ecological and economic transition.

The project aims to create an academic environment that brings together teachers, researchers, students, companies, public institutions and active citizens in particular. It also engages people recognized internationally for their professionalism and knowledge in the area of ecological and economic transformation.

People and history

S. Cécile Renouard RA, co-founder of Campus de la Transition, is professor of philosophy at Center Sèvres and teaches at l'École des Mines de Paris, at the international l'ESSEC Business School and Sciences Po Paris.

Campus de la Transition is a non-profit association according to French law, founded on December 21, 2017 and registered in January 2018. The project is carried out in the Château de Forges (chateau de Forges), which was inherited in 1949 by l'Institut de l'Assomption (Religious Institute of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) on the condition that it will serve as a place for teaching work. Currently, it is a place of formation, education and meetings: the castle hosts various formation meetings for both students and companies, workshops and a three-week summer school.

The structure of the work consists of a board of five, supported by an additional team of four. Eight members of the association live and work on site in the Château de Forges, serving the campus. They are called "Forjoies", just like the villagers of Forges. Campus de la Transition consists of two councils:

- the Academic Council, consisting of with teachers, researchers and practitioners who conduct formation activities on the Campus
- Scientific Council composed of recognized professors and researchers in the field of ecological and economic transformation or social.

In addition, about twenty people are involved in the creation and implementation of the project: volunteers and active members, supported by a wider group of accompanying people who occasionally devote their time to this project. The team running the Campus' activities is systematically growing.

It is a non-profit initiative, funded from a variety of sources, including:

- fees for training courses taking place at the Château de Forges
- fees for long-term stay of foreign students and scientists
- funds obtained for the implementation of research activities in cooperation with enterprises, local authorities or institutions, and funds for the co-organization of business seminars.

The Campus de la Transition is also supported by associations interested in the issues covered in this organization in order to enable the civic and environmental involvement of this work. Part of the donation is dedicated to preserving the unique material, spiritual and scientific heritage of the Forges residence.

At the beginning of 2020, a new book by Sr. Cécile Renouard, entitled "Le Manuel de la Grande Transition", which collects the principles and values upheld and implemented in the Campus de la Transition community. The ideas and proposals in the book were discussed at the main event of The Economy of Francesco in November 2020.

What?

Ecological initiatives for ecological, economic and social education and formation. To this end, it organizes meetings, various formation activities and workshops, studies or research, and activities related to transformation, e.g. recording low-emission models in different contexts.

How?

There are three pillars of activity:



Activities take place at the Château de Forges, which is an important part of the initiative's message as an example of this transformation. The goal is to make its surroundings an environmentally friendly place that promotes ecological and social transformation. In this way, it offers the opportunity to study and at the same time experience the transformation of this place in an ecological way.

Here you can come across specific issues such as: energy in buildings and transport, agriculture and food, integration into the bioregional economy, social inclusion, frugal and friendly living, ethics and management. These issues are the source of research for students and researchers during their stay on the Campus.

To whom?

Campus de la Transition activities are aimed at various people and environments:



people who face challenges related to the ecological and economic transformation



to students of the first and second cycle of university studies



to PhD students, teachers and scientists (in France, in Europe and in a non-European international dimension)



to academic, local or philanthropic institutions



to companies looking for knowledge, methodology and know-how in the field of ecological and economic transformation



Mansa and Lusaka
Zambia

Pacar School Foundation Limited

Village: Business in Transformation



Field
education, technology



Time of origin/activity
since March 2021



education, technology
Mansa and Lusaka, Zambia



Legal form
foundation registered
under Zambian law



Financing
fundraising through the "Go Fund Me"
campaign and establishing cooperation
with local partners



Website
<https://pacarschool.com/>

Purpose of the project

The Pacar School team believes that education and technology are the key to a better future for young people in Zambia. To contribute to this, education has to be solid and certified. The goal of Pacar School is to offer Zambian youth free computers, free internet connection, free online IT courses, and a course completion certificate confirming the acquired qualifications.

In order to achieve this goal, the Pacar School team unites in the spirit of the call from *Laudato Si'*, putting brotherhood and love into their work, giving their time to work for the common good.

The goal of Pacar School is to radically change the model of Zambian education and to create conditions for a better future for Zambian youth. IT knowledge, which thanks to Pacar School will have access to young people in Zambia, will allow for a better development of the country's future, and qualified employees will be able to contribute to making the country fairer and fraternal.

Interestingly, the education model inspired by the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'* will make it possible to refer in the programs of specialist education in the field of computer science to natural themes. One of the most important messages of the encyclical on which the Pacar School is based is the so-called sustainable development, the necessary condition of which is the education of professionals in the field of modern technologies.

One of the key issues / problems Zambia is currently struggling with is youth employment. The rapid population growth, colliding with the slow-growing official labor market, puts considerable pressure on the Zambian economy, which is failing to create enough jobs for young people. Demographic changes have made the informal sector an important source of income for young people who are poor, unskilled, and therefore marginalized in society. The informal sector is the largest "employer" in Zambia, covering almost 90% of the population. When working in the informal sector, young people face various challenges related to access to decent employment opportunities, decent livelihoods, and increasing the productivity of their business activities. Young people are the group most exposed to precarious employment and exploitation, as well as poverty and social exclusion.

Pacar School's ambition is to become the first completely free professional ICT school in Zambia, and to become part of the youth education system at secondary level.

The steps needed to achieve the ultimate form of Pacar School include fundraising and the opening of a pilot school. At the next stage, an analysis will be made concerning the degree of reaching young people particularly at risk of marginalization and exclusion, as well as the degree of gender differentiation. More schools will be opened in underdeveloped areas, such as the commune of Matero.

People and history

The originator of the project is Patrick Mwanza, who shared it with his Technology for the Common Good working group during one of the meetings organized inside the Business in Transformation village in The Economy of Francesco. The rest of the group picked up on the idea and the group started working on its implementation.

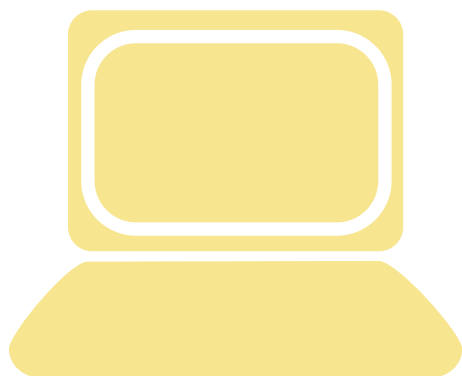
The team currently consists of 7 people: Patrick Mwanza, Tatiana Fleming, Luca Campanella, Raissa Lumar, Anne Fernandez, Martin Mapoma, Carminha Gonzaga. The team structure is decentralized. The team works and meets online (online), but also has members involved in the project locally, in Zambia (Martin Mapoma, MSc in Computer Science, and Father Tresphord Kunda, Diocese of Mansa). Team members also work with Rotary Club of Lusaka Metro partners, incl. with Leela Champ, founder of The Other Side Foundation School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Lusaka.

The team and volunteers are in constant contact. The team meets once a week, organizing tasks that are to be performed every day so that they can be carried out taking into account the other duties of the team members (permanent employment or education). Tatiana and Carminha are currently responsible for maintaining relationships and communicating with Rotary; Luca designs courses that will be offered by the school; Patrick and Martin have registered the school with The Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) and are in touch with local partners. Patrick and Luca are also responsible for benchmarking with other organizations, increasing the school's network of contacts. Anne is responsible for developing a sustainable development plan for the school. Raissa and Martin will help Luca design the courses technically and technologically. The aim is to start the pilot phase of the school in August 2021. The pilot phase will take place in a school affiliated with the Diocese of Mensa (a public school, 75% funded by the Catholic Church and 25% government funding).

The group met, studying and debating topics related to the technological and economic challenges facing the world in 2020. The talks concerned various topics, from the power of the Big Four to technologies 4.0, especially artificial intelligence. Following the call of Pope Francis and the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the group assumed that technology should be used in such a way that it would become a force for democracy and fraternity, and not contribute to deepening social inequalities. The next step was to identify areas where young people have little or virtually no opportunities to enter the labor market due to barriers related to the lack of access to technology or its poor quality. As some members of the subgroup are educated and work in the ICT sector, the group decided to work on an education project in this area. As part of the project, students in Zambia will have access to free IT courses. Courses of this type are not even offered by universities in Zambia, while such knowledge and skills are in demand in the Zambian labor market.

Pacar School was registered on March 23, 2021 with The Patents and Companies Regulation Agency (PACRA), which is a statutory body of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Zambia. Pacar School is actively campaigning through the Go Fund Me platform (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/un-computer-per-fire-scuola-dello-zambia>) and is simultaneously working on acquiring funds through The Rotary Foundation.

The long-term financing model assumes maintaining the Go Fund Me campaign and establishing cooperation with local partners in order to maintain the school. The group is constantly working on a long-term sustainability plan, which will also include financing.



How?

Pacar School will equip schools with computers, internet connections and access to online courses. The program proposed by Pacar School was created to offer students specialized training in ICT while eliminating the costs associated with obtaining such education. Students will be able to participate in the courses offered by Pacar School, while following the curriculum in their home secondary schools.

What?

Practical classes (courses) teaching the skills needed to work in the ICT sector, which is very much in demand in Zambia. The Pacar School team will train local teachers to conduct classes, and the Pacar School laboratories will become a space for practical exercises.

Courses the school intends to offer:

- Operating Systems
- Frontend / Backend Developer
- Server and Microsoft Active Directory
- Introduction to Computer science
- Help Desk Specialist and Social Media Management & Digital Marketing

To whom?





Whole world
Internet

Inclusive Mapping

Village: Policies for Happiness



Field

interpersonal relations,
natural resources



Time of origin/activity

since July 2020



Location

Internet



Legal form

currently no legal form,
informal team of volunteers



Financing

no financial costs



Website

No website yet

Purpose of the project

Inclusive Maps are a new way of describing places as meeting spaces and interpersonal relationships. The mission of the project is to create maps that do not describe the world by drawing a division (into districts, housing estates, streets or parks), but tell about experiences and local communities that can be experienced in a given place.

Ultimately, defining the 'resources' of a commune, housing estate, district or city in the form of descriptions, photos, sounds, artistic forms, etc. collected from residents should be used to prepare a physical and digital map, but also to create more engaging activities, e.g. card games or board games about the local community. An equally important stage is the process of collecting this information and relations by the inhabitants, which should be as open as possible. The mission of the project is to counteract fragmentation and social exclusion by strengthening the ties of the local community.



People and history

The idea was born during the online meetings of The Economy of Francesco network in 2020, connecting young people from all over the world. The team developing the method of creating Inclusive Mapping consists of 5 people.

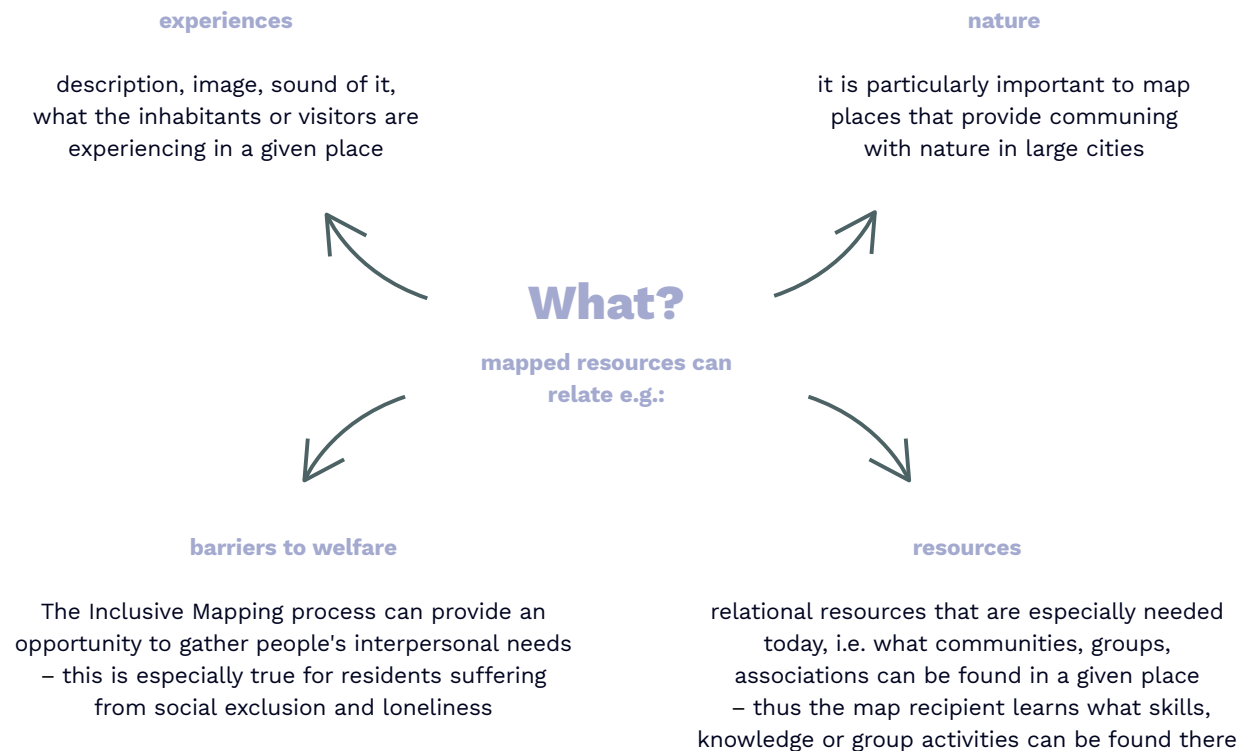
How?

The basis for creating a map should be a bottom-up process of collecting information from the inhabitants of the mapped area. The invitation to create a map may include a completely preliminary stage in which the types of information that the authors of the map want to include on the map will be selected. The voice of interested residents will help determine what the needs of the map are – what many people may not know about the immediate area and what they are most interested in among information not available on classic maps.

Maps prepared in digital form should be open to information posted by users. A particularly important role of map managers is to reach excluded people whose needs should be particularly taken into account when creating a map.

To whom?

Maps are intended primarily for residents of a given city or neighborhood. Not only can they use ready-made maps presenting the natural, cultural, social or architectural richness of the mapped places, but also participate in their creation earlier, express their relationship with the mapped objects, report their needs and present their initiatives.





Educação Financeira para a Vida – EFV

Village: Work and Care



Field

financial education, spirituality



Time of origin/activity

since 2019



Location

Toledo, Paraná, Brasil



Legal form

currently no legal form



Financing

from own resources



Website

<https://edufinvida.wixsite.com/site>

Purpose of the project

The mission of the project is to awaken the awareness of the importance of financial education for individuals, families, communities and other entities through the contribution of economic sciences and spirituality based on the principles of the Church's Social Teaching and Franciscan and Ignatian spirituality.

Referring to Franciscan spirituality means taking inspiration from this spirituality into the way the project is implemented and in the content conveyed. It is about taking into account in individual activities, inter alia, care for creation (also in the dimension of care for the environment) and striving for sustainable and ecologically equitable socio-economic development.

The mission and vision of the project are to be programs implemented on the basis of the values of communion, dialogue, inclusiveness, participation, compassion, comprehensive education and sustainability.

In order to make its vision a reality, the EFV project undertakes:

- meetings every four weeks about personal relationships and family with finances
- laboratory workshops for families from communities in order to learn about their realities (perspectives) and diagnose the financial situation in terms of behavior change, by extending their tools for financial analysis and a different view of personal conditions
- individual and personalized monitoring of the families involved and willing to participate in this project, through a specialized and trained team in various areas mentioned above
- creating and popularizing content through podcasts

People and history

The project is the fruit of Pope Francis' call from two years ago (2019) in a letter addressed to young people from all over the world to 'revive the economy'. The initiative was approved and developed during the online event of The Economy of Francesco. The initiators of the project are Ana Carolina Fernandes Alves and Augusto Luis Pinheiro Martins from Brazil. Depending on the area, they are supported by various partners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to work with families in the communities, the authors of the project started an alternative route of their project, i.e. in the form of podcasts (recorded radio broadcasts). At the moment, the project has not taken a formal form and is currently financed from its own resources.

Ana Carolina Fernandes Alves graduated in 2017 from the field of economics at the State University of Western Paraná (UNIOESTE), on the Cascavel-Paraná campus in Brazil. Currently, he is continuing his master's studies as part of the Graduate Program in Economics also at UNIOESTE and works as a volunteer in the project "First steps in economy and civic life". As part of the EFV project, he is the CEO. He has experience in the field of economics, in particular in the field of financial and youth education.

Augusto Luis Pinheiro Martins holds an MA in Philosophy and a BA in Theology. He specializes in Franciscanism at UCOB (Brazil) and is a member of the research group "Human Anthropology, Ethics and Sexuality" at PUC-SP, recognized by the National Council for Science and Technology Development – CNPq). He completed postgraduate studies in behavioral and clinical analysis at PUC-PR. CEO leading the EFV project.

What?

The main activities of the EFV project are based on the free dissemination of financial information in the form of:

podcasts

cross-platform (Anchor, Amazon, Deezer, Spotify, Google podcast, Breaker, PocketCasts, Radio Public, Apple and others)

courses, lectures, workshops and consultations

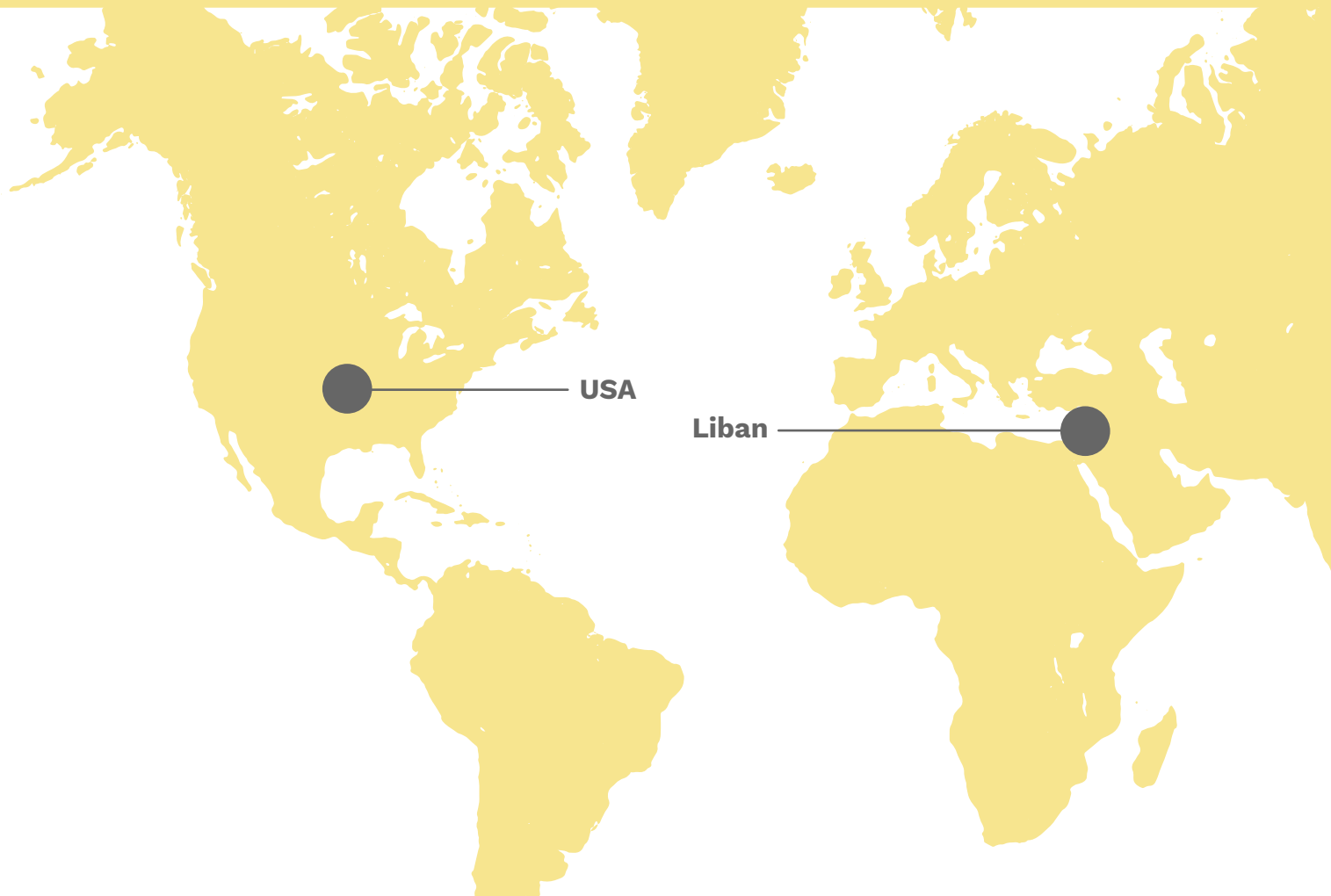
To whom?

The recipients of the project are people from different countries (currently 32) from communities, families, enterprises and other interested entities.

How?

The EFV project is implemented through the dissemination of information on the Internet and through partnerships with the Diocese of Toledo, Scalabrini School, MAGIS Manresa Jesuit Center, UNIOESTE and other interested institutions / enterprises.

New podcasts are released every Monday. The authors of the project also established cooperation with several local radio stations.



ProAbled Academy

Village: Work and Care



Field

employment of people with disabilities, education, social inclusion of people with disabilities



Location

Liban, USA, some of the European countries



Financing

from grants and income from fees for training and on-line courses



Time of origin/activity

Academy since 2020 (company since 2017)



Legal form

social enterprise registered as a SAL company in Lebanon



Website

<http://academy.proabled.com/>

Purpose of the project

The mission of the project is to promote the running of enterprises and social programs that offer innovative products and services containing proposed solutions to basic social problems.

According to the vision of the project, the activities undertaken are to contribute to building a society in which people with disabilities and people struggling with financial stability receive tools that facilitate their life in dignity through the possibility of taking productive activities (work).

Searching for solutions influencing the more frequent social inclusion of people with disabilities or other people at risk of marginalization is a response to Pope Francis' call contained in the encyclical *Laudato Si'* – to “*protect our common home (...) in the pursuit of sustainable and integrated development.*” As the Pope notes in the section of the encyclical relating to “pollution and global warming”, the culture of rejection affects both excluded people and items that quickly become trash.

The goal of ProAble Academy in the area of enterprises is to create standards for inclusive recruitment of employees, employee readiness to work and inclusive design, and in the area of education, to ensure that students have the opportunity to attend classes on social inclusion and inclusive design as part of university courses.

So far, ProAble Academy has supported around 1,000 entities: people with disabilities, companies, international and national non-governmental organizations, academic and public institutions. The project is currently developing internationally by expanding the partnership network and entering new countries with its services.

People and history

The initiators of the creation of ProAble Academy are people associated with the ProAble company: Samir Sfeir – social entrepreneur, engineer, MBA graduate, founder of the Lebanese Social Enterprise Association; Elie Matta – engineer, technology expert and trainer; Chantale Saadeh – Chief Financial Officer.

ProAble Academy was created as a result of the development of the ProAble company, which mediates in establishing employment between people with disabilities and employers. ProAble Academy, using the experience of the company and people employed there, deals with the transfer of knowledge and experience on the professional inclusion of people with disabilities.

The project is carried out by a group of 15 people as part of a social enterprise. The team has over 10 years of experience in the field of professional inclusion of people with disabilities. Experts from international organizations from the USA, Europe and Lebanon (academics, activists, trainers and physiotherapists) are involved in the project.

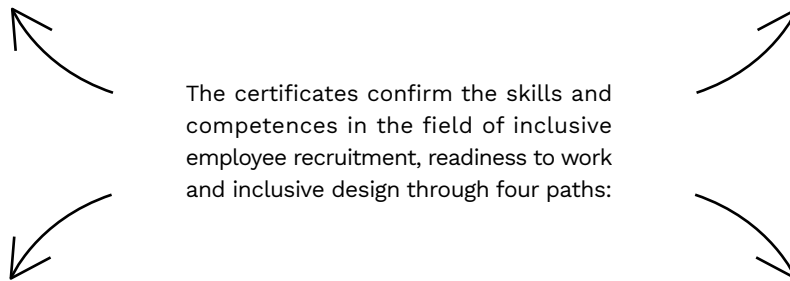
Material about ProAble Academy:
https://youtu.be/RV_id-NB7yM

What?

ProAbled Academy provides a variety of counseling in the field of professional inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as certified online training and workshops conducted in several languages.

basic information on disability and social and professional inclusion of people with disabilities
(addressed to individuals and enterprises interested in the subject of professional inclusion)

recruiting inclusive of people with disabilities
(addressed to human resources (HR) and recruiters)



Inclusion Strategy and Corporate Policy
(addressed to managers and board members)

building accessibility and inclusive design
(targeted at architects and engineers)

More about Academy, you can find here:

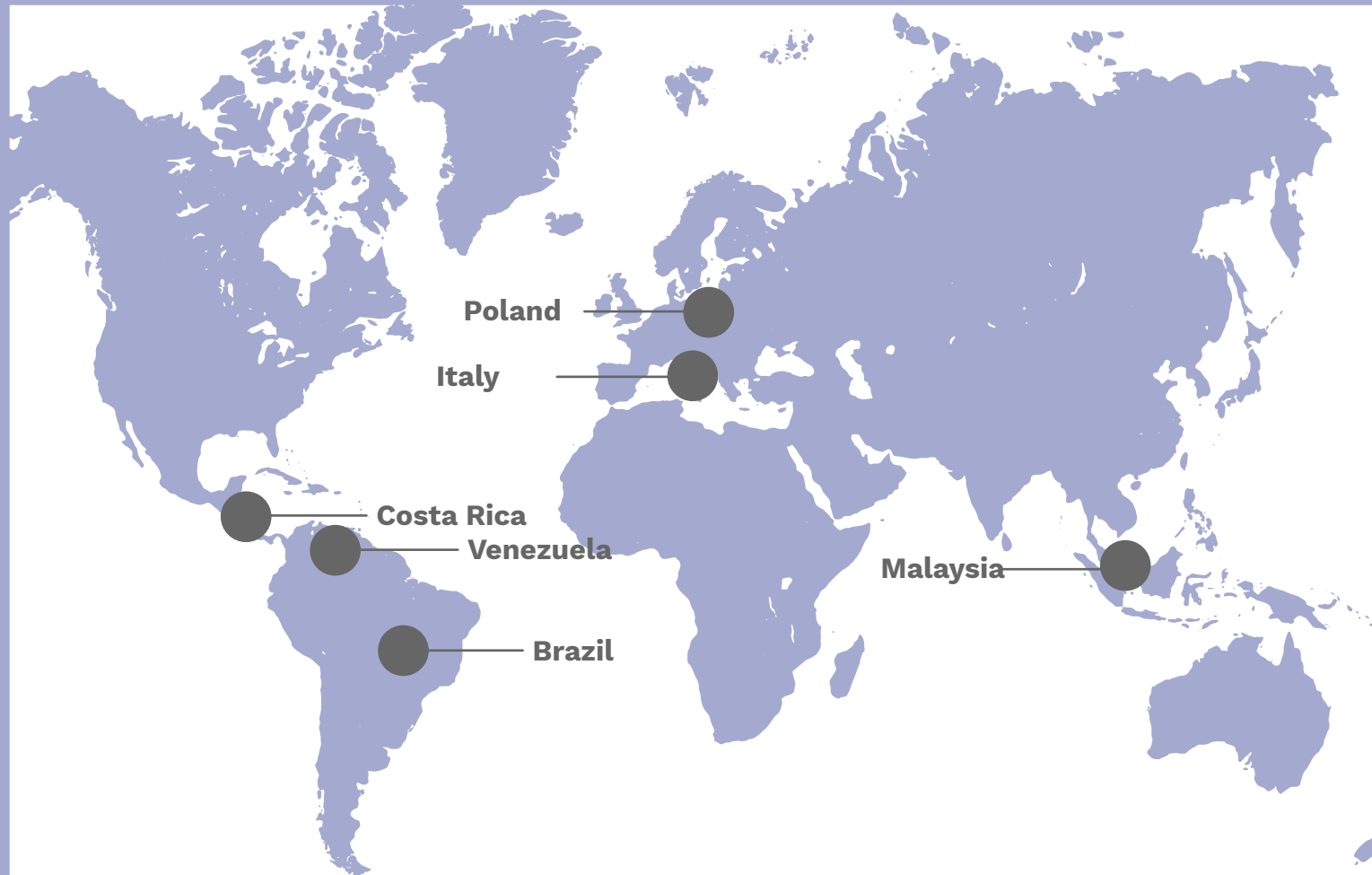
<https://academy.proabled.com/local/staticpage/view.php?page=About-Us>

To whom?

ProAbled Academy is addressed to people with disabilities and people struggling with financial stability, as well as human resources (HR) and managers in enterprises, architects and engineers and students.

How?

Project activities take the form of live workshops and online courses in several languages.



The Profit Podquest

Village: Vocation and Profit



Field

Communication, education



Time of origin/activity

since November 2020



Location

Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Malaysia, Venezuela, Poland



Legal form

currently no legal form



Financing

long run model, currently on the basis of informal volunteering, crowdfunding



Website

[https:// www.profitpodquest.com/](https://www.profitpodquest.com/)

Purpose of the project

The mission of the project is to support specific people in getting to know a new and possible economy in relation to their personal calling. The aim of the project is also to transform the way of thinking about the role of profit in society and to inspire people to take practical actions in this area in their personal lives.

The invited guests openly and directly explain why the sense of business activity goes beyond the narrowly understood financial profit. On their own example, they show why and how money can serve a higher good: social welfare and rehabilitation and environmental protection.

The vision of the project is to create a podcast that will really help the audience to use their personal vocation in the service of the common good, generating financial and social profit.



In the final form, the project should be financed in the fundraising model – content recipients will be able to send any amount of money for the improvement and development of the project. Sustainability and the independence necessary for it are the constitutive features of the Profit Podquest initiative. The organizers want to be a liaison between social entrepreneurs, researchers and creators of changes that allow the creation of companies with a goal other than financial profit.

To achieve this, the team wants to ultimately publish one episode per week (currently one episode is being released every two weeks). To speed up this process, the team needs additional people willing to engage: a researcher and copywriter. In addition, the entire team is in the process of acquiring editing skills.

In the initial phase, the creation of the project is based on the voluntary work of the organizers, but over time they would like to obtain at least minimal crowdfunding funding – from the collections of listeners and other entities interested in providing support. At a certain stage of development, cooperation with relevant institutions of the market economy is considered, the activity of which is consistent with the form of management promoted by Profit Podquest.

It is imperative to interact with your audience on social media and build an audience base that will help create professional and relevant content that will generate interest (and related core funding) on these platforms.

The use of merchandising potential (clothing, books, etc.) of importance related to several topics covered in the podcast episodes is also considered, with particular emphasis on the main theme – business activity with meaning and values.

People and history

The project was created thanks to the initiative of a group of young economists, entrepreneurs and social activists associated in the international team of The Economy of Francesco, cooperating in the village of Vocation and Profit.

After about a year of discussion on various topics, several of its members organized a meeting like The World Café (see *Part IIIa*, point 4.: *Think about common solutions*, p.84). They split into five different groups to prepare proposals that would allow the implementation of previously developed ideas.

In one of the working subgroups of Writers and Communicators, the most frequently chosen idea was to create a podcast in which people could share what they had learned during their education, as well as personal testimonies and experiences.

As building relationships is key for all organizers, they started their journey by getting to know each other in person and sharing how they want to help the common good through a podcast. Thus the purpose of the project was born.

At the moment, the team consists of 6 people from different countries – Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Malaysia, Venezuela and Poland. Each team member performs tasks based on his experience and competences, in line with the principle that each person can perform many activities, and each activity can be performed by many people.

At the moment, the main roles are as follows:

- Alessandra Fasol (Italy)
social media and graphics,
- Henrique Sengès (Brasil) host
coordinator and copywriter,
- Ingrid Ocampo (Costa Rica)
social media and graphics,
- Vincent Chee (Malaysia)
producer and designer,
- Eveling Sanchez (Venezuela)
main coordinator,
- Marcin Kawko (Poland)
researcher, copywriter.

What?

Recording, sharing and promotion of podcast episodes in which the organizers and their guests:

- they tell stories about vocation and profit
- explain the teaching of St. Francis of Assisi in a modern context
- encourage the audience to take practical steps
- on the positive changes that are already taking place at the corporate level (B-Corp, Blueprint for Better Business, etc.) to reinforce these changes
- they bring together students, entrepreneurs, change makers and people interested in creating a more sustainable economy

How?

- Connecting with a guest
- Recording episode
- Preparing contents for social media
- Episode edition
- Promoting episode in social media
- Episode premiere
- Interaction with publicity

To whom?

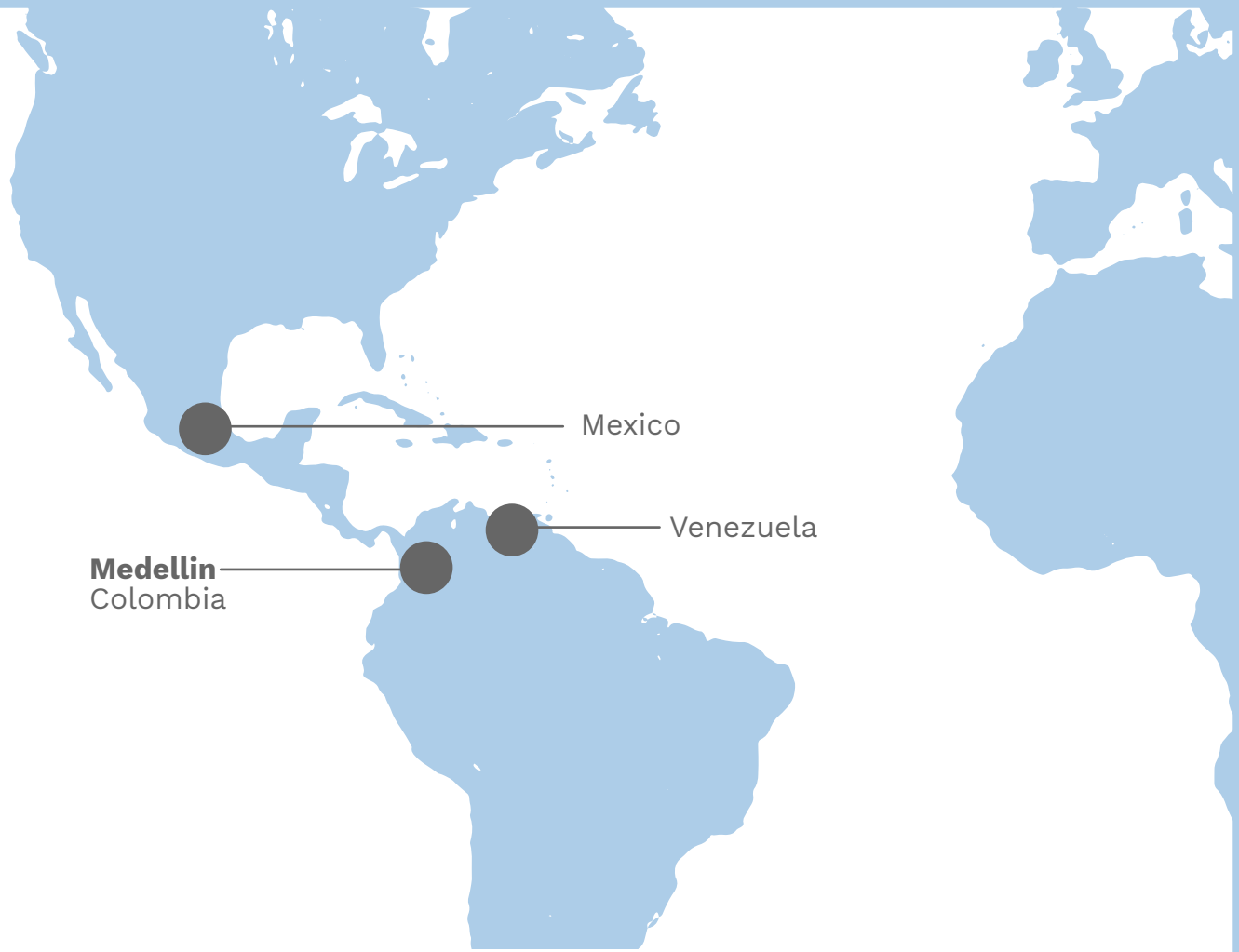
People interested in learning how to use their personal vocation (inner call) at the service of the common good, creating a more sustainable economy.



Part IIb

Projects outside The Economy of Francesco

pursuing similar ideas



Cumbres Blancas

White Peaks



Field

environmental protection



Time of origin/activity

since 2019



Location

Medellín, Colombia
Activities in Venezuela and Mexico



Legal form

non-profit foundation



Financing

donations



Website

<https://www.cumbresblancas.co/>

People and history

Of Colombia's 14 glaciers, 8 have disappeared over the last century, and it is likely that the remaining 6 will melt within the next 30 years. Colombian society has a low awareness of having a vanishing natural treasure on their lands. After reading an article in 2018 about the melting glaciers, Medellín-based tourism company owner and social activist Marcela Fernández contacted Colombia's leading mountaineer, Nicolás Díaz, and together they started an education campaign for local glaciers. Perhaps the Colombians currently living are the last generation to enjoy the presence of glaciers on their lands, so the Cumbres Blancas project aims to awaken their environmental consciousness on this issue and enable them to encounter local glaciers. Currently, Cumbres Blancas is also active in Venezuela and Mexico, with a team of 14 volunteers in total.

Purpose of the project

The mission of the Cumbres Blancas project is to raise public awareness about Colombia's melting glaciers, to enable Colombians "encounters" with local glaciers, documenting them and creating a community that will actively work to protect them.

What?

The association carries out its mission by organizing excursions to the glaciers, conducting workshops and lectures for schools and companies on the disappearance of local glaciers and presentations at cultural festivals. In addition, the association publishes the book "Cumbres Blancas" (White Peaks) as a tribute to the disappearing glaciers and a document for future generations.



Sao Paulo
Brazil

Economia di Comunion

Economy of Communion



Field

economics, enterprise, business ethics



Time of origin/activity

since 1991



Location

São Paulo, Brazil
currently in various countries around
the world



Legal form

an international forum within the
Focolare Movement, bringing together
economists, entrepreneurs, social
cooperatives and associations



Financing

transfer of part of the revenue from
entrepreneurs for the development of
the work in the form of donations to
existing associations in the country



Website

<https://www.edc-online.org/>

Purpose of the project

As an idea for the structure of the "new economy," the Economy of Communion is multidimensional in its mission and vision. At the very forefront is the mission to transform the model of economy through the transformation of economic culture, especially business-entrepreneurial culture. This vision is sustained by seeing enterprises as instruments for the renewal of socio-economical life, both inside and outside the enterprise. In keeping with the particular charism of the Focolari Movement, which seeks unity among all people, the Economy of Communion also seeks unity in the workplace. At the heart of the concept is the idea that a communion of material goods can grow out of the spiritual communion between people, and that the communion of material goods is a transformation of culture from a "culture of possessing" to a "culture of giving."

The Economy of Communion is one of the essential beginnings of a more just and compassionate society. The vision includes the combination of economic efficiency with concrete assistance and solidarity towards the poor and needy, and the formation of a new organizational culture and human relations.

Of vital importance to the Economy of Communion is the concern for the natural economy. It places the laws of nature on an equal footing with the laws of economics, and seeks to bring about a coherent coexistence between man and nature. In this concept it is about treating man as an important and essential, but not the only element of the ecological system. Man is considered to be the manager of the natural resources entrusted to him but he is not their owner. He or she may make use of these goods, but should not allow them to be completely exploited or destroyed.

The challenge of recent years is to overcome the classical concept of an entity whose activities are exclusively profit-oriented into the concept of active responsibility and care for environmental protection, social justice and competitive transparency. In addition to the economic system, management processes also take into account social and environmental factors.

The Economy of Communion is an idea based on the implementation of Catholic social teaching in the field of business and enterprise management.

People and history

The work of the Economy of Communion was initiated by Chiara Lubich, whose beatification process began in 2015. In particular, the mission was inspired by her visit to São Paulo, Brazil, and her perception of the inequality between the Brazilian "favelas" and the rich neighborhoods of the city based on the thought contained in John Paul II's encyclical *Centesimus Annus*. The social sciences inspired Chiara Lubich and the Focolari Movement to build an interdisciplinary unity paradigm as a methodological basis for constructing theoretical models, empirical research strategies, and application schemes to stimulate and integrate research projects on social mechanisms and indicators that would develop the human capacity for mutual cooperation and assistance, sharing of goods, and other solidarity-oriented behaviors in different social settings.

The Economy of Communion is a concept of economy that can be realized in different conditions, environments or by people with different social roles (both as employees and employers). It is an idea that has its origins in the wider context of the Focolari Movement, which currently has about 2.5 million members in 190 countries. The response of the communities of the Movement in the world to the appeal of Chiara Lubich during her visit to São Paulo was as follows: in the first 2 years 300 companies of the Economy of Communion were created, after 10 years there were already 750 companies, and in 2008 there were 765 companies worldwide.

What?

The Economy of Communion is the promotion and implementation of economic activities that serve real human needs, especially those of disadvantaged or marginalized members of society.

The Economy of Communion is:

- recognising the value of every person, including those living in poverty and in need of assistance, and minimising material and spiritual deprivation
- eradicating social exclusion; embodying the idea of fraternity in the economy
- transformation of enterprises into communities of persons
- valuation of human capital in the company
- placing the human person at the centre of all relations within and outside the company
- ensuring the integral development of both employees and entrepreneurs
- a new way of thinking and a new hierarchy of values in management (the goal is not profit, but man and his welfare)
- new organisational culture; respect for the law and care for the environment



To whom?

The initiative includes students, researchers in social disciplines, business people, religious and lay people, teachers, employers and employees.

Economy of Communion conveys an ideal that may be particularly affected by the business processes or models of entrepreneurs, their companies, customers, employees, competitors, and suppliers.

How?

Companies and businesses that create business models based on these business ideals strive to share profits in order to help those in material need, provide opportunities for meaningful and stable work, offer products and services that meet real human and social needs or that are of good quality, strive to manage their businesses with moral integrity, and care for the environment. They also pay special attention to the local community. If you would be interested in joining the ranks of the Economy of Communion entrepreneurs, in Part IIIb. 5 Small Steps to Starting a Business, you will also find 5 Small Steps to the Economy of Communion, pp. 112-119.



Human Dignity Curriculum – HDC



Field

education, dignity of the human person



Time of origin/activity

since 2017



Location

USA, Mexico, Croatia, Philippines and other countries



Legal form

The project functions as one of the programmes of the non-profit association World Youth Alliance established at the initiative of the United Nations under the laws of the United States as a 501(c)(3) organization



Financing

the programme is implemented through the voluntary work of association members or for a fee, in case it is purchased by an entity (e.g. a school)



Website

<https://www.humandignitycurriculum.org/>

Purpose of the project

The basis of a just society is a strong sense of the dignity of the person of all its members. The idea of human dignity is not only the foundation of human rights, but also the basis of a proper relation to the natural world – the need to care for the natural world is one of the duties that arise from it. The Human Dignity Curriculum helps young people discover that they can and should strive to be extraordinary and is a unique opportunity to reflect on the fundamental questions in life: Who am I? Who do I want to be? What kind of world do I want to live in? On the one hand, the workshops allow students to understand difficult concepts such as dignity and freedom of the person, and on the other hand, they help them develop healthy habits, decision-making skills, and a strong sense of meaning and purpose, which is essential in the transformation of culture towards sustainable consumption.

People and history

The program was created by the World Youth Alliance, an organization whose mission is to promote the dignity of the person through cultural, educational and advocacy work with international organizations. The program was developed by a team of educators, anthropologists, philosophers, and artists passionate about promoting the dignity of the person. Since its inception in the US, it has been implemented in many countries around the world (Philippines, Hungary, Croatia, Mexico, Kenya). The programme is implemented in two forms – on a voluntary basis by local members of the World Youth Alliance, or for a fee, if purchased by a particular school or other entity. Then the classes are conducted by school teachers after they have undergone the appropriate training.

What?

The programme consists of a series of 14 lessons (roughly 45 minutes each) on 7 key topics:

dignity of the person	friendship and heroism	hierarchy and capacities of all living beings: vegetative, sensory, rational	
intentional act	human freedom	persons as subjects and objects of action	self-development and the pursuit of excellence

How?

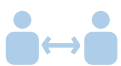
Classes are taught by WYA volunteers or by WYA-trained teachers.

To whom?

The classes can be adapted for young people of different ages (so far they have been implemented at all levels of education – from pre-school to high school).



CoopTech Hub



Field

technology, social organisations, cooperatives



Time of origin/activity

since March 2021



Location

Warsaw – main team, Sejny – another team established in Poland, cooperation with partners from other cities in Poland and Europe



Legal form

the project operates within the PLZ cooperative, which represents the activities of the CoopTech Hub



Financing

long-term model



Website

<https://hub.plz.pl/>

Purpose of the project

The aim is an action focused on connecting partners with each other in a practical way and enabling the acquisition of competences and digital tools to create social value. CoopTech Hub activities are based on four pillars: education, creation, networking and research.

The CoopTech Hub uses a long-term model. Through cooperation with local governments, businesses and cultural institutions it wants to ensure that the cooperative model is recognised as a valuable and democratic way of doing business. In addition, it aims to support the digital transformation of local governments as well as the technological support of various sustainable initiatives (small and medium-sized enterprises are also included to encourage local market purchases).

People and history

The initiators of CoopTech Hub are Jan J. Zygmuntowski and Tomasz Janas.

Jan J. Zygmuntowski is an economist engaged in topics related to new technologies, digital economy and sustainable development. He is Programme Director at the CoopTech Hub. At Kozminski University he is responsible for the Management and Artificial Intelligence in Digital Society program. He is the author of "Network Capitalism" and co-chairman of the Polish Network of Economics.

Tomasz Janda is a visionary and strategist, economist, passionate about social/shared value issues and behavioural economics. He has many years of experience on managerial positions in banking, local governments and central administration. He is also the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Spółdzielnia PZL and the founder and President of Leonardo SA, a venture building company that has been operating for 15 years. He implements technology projects on the European continent, Asia-Pacific and Africa.

They started their activity in March 2021, but most of the creators of the project had many years of experience in acting on those levels, but individually. Their activity is not long, but very dynamic. During this period they managed to build a dynamic team and start making ambitious projects.

The head office is located in Warsaw, but due to the need for development they have opened a team also in Sejny (a town of 5 thousand people located on the border with Lithuania).

The project is carried out by nine people employed by the PLZ cooperative. Six Polish women and three Polish men. Each of them has previously worked in this sector and has many years of experience in their profession.

What?

The CoopTech Hub develops sustainability strategies, hosts open meetups and club meetings, offers mentoring hours and profiled programs, and conducts trust audits of organizations.

CoopTech Hub opposes the current trends in the economy: market inequality, monopolization and unsustainable development.

To whom?

The Hub's programme activities are targeted both globally – by building an ecosystem of cooperation between economic sectors – and locally, by promoting and implementing good practices, as well as integrating local governments, local business, cultural institutions and residents.

How?

The functioning of the CoopTech Hub was based on the following assumptions: firstly, companies, local governments and small and medium-sized enterprises need significant changes not only in technology, but also in organisation. Secondly, there is a growing need to develop through cooperation instead of competition. Finally, knowledge, competences and the culture of cooperation are today the dominant barriers to development.

In view of the above factors, the CoopTech Hub's operating model focuses on two areas:

- **an incubator** acting through community networking, education, knowledge creation and dissemination, and culture shaping
- **venture builder** including consulting on new technologies and designing and implementing new solutions.

The branches of the Hub's operating model described above are closely intertwined. Venture building is based on own research, i.e. conducting work on innovative business models and practices. They are the source of knowledge developed by the Hub, containing technological and organisational solutions tailored to the needs of the partners, and then passed on in the form of an incubator to third parties (local governments, businesses, cultural institutions, etc.). Thanks to education, the competencies and knowledge of the leaders and women leaders of change are developed.

The last pillar of the Hub's activity is networking an essential factor in building and developing intersectoral cooperation.

Each year a two-day industry congress with panel discussions is organized. The basis of their activities are closed meetings of persons belonging to the Clubs. This enables them to exchange experiences, network and spread good practices. Once a month they organize open meetings with experts and innovators.

The CoopTech Hub offers an organizational trust audit that examines the leadership and trust that supports sustainability, both within the organization and with external partners.

By diagnosing the needs of the local government the CoopTech Hub chooses the optimal form of local innovation and new technology development. By providing knowledge it helps to organize the beginning of an innovation district.

CoopTech was recognized in Kozminski Business Hub's report "Positive Impact Startups. Radical Social Innovation". The report compiles startups that are distinguished by: a structured approach to sustainability, a product offering that is climate-friendly, and responsibility in the supply chain. CoopTech has also created a Zero Waste Code of Good Practice, which it applies to its own projects as well as those for which it cooperates or advises.



Córdoba
Argentina

Por Igual Más *Equally More*



Field

social inclusion, community organisations, people with disabilities



Time of origin/activity

since 2009



Location

Córdoba, Argentina



Legal form

foundation under argentine law



Financing

long-term from ongoing projects thanks to grants and donations



Website

<https://www.porigualmas.org/>

Purpose of the project

The community of the foundation works to recognize the rights of people with disabilities. It redefines the place they have in society and seeks to empower them for their integral development. It brings families, institutions and people together. It creates the place that society should give to people with disabilities. Accompanies people with disabilities in a comprehensive process that allows them to discover their capabilities and mobilize themselves to achieve their goals in all areas. Fundación Por Igual Más provides communication, educational and legal tools for the social integration of people with disabilities both from Cordoba (Argentina) and throughout Latin America.

The Porigualistas (those involved in the foundation) believe that everyone can give something of themselves and contribute to creating an inclusive society based on solidarity and mutual love. The project is sustained by the experience of encounter with the living God from the charism of the community of the Divine Word Movement. It is the realisation of the call to live in communion with others, especially those most exposed to social exclusion, in order to establish true fraternity. From this certainty comes the commitment to actively participate in social integration and to inspire others and to be open to the diversity of voices and faiths.

Those involved with the foundation hold the following values:

- **teamwork**

people are the backbone of an organization, and teamwork enables the realization and improvement of each the project they are undertaking

- **passion**

sustaining the belief in a more just and inclusive world and striving to achieve the vision

- **responsibility**

work performed with passion, transparency and honesty, with awareness of actions taken for the integration of people with disabilities

- **added social value**

co-creating added value in society on a daily basis, to contribute to dissemination and increase awareness of disability issues

- **appreciation of the other**

it is the main value which allows to see the other person as such, his/her subjectivity (together with rights and responsibilities) and your own voice.

People and history

The general coordinator and originator of the project is Lic. Ana Argento Nasser.

More than 60 people from different parts of Argentina volunteer on the foundation's projects. Por Igual + was born in late 2009 under a different name: "Culture for All: A Social Integration Project". The website was previously based on the blogspot platform. This project was carried out with an interdisciplinary team in the museums of the National University of Cordoba (Argentina) between 2009 and 2010 thanks to a grant from the university. At the time, the blog was a space to share the experiences of the extension project and a tool for information about accessibility.

In 2010, the blog changed its name and with it the look of the site. The initiative was the result of reflecting not only the project in museums, but also accessibility and inclusion in general. This is how Por Igual + was born. Despite all these changes, the objectives remained the same: to provide information to ensure visibility for people with disabilities.

In the middle of 2012, immersed in the connected world and sensitive to the importance of social networks in creating e-links, Por Igual + once again modified its appearance and with this transformation also expanded its goals: to become a meeting space for people with disabilities, their families, institutions related to social inclusion and accessibility, and society as a whole. To this end, new tools were added to the site (including

surveys, comment blocks, and a Community section that allowed people to send e-mails to an address created for this purpose).

In January 2013, the work and the blog were recognised as "Good Practice" by UN-HABITAT. This recognition encouraged the creators to continue working and creating new projects for the social integration of people with disabilities. Since then, they have been involved in the production and realization of radio and audiovisual recordings and have been in constant contact with the community, responding to their concerns and contributing to equal opportunities.

This path encouraged the whole team to institutionalize the responsibility accepted and to fulfill a dream mobilizing also other people who wanted to be part of the team. In May 2014, the Por Igual Más Foundation was created and together with it Por Igual +, a new website, which is the first social network dedicated to disability, accessibility and inclusion (with the same name as the Foundation but with the word "more" in the "+" sign), was created.

The foundation community is convinced that "giving voice" is a way to recognize the rights and dignity of every human being. For this reason, in Por Igual Más, pathways are opened to this form of online interaction. Both people with disabilities and their families, institutions and anyone interested in the topic can join their voice by sharing content, experiences, reflections and advice.

What?

- Managing the Por Igual + social network to open up space for the voice of people with disabilities and their families to be heard and to share concerns, reflections, needs, experiences and information
- production, editing and retrieval of up-to-date information on accessibility and social inclusion in various areas: education, new technologies, sports, law, arts, recreation (films, magazines and books), tourism, employment, courses and training
- production and realization of films and radio spots related to raising awareness about the rights of people with disabilities; all free to download and reuse in any training area
- training teachers at all levels of inclusive education and conducting workshops for children, young people and adults, training companies in the field of law and disability
- providing free legal advice: accompanying people with disabilities and their families, answering questions about their rights
- Work on the preparation of an agenda of institutions providing various services to people with disabilities in Argentina to create the first social dictionary of disability, in which the testimonies and experiences of people with disabilities themselves and their families address the issue of disability, they are also working to create a glossary on different disabilities and some of the diseases that lead to them, in order to offer information on possible treatments and / or care



Mannheim
Germany

AGÁTA Rösterei & Café GmbH



Field

specialty coffee roasting and marketing (approx. 10 tonnes per year), sustainable supply chains, business ethics



Time of origin/activity

since 2016



Location

Mannheim, Germany



Legal form

a limited liability company under German law



Financing

long-term from sales of coffee and equipment



Website

<https://agata-kaffee.de/>

Purpose of the project

Motto: **AGÁTA is more than just coffee.**

The company's mission is to provide consumers and businesses with high quality coffee. The company establishes direct relationships with farmers to ensure a transparent, fair and sustainable coffee supply chain. A high quality and short supply chain enables fair payment to farmers.

Such a model of economic activity not only indirectly (through education and raising awareness) but also directly (by shortening supply chains and supporting sustainable coffee plantations) positively influences the state of the environment in poorer countries, which are the biggest producers of this "black gold".

The company conducts direct trade and is committed to maintaining and promoting social responsibility on the ground. The company also works with coffee experts and baristas who share their knowledge with farmers and consumers.

To whom?



consumers



firms



coffee farmers



exporters

People and history

The company was set up as a result of earlier cooperation on EU projects within the framework of the Starkmacher e.V. association, which acts as a business incubator on the initiative of Elisabetta Epping-Rossi, Johannes Epping and Michael Zillekens. In the Mantano project, the growing roastery established contact with Honduran coffee producers Umami Area Honduras S.A. and Capucas Café! The team consists of about 10 people, and coffee experts and baristas work together with the roastery.

Co?

- sales of specialty category coffee and coffee equipment and accessories
- educating consumers about production and consumption of coffee
- search for coffee farmers and exporters those interested in quality and sustainable development
- training farmers in quality and sustainability production processes

sales

direct and via the Internet, placing on packaging profiles and short stories about the individual farmers from whom the coffee comes

How?

setting up

training and support for farmers and demonstrations and consumer education activities to tell the story behind the cup of coffee, as well as direct meetings between farmers and consumers



Siderno, Calabria
Italy

GOEL Gruppo Cooperativo s.c.s.p.a.



Field

business ethics, education,
counteracting mafia activity,
ecology



Time of origin/activity

since 2003



Location

Calabria, Italy (based in Siderno)



Legal form

social cooperative under Italian law



Financing

long-term from sales of coffee and
equipment



Website

<https://www.goel.coop/>

Purpose of the project

The group works for the liberation and real change of Calabria towards legal employment, pro-social action, effective ethics and active opposition to the Calabrian crime organization 'ndrangheta.

The values that guide the members of the cooperative are:

- putting the disadvantaged person at the centre above all other needs
- linking cooperatives and their activities to the region
- priority of social exclusion over other social problems
- motivation and professionalism as conditions for working in the social field
- social and/or professional integration as an objective of any social service or intervention
- observance of legality and formal correctness
- transparency of activities and relations within the territory
- internal democratic participation in social cooperatives
- equity among cooperative members
- workers' rights
- "healthy" entrepreneurship and competitiveness based on quality
- independence and transparent cooperation with institutions and political authority
- cooperation and reciprocity between members

The GOEL Group also has a defined manifesto which is implemented by individual members:

- full affirmation of freedom from oppressive power and clientelistic logic
- effective democracy through the widespread practice of participation and subsidiarity
- social and economic justice
- meritocracy
- equal opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalised and social groups, equal dignity for all
- the common good of local communities and territories
- solidarity between territories and social groups
- active non-violence as a primary means of conflict resolution
- protecting the environment and the ecosystem as a task for humanity
- market freedom and effective accessibility
- freedom of competition

People and history

The group was founded in 2003 in Locride on a path laid out with Archbishop Giancarlo Bregantini.

The Board of Directors of the cooperative currently consists of: Vincenzo Linarello (President), Gerhard Bantel (Vice President), Stefano Caria, Manuela Sfondrini, Maria Paola Sorace (Board members). The Directorate, on the other hand, is composed of: Vincenzo Linarello (President), Fabrizio Sigona (General Manager of the Socio-Sanitary and Administrative Area), Manuela Sfondrini (General Manager of the Production Area).

The cooperative includes 12 social enterprises, 2 agricultural cooperatives, 2 associations, 1 foundation, 29 companies (mainly agricultural), many professionals and volunteers involved individually.

What?

Organizing entrepreneurs, farmers and volunteers on the basis of joint cooperation in order to counteract 'ndrangheta activity in the region.

To whom?



entrepreneurs



farmers



employees



students

How?

In the local development sector

GOEL has launched entrepreneurial initiatives such as:

- CANGIARI, "change" in the Calabrian dialect, the first eco-ethical Italian luxury fashion brand. CANGIARI uses only organic fabric yarns reminiscent of the ancient Greek-Byzantine tradition of Calabrian handlooms, and the supply chain is formed by GOEL social cooperatives and is located entirely in Italy
- GOEL Bio, the first social cooperative of farms explicitly opposed to the 'ndrangheta (i.e. the local mafia)
- I Viaggi del GOEL, a travel agency specialized in responsible tourism
- GOEL Consulting & Communication, which offers advice to companies on developing ethical products and ethical communication services

GOEL has also promoted numerous projects, some of which include:

- CAMPUS GOEL, the first incubator of ethical-innovative businesses in Calabria, which aims to stop young people in the region and attracting the best creative initiatives to it
- AIUTAMUNDI, a system that triggers a trade flow of goods and services exchanged without the use of cash, albeit at market conditions

In the social and health sector

GOEL - Co-operative Capital Group includes:

- 2 reception communities for children and young people who come from pathways of deviance, marginalisation and sometimes violence
- 2 health residences for people suffering from mental disorders
- various activities related to the reception of migrants applicants for political asylum and unaccompanied minors, promoting their integration in small municipalities on the territory
- various social and health care activities for disadvantaged people who are subject to marginalisation



Browar Spółdzielczy *Cooperative Brewery*



Field

Employment of disabled persons, beer production and running a franchise pub chain – Cooperative Pubs



Time of origin/activity

since 2014



Location

brewery: Puck, Poland
pubs: Gdańsk, Łódź, Toruń, Rzeszów, Rybnik



Legal form

social cooperative:
Dalba Social Cooperative



Financing

long term from beer sales and franchising as well as state support from various sources (including the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons – PFRON)



Website

<https://www.browarspoldzielczy.com/>

Purpose of the project

The mission of the Cooperative Brewery is to provide gainful employment to people with intellectual disabilities. Most of the people employed at the Brewery would not have a chance to find work on the open market; thanks to the special legal and organisational form of the Cooperative, they can do the work they need and are adequately remunerated. In addition to production activities, the Dalba Social Cooperative runs a programme called Understanding the Deep, as part of which employees take scuba diving classes.

People and history

The Cooperative Brewery was initiated by Janusz Golisowicz, a therapist running an occupational therapy workshop, together with Agnieszka Dejna. Because conventional businesses are afraid to hire the intellectually disabled, there was a lack of a place where their charges could do regular work.

The Cooperative Brewery was established in 2014 as the first not-for-profit brewery in Poland and is run by the Dalba Social Cooperative. The cooperative employs 30 people, 25 of them with intellectual disabilities.

The first beer of the Cooperative Brewery was brewed in cooperation with the English brewery Heskett, also operating as a cooperative. The initiators of the Brewery emphasize the kindness of the officials and other breweries towards the Cooperative who helped them to start activities.

To this day, the Brewery has created several dozen different beers, including luxurious frothy beers, which are rated as some of the best brewed beers in Poland.

The Dalba Social Cooperative is developing a network of Cooperative Pubs, which also employ people with disabilities. Some of them operate as social franchises, developed by the cooperative as part of a project co-financed from the PO WER programme. The cooperative finances itself primarily from its economic activity, in the case of Cooperative Brewery – the sale of beer. However, the activity of social cooperatives is supported by the state from various sources. One of them is support from the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, which co-finances establishing, joining or creating a workplace in a social cooperative.

What?

A social cooperative operates primarily to provide work for people who are not usually employed by traditional businesses. Such an aim of the organisation allows the conditions and organisation of work to be adapted to the needs and capabilities of people with disabilities or other disadvantaged groups on the labour market.

The activity of social cooperatives is perfectly consistent with integral ecology, which points to the interdependence between various dimensions of sustainable economic development. The over-exploitation of the environment and the exclusion of people with disabilities have their common source in the culture of consumerism, fast profit and the primacy of mechanically understood economic efficiency. Ideas such as social economy build an economy focused on improving well-being, solidarity and protecting its sources of development, including the natural environment.



To whom?

Social cooperative can be established by persons with full legal capacity and at the same time belonging to at least one of the following categories:

- _____ — unemployed
- _____ — disabled
- _____ — addicted to alcohol, drugs or narcotics after completing treatment
- _____ — mental patients
- _____ — homeless people implementing an individual program of getting out of homelessness
- _____ — people leaving prison who are having difficulties with social reintegration
- _____ — refugees attending in the individual integration programme

Persons not belonging to any of these groups may not constitute more than half of the members of the cooperative.

A social cooperative may also be established by at least two of the following legal persons:

- _____ — non-governmental organisations within the meaning of the Act on public benefit activity and volunteerism
- _____ — local authorities
- _____ — ecclesiastical legal entities



Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

Conexsus



Field

sustainable supply chains, ecology



Time of origin/activity

since 2016



Location

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Legal form

Instituto Conexões Sustentáveis (Institute for Sustainable Connections) operates as a non-profit organisation



Financing

through collaboration with project funding partners (including the Climate and Land Use Alliance)



Website

<https://www.conexsus.org/>

Purpose of the project

The mission and vision of the project are related to activating the community business ecosystem with socio-environmental impacts and increasing their contribution to rural income generation, as well as protecting the forests and diversity of plant formations.

Conexus addresses one of the biggest barriers to growth for social economy organizations and entities – funding and access to networks. It is a networking initiative and provides social enterprises with interesting forms of financing and business development based on network mechanisms.

The key to the success of this type of undertaking is to bring together people who specialize in specific areas of social and economic life within a single structure.

In the long term, the project aims to create a network of connections between actors implementing actions that promote socio-biological diversity and sustainable agricultural production chains that protect the diversity of plant formations and develop territories in a more equitable and inclusive way.

People and history

One of the initiators of the Conexus project is Valmir Ortega, a social entrepreneur. Trained as a geographer, he has worked in the public sector for more than 15 years, including as Director of Ecosystems. In recent years, he has worked mainly with NGOs, international foundations and multilateral cooperation agencies, in initiatives and projects related to the development of public policies and the implementation of socio-environmental projects with communities and companies, as well as actions to support and promote sustainable production chains. He is currently Chairman of the Advisory Board of Conexus.

Conexus was established in 2016 to strengthen sustainable connections between local businesses, produce traders and a broad network of partner organisations already committed to promoting sustainable supply chains and social enterprises.

The inspiration to create this social organization in Brazil came from the long experience of its associates in promoting rural and forest development, strategies to protect forests from deforestation and strategic philanthropy.

Together with a wide network of partners, a service platform is being built for local organizations to improve their business models, gain autonomy and economic sustainability.

The team consists of a network of professional co-workers with years of experience in a variety of fields, including family farming, sustainable operations, social business, direct marketing, credit, public policy, business mentoring, regional development, sustainability and environmental protection.

To fund its activities, Conexus engages with **funding partners** (e.g., the Climate and Land Use Alliance: <https://www.climateandlandusealliance.org/>)

What?

The Conexsus project develops solutions that:

- **scale up sustainable value chains**
- **maximise social and environmental impact**
- **improve the profitability of local businesses.**

Together with a large number of partners and co-founders, Conexsus creates labs and initiatives to develop business prototypes, business models, scaling solutions, financial solutions and market access.

Conexsus promotes the approach of using blended finance practices to create opportunities to access loans and investments.

Access to adequate finance strengthens and expands local social enterprises and is crucial to their financial sustainability, so financial education training is provided to ensure responsible access to tailored finance.

Conexsus works with financial institutions to create customized financing models that can enable these companies to access agricultural credit. In addition, assistance is offered with strategic consulting, financial education and financial monitoring.

To whom?

The project supports the creation of an ecosystem of networks of connections between local entrepreneurs (product manufacturers, traders and financiers of activities) with an impact on the local community and environment.

How?

modelling and accelerating business development

supporting and offering assistance to local entrepreneurs who have an impact on the local community and show potential for development and increasing the scale of its operations

business for Earth

output from the demand side: by analysing data from 85 companies, it was verified which conditions favoured the use of originating products by businesses from family farms in the supply chains

sustainable financial practice

brokering relationships between local businesses and financial institutions to build the trust, knowledge and relationships that are necessary to establish long-term partnerships

In addition, the project developed a Paths to Development methodology to measure the potential of local enterprises and better target business assistance and blended finance solutions, as well as monitor their evolution along the way.



Italy

NeXt – Nuova Economia per Tutti

NeXt - a new economy for everyone



Field

common good, sustainable development



Time of origin/activity

since 2011



Location

Italy



Legal form

association under Italian law



Financing

ongoing projects



Website

<https://www.nexteconomia.org/>

Purpose of the project

NeXt creates a network between associations, companies, public administrations, schools, universities and citizens. By bringing together different social actors with a similar new vision of economics, it provides a platform for encounters and "bottom-up" work for the common good. NeXt calls it a space for meeting Good Practice in Italy. Now, networking processes at the local level with stakeholders for the equal-weighted development of territories are beginning to take shape. NeXt with its expert partners is mentoring to create and implement "Good Practices." In addition, it trains young people, students and founders of start-ups and introduces initiatives that develop active and responsible citizenship and consumption.



People and history

NeXt was founded in 2011 and consists of a network of different associations and partners who share a common vision of the new social economy. Currently there are more than forty such associations or partners.

What?

NeXt has carried out a mapping of companies, municipalities, schools, universities, banks and third sector bodies that are committed to social and environmental, as well as economic, sustainability goals. The mapping is done on the basis of two main activities: the reporting or identification of good practices by citizens and organisations belonging to the NeXt network or the voluntary identification of companies themselves. After this first step, companies complete a free participatory self-assessment questionnaire to complete the mapping. In this way, it is possible to identify and promote the implementation of different "Best Practices."

In addition, NeXt runs a portal for business and active citizens and supports activities for the new economy. It has also created two spin-offs, EyeOnBuy and Gioosto.



Balczewo near Inowrocław
Poland

Plast-Mar



Field

education with values, enterprise for profit,
plastic processing, recycling



Time of origin/activity

since 1975



Location

Balczewo, near Inowrocław, Poland



Legal form

sole proprietorship (CEIDG)



Financing

ongoing projects



Website

<http://plast-mar.pl/>

Purpose of the project

The mission of these activities, which go beyond mere business activities, is to use the skills and contacts acquired on the market to increase the technical and ecological awareness of the region's inhabitants.

The project is almost in its final form – in a for-profit company that provides its employees with extremely favourable working conditions, a

whole system of education for the local community was created. The final stage will be cooperation with technical, environmental and social educators from all over Poland (including the Warsaw University of Technology and the Warsaw School of Economics), which will allow us to broaden the scope of educational activities of institutions operating at Plast-Mar.

People and history

Marek Margielewski is a local entrepreneur from the Inowrocław area. He set up a family business which is now recognised throughout the voivodship thanks to his commitment to promoting environmental knowledge and awareness. It is worth noting that his daughter also runs a similar business recycling plastic waste. Using his many years' experience in business, he created two institutions at his plant: The Environmental Education Point and the Technical Education Point, fully financed from private funds. Currently he is strongly involved in spreading technical and ecological awareness among people of all ages in the entire Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship. Besides its initiatives, it also participates in supporting other social institutions in the region.

Initially Plast-Mar was a company processing industrial waste. Already after the transformation of the political system in Poland, on the wave of increasing popularity and ecological awareness, the company started to specialize in processing of plastic and making from it properly processed granulate, which is used for further processing. The development of the basic business activity allowed the owner to use the money earned to create educational points whose topics are closely related to the industry in which Plast-Mar operates.

In this way, the Environmental Education Point and the Technical Education Point were established, where nowadays regular classes are held to raise technical and ecological awareness of the region's inhabitants, as well as trips (free of charge!) are organised for school groups.

Plast-Mar employs several dozen employees: office, manual and technical. In addition, other people are employed at the education centre – they give guided tours and conduct regular and occasional educational activities. Numerous social facilities are at the employees' disposal, including a gym, sauna and swimming pool. They can also use several sleeping rooms located in the company's buildings.

The company's financing is fully based on the profits that Marek Margielewski has earned in business so far. Even the creation of the educational centres was not supported by significant government or EU grants.

To whom?

The message of Plast-Mar's educational activities is addressed to all residents of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province, with particular consideration given to students visiting the company and elderly people participating in the activities of the University of the Third Age. The "Plast-Mar Academy" Education Center is also a place where educators from all over the country can meet and pass their knowledge to the local community of Kujawy. Plast-Mar is thus becoming a kind of hub, where social awareness and involvement is being strengthened.

How?

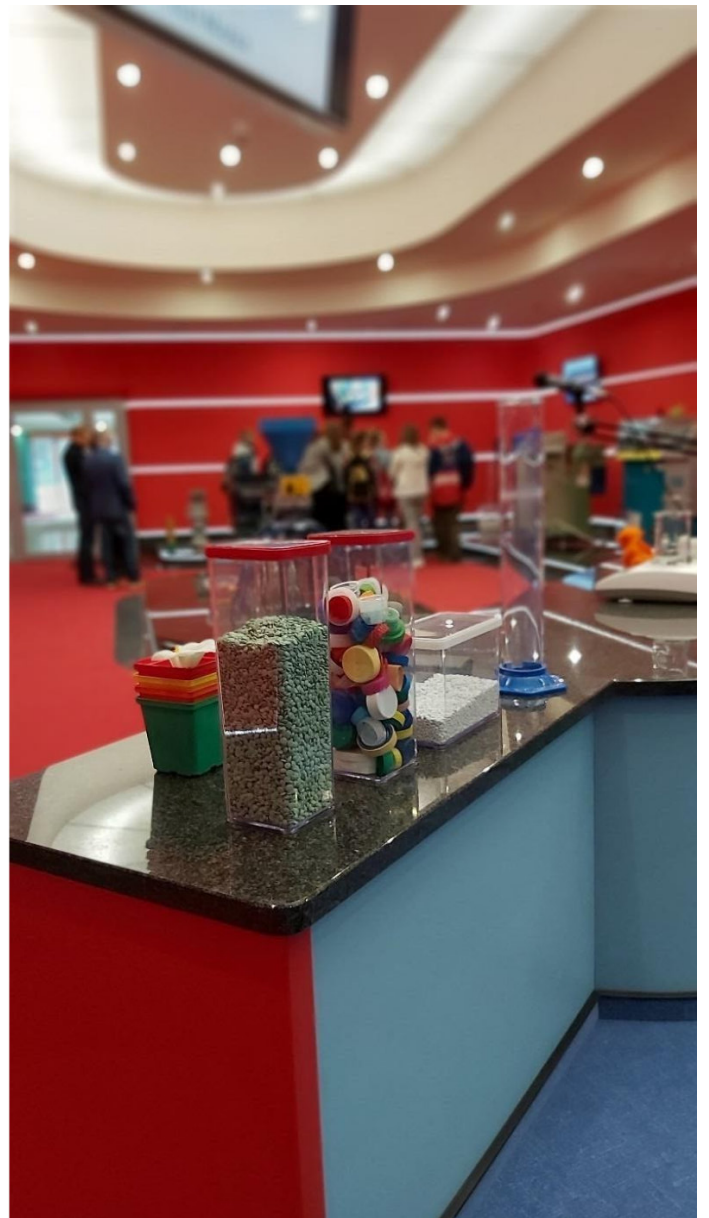
Learning points, thematically related to the company's activity, were established at a for-profit company recycling plastic waste. Competences acquired in business activity were used. As a result, a civic engagement centre was created, where various social objectives are implemented.

What?

Plast-Mar recycles industrial plastic waste into granulate, which enables plastics to be reused in production. In addition, the company buys plastic caps from local institutions, which allows it to promote recycling in schools and public institutions in real time.

In addition to his core business activity, Marek Margielewski has established the Technical Education Point and the Environmental Education Point at his company, where regular and occasional classes are held and school trips are taken. People of all ages can learn about the entire plastic waste recycling process by seeing and touching the relevant machines, but also broaden their knowledge about recycling in a broader sense and the waste problem in the world.

It is worth noting that the social responsibility of Plast-Mar's chairman is manifested not by a classic reaction to the problems created, but rather by using his own competences to increase the environmental awareness of the local community. In addition, the social facilities at the disposal of Plast-Mar's employees – a gym, sauna, swimming pool and accommodation on the premises of the company – are also noteworthy. This allows to create a coherent business organism, which is responsible both outside and inside the company.





Amsterdam
Netherlands

Repair Café



Field

education, sustainable development,
building local communities



Time of origin/activity

since 2009, opening of a pilot cafeteria
(since 2011 a foundation promoting the
business model)



Location

Amsterdam, Netherlands
Currently more than 1,500 locations
worldwide



Legal form

Repair Café Foundation is a non-profit
non-governmental organization; usually
local cafés are implemented as a new
activity profile of existing entities (e.g.
associations, community centers, etc.).



Financing

the foundation lives on grants and
donations; local cafes operate on a
volunteer basis and may be under the
financial sponsorship of other entities



Website

<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/visit/>

Purpose of the project

We throw away huge amounts of stuff. Even things that aren't in completely bad shape, and that could get a new life with a simple repair. The problem is that many people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how to do it. The ability to make repairs disappears quickly if it is not passed on from generation to generation. Society does not always show enough appreciation for people who still have this practical knowledge and their experience is too rarely used.

The Repair Café changes all that! Valuable practical knowledge is passed on to the next generation. Things are used longer and do not have to be thrown away. This reduces the amount of raw materials and energy needed to make new products, for example reducing CO₂ emissions, since making new products and recycling old ones releases it.

Repair Café teaches people to look at their possessions in a new light to appreciate their value once again. Repair Café helps to change mindsets, which is essential if people are to develop enthusiasm for a sustainable society.

But most of all, Repair Café wants to show that fixing things can be great fun, bring great satisfaction and does not have to be very difficult at all.

The target form of the café depends on the needs and possibilities of the local community. It could be a new space equipped with tools that runs regularly, or open meetings of varying frequency (e.g. once a month), e.g. in a local community centre, parish house or school. A detailed plan for organizing such a space can be obtained by officially joining the Repair Café community [a one-time "starter pack" costing 49€, which includes a detailed manual in English and graphic material, can be obtained from <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/start/>]. The basis for the activity is to gather a group of at least a few volunteers, who are willing to share their time and skills with other people, and to provide access to appropriate tools.



Toss it? No way!

St Kilda

People and history

The project was initiated by Martine Postma (born in 1970), a Dutch journalist with a special interest in environmental and sustainability issues. Her journalistic research resulted, for example, in a set of recommendations for the city of Amsterdam to reduce the amount of garbage it produces. After the birth of her second child she began to notice how many things the Dutch throw away without even trying to fix them – not always because they don't want to, but often because they lack the proper tools or skills. It was then that she set about creating the first 'repair café' in Amsterdam, a space where the local community could exchange skills in restoring broken items to a usable state, with the necessary tools at their disposal.

The first Repair Café was established in Amsterdam in 2009 as a place where the local community can help each other with small repairs. After the success of this project, the Repair Café Foundation was founded in 2011 to help implement this idea in other places. Today, there are more than 1500 Repair Café initiatives around the world.

The Repair Café Foundation received a grant of \$260,000 from the Dutch DOEN Foundation for its activities in support of the repair café model. Local repair cafés usually operate on a volunteer basis, with space provided by the local institution and repair materials financed by voluntary donations. For example, at the already mentioned St Kilda Repair Café, people who come with items to be repaired can donate a "gold coin" ("gold coin donation", i.e. \$1 or \$2), but this is not obligatory.

Repair Cafés work on the basis of volunteering and skills exchange in local communities and donations to sustain the initiative. Often it is an additional form of activity that is implemented by an existing organisation, e.g. St Kilda Repair Café in Australia <https://www.stkildarepaircafe.org.au/> is a regular open meeting organised by the local Jewish Environmental Coalition in cooperation with the district council. Repairs are undertaken by volunteers who have specific skills (repairing electronic equipment, sewing, etc.).

What?

Repair Cafés are free meeting places where it's all about fixing things (together). A Repair Café location should have tools and materials to help make necessary repairs (to clothing, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, dishes, equipment, toys, etc.) and volunteer experts with repair skills in various areas.

To whom?

A repair café is a project addressed to any local community, and in particular the existence of such a space/meeting may be a strong community-building factor in communities that know little about each other, such as cities. Such meetings, organized on housing estates or in community centers, can be a place where residents of one street get to know each other for the first time. This is particularly important for intergenerational interaction, where different generations can establish relations and exchange skills (for example, an older woman might show a younger person how to properly mend a proverbial sock, while someone younger might help her solve a problem with her phone or computer).

How?

Café guests bring their broken items from home. Together with specialists, they begin repairs. It's a continuous learning process. You can come and have tea or coffee, even if you have nothing to repair. You can also help repair someone else's item or get inspired at the reading table – looking through books on repair and DIY.

To begin with, all items brought in for repair should be weighed so that you can estimate the total weight of items that have not been discarded thanks to a particular coffee shop. Another rule is that the person who brought the item must be present throughout the repair – the cafe does not provide free repair services, but it is a place to get help. It is also important to pass on as many skills as possible to the next person and show them that they can do many things themselves with proper instruction.

Keep in mind that access to free repair appointments does not compete with professional repair specialists. The purpose of repair cafes is to promote a culture of repair versus a culture of throwing away or buying disposable (or poor quality) items. Visitors are often advised to go to those professionals who still offer their services nearby if specific repairs exceed the volunteers' capabilities. In addition, people who visit repair cafes are usually not customers of repair professionals. They say they usually throw away broken items because paying to have them repaired is generally too expensive. At Repair Café they learn that there is an alternative – with a little help from the local community, many things can be repaired themselves.



San Francisco
USA

The Laudato Si' Challenge



Field

economics, entrepreneurship, climate change, integral ecology



Time of origin/activity

since January 2018



Location

San Francisco, USA



Legal form

A public non-governmental organization under United States federal law as a 501(c)(3) organization



Financing

grants from foundations, companies and universities



Website

<https://lsc21.org/>

Purpose of the project

The Laudato Si' Challenge wants to achieve a change in the narrative about economic success in the 21st century which, if it leads to environmental degradation, is meaningless.

The purpose of the project is:

- transforming the world for the better
- development of social innovation business in a free market system
- to protect our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

The Laudato Si' Challenge puts its mission into action by organizing a 12-month acceleration program for start-ups whose activities are consistent with the encyclical Laudato Si'. The accelerator program lasts one year and supports 50 companies in their development, 12 of which are invited to the Vatican at the end of the program to present the solutions developed.

People and history

The Laudato Si' Challenge was inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical of the same name, in which he calls attention to the threat of climate change that most affects the poor. The mission of The Laudato Si' Challenge is to put the principles of the Laudato Si' encyclical into action and to respond to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth through courageous, coordinated and measurable action.

The co-founders of the initiative are Eric Harr, formerly working in technology companies in Silicon Valley and Ahmad Ashkar, founder and President of Hult Prize (<http://hultprize.org>)

Structure: Chairman (CEO), Director of Impact, Board of Directors, Board of Advisors and Partners.

Form of partnership: fully paid. The Laudato Si' Challenge funds its work through grants from institutions such as Rockefeller Capital Management, Acumen, Airbnb, Amazon Web Services, Blue Like an Orange Sustainable Capital, Biz Stone (Co-founder of Twitter), BNP Paribas, Conscious Ventures, Draper Associates, Noventi, SOCAP Global, TeraTree, and The University of Notre Dame.

More on the history of The Laudato Si' Challenge can be found here: <https://youtu.be/4MjLZc4Uk3k>

What?

At the heart of The Laudato Si' Challenge is the accelerator programme described above, as well as marketing and communications activities that promote entrepreneurship consistent with the Laudato Si' encyclical.



How?

The Laudato Si' Challenge supports the development of companies that have the greatest potential to address climate change in the most profitable and sustainable way with special attention to the most vulnerable Brothers and Sisters and Our Common Home – Mother Earth.

To whom?

The programme is aimed at everyone, but in particular students, start-ups and established companies, to encourage creative solutions to the challenges of climate change and forced migration. The Laudato Si' Challenge focuses on solutions in the following sectors: food, energy, water, transport and health.

Gain knowledge

1

¹⁷ <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/encyclicals.index.html>

<https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/it/encyclicals.index.html>

<https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/it/encyclicals.index.html>

https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/it/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_26031967_populorum.html

https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/it/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html

¹⁸ <https://www.youcat.org/products/docat/>

¹⁹ Youtube: The Economy of Francesco Official channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVKz5pM4geof3NvZ07GOylw/videos>

²⁰ <https://francescoeconomy.org/>

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176446676918804>

²² <https://laudatosi.caritas.pl/ekologia-integralna/>

²³ <https://laudatosianimators.org/pl/home-pl/>

The Economy of Francesco concerns such areas as, among others, social economy, intellectual ecology, entrepreneurship and management. Its basis is the social teaching of the Catholic Church. When it comes to gaining knowledge in this area, there is no better way than reading papal documents based on the messages of the Holy Scriptures. Start with *Laudato Si'*, look also at the exhortation *Christus Vivit* addressed to the youth and the encyclicals *Fratelli Tutti* by Pope Francis or *Caritas In Veritate* by Benedict XVI, which are very timely and perfectly identify today's problems. If you find that's not enough, try going back to *Laborem Exercens* or *Centesimus Annus* by John Paul II or even *Populorum progressio* by Paul VI or *Rerum Novarum* by Leo XIII. All these documents are available on the official Vatican website.¹⁷

A good and helpful handbook that walks you through the main points and assumptions of the Church's social teaching is *DOCAT*.¹⁸ Many aspects of this are covered in meetings and lectures on The Economy of Francesco network, which are available on YouTube.¹⁹ Also, learn about upcoming Francesco Economy events and join this community.²⁰ You can also join the Polish Catholic Networking group on Facebook if you are interested in starting your activity in Poland or try to find similar local Facebook groups of users from your country.²¹

In addition, you can read educational materials prepared by the Caritas Polska *Laudato Si'* (try to check the site of your national Caritas branch if Polish is not yours)²² section and participate in the *Laudato Si'* Movement's (formerly: The Global Catholic Climate Movement) educational program – *Laudato Si'* Animators.²³

Find problems and name needs in your immediate environment

2

When acquiring knowledge, listen to what resonates within you. Also look at your surroundings and write out point by point those problems and needs you see around you.

You can also see if these points are related to the "Pact of Assisi" demands developed so far by the Francis Economy²⁴ (described briefly in the introduction), the issues described in the DOCAT and the encyclicals, or if they are related to the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals 2030.²⁵

Then think about what these problems are or what is the source of these needs or deficiencies that they could stem from? If possible, create a simple chain of possible causes and effects to better illustrate the problem. Refer to the examples discussed in Part II of this report for inspiration (pp. 10-78).

²⁴ <https://francescoeconomy.org/final-statement-and-common-commitment/>

²⁵ <https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/sustainable-development-goals/>

Start talking about it, to find people for whom this is equally important

3

Ask others if they see the same problems or needs. You can start with a group of friends and people around you. Pay attention to their skills and experience. They may be able to add new information and opinions to your picture, or refer you to the right people.

If your hypotheses turn out to coincide with what others around you see, then invite experts in the given field to join the discussion. Review scholarly articles in your field, and confer with their authors who have already studied the problem in some aspect.

Remember that where there is a need, there is often a demand. Therefore, think also of businesses, associations, Christian communities and local institutions that might be interested in the supply side of the problem. Seek advice from your parish priest in the parish office or from the bishop in the diocesan curia. In your discussions with various entities, you can always refer to the mission of these organizations and the values they profess. The Pope writes: *“I suggest to young people to go beyond groups of friends and build social friendship, to look for the common good”*²⁶

Use the contact details provided on the websites of the organizations you have found, or try to reach specific individuals by searching for publications on a given topic, e.g. on LinkedIn using the so-called hashtags (keywords preceded by the # sign) and the available search engine.²⁷ Also look for people in positions related to Corporate Social Responsibility, Happiness Management, Sustainability, Compliance, Public Relations, Corporate Affairs or Public Affairs. Write clearly what you are missing.

²⁶ Francis, *Christus Vivit*, pt. 169

²⁷ <http://linkedin.com>

Needs should be expressed, and problems should be publicised so that we can then respond to them. Thus do not be afraid to ask for the opinion of those individuals who may be directly affected by a given problem. Do not overlook them. Undertaking a discussion without the participation of those most interested in resolving a given issue misses the point. It is precisely their outcry or their silence that must be heard.

Try not to lead yourself to complain, though, because you won't find hope in it to solve the problem. Pope Francis warned about this in one of his homilies: *“complaining is something bad, not only towards others, but also when we complain about ourselves, when everything seems bitter to us. It is bad because it takes away our hope. Let's not take up this game to live by complaining!”*²⁸ You can pray for patience and tenderness, which you will certainly need. As the African proverb goes: *“If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk with others.”* The Pope adds, *“let us not let fraternity be stolen from us.”*

²⁸ Francis, Homily during Mass at the House of St. Martha, 3 April 2013

²⁹ Francis, *Christus Vivit*, pt. 167

Think together about possible solutions

4

When you find people among your friends, volunteers, entrepreneurs, scientists, local officials, politicians, activists, and even priests or lay representatives of Christian communities who are interested in a given topic, find an opportunity to brainstorm.

For efficient brainstorming, as was done in the Vocation and Profit village, you can use a group facilitation method such as The World Café³⁰, which is used when you need to discuss complex problems and share knowledge or experiences from different fields. It is a process of structured group discussion at several topic "tables". The table host introduces the topic of the table (or room in a web space), moderates the discussion, and records the conclusions or ideas shared by the participants in a set amount of time. After the time is up, the participants move to another table, starting a new round of discussion, and the table host completes the list of ideas with proposals from the next group of participants. The discussion ends when the participants have visited all the thematic tables. The table hosts then present the ideas they have collected on the topic. In the case of the Vocation and Profit village, the discussions in the thematic groups organized in this way resulted in the creation of a podcast (see *Part IIa. The Profit Podquest*, pp. 35-38).

You may wish to share with your group in advance this study, which is a collection of case studies of responses to problems in the spirit of The Economy of Francesco. We hope that it will provide you with the necessary ideas to transfer to your local area.

Try to do inclusive mapping together, using the method proposed in the Public Policies and Joy village (see *Part IIa. Inclusive Mapping*, pp. 26-28). It is enough to start collecting unusual materials about your area – photos, sound recordings, information about local groups which are already active in this area and encourage them to join forces and cooperate in a coordinated way. A similar principle is applied to the NeXt project created by a network of Italian organizations (see: *Part IIb. NeXt – Nuova Economia per Tutti*, pp. 66-67).

³⁰ <http://www.theworldcafe.com/>

Do not be afraid to dream. The Pope writes to the young: *“We must persevere on the path of dreams. That’s why we must pay attention to a temptation that often plays tricks on us: anxiety. Anxiety can become a great enemy that leads us to surrender when we discover that results do not come immediately. The most beautiful dreams are achieved with hope, patience and determination, and by giving up haste. At the same time we should not give up because of uncertainty and fear of risk or making mistakes. Rather, we must be afraid of living in paralysis, like the living dead, and of ourselves as beings who do not live or accomplish their undertakings because they do not want to take risks or are afraid of making mistakes. Even if you make a mistake, you can always pick your head up and start again, because no one has the right to steal your hope.”*³¹

The social economy will not develop without the necessary infrastructure. This, however, cannot be fully provided by the state. It is therefore worth trying to build a network of relations between organizations, so that even with only minimal personal support a space for cooperation between them can be forged. Ultimately, it is very beneficial for them to function within as dense a network of relations as possible. When the common good is at stake, the issue of competition takes a back seat.

³¹ Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, pt. 142

Take action

5

Think also about the forms of activity that function and are accessible in Poland (or in your country respectively). Would it be non-profit or for-profit activity? A foundation, or perhaps a social enterprise? An association or a company, or perhaps a cooperative? Are you interested in cooperating as a think tank or joining a group of entrepreneurs at the Economy of Communion? Together you can choose the form that is most suitable for you and your stakeholders. We hope that the next part will help you make this transition in small steps. It will refer to Polish legal framework and economic environment only, however, you may probably easily find very similar forms of rural, social and business activity in your country. Just, please, take into account that they might be defined differently in your area.

It is worth getting involved in social initiatives such as the Economy of Francesco. Thanks to them you can meet many people with a similar view of the world, which will allow you to activate the dormant layers of creativity and willingness to act. It is, among other things, human relationships that are at the centre of every human activity – both within the primary community that is the family and outside of it – in the wider context and social environment.

It is a valuable practice to take advantage of trends, especially new technologies, to raise public awareness. Not every initiative has to be comprehensive and international from the outset – existing organizations, associations, and communities can also enrich their activities by promoting specific values through the use of available communication channels. Creating an organization can begin at the grassroots level by preparing individual or cyclical events. We should not be discouraged if attendance at the first meetings is sparse.

While working together it is a good idea to identify the mission and values that should guide your activities. This may be a motto, a statute, a manifesto, or regulations to which you will commit yourselves. In your initiative you may use the method of The Company Cube³² – a cube, on the edges of which there are 6 guidelines for joint action:

- build relationships with each other on a daily basis
- support with action, not just words
- share expertise, time and self
- appreciate every person and every idea
- be the first to help others
- competitors can be friends

The above guidelines are inspired by the golden rule conveyed in the Gospel, important writings of other religions, and proverbs: “do what you would have them do to you” (Mt 7:12a) or “do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you.”

³² <https://thecompanycube.org/>

Starting a business is certainly a milestone and requires a transition from the accumulated potential, which are talents, experiences, needs and opportunities to making the plan a reality thanks to personal involvement and joint work for the common good. In order to help you overcome this distance, we have prepared for you a list of small steps, depending on the type and form of activity you want to undertake and taking into account our local, Polish reality. Most probably you can take similar small steps in your country according to your local legal framework and economic environment.

Remember that the Economy of Francesco is not about maximizing profit, but above all about the humankind and its future on Earth. We hope that a well-defined problem (what?), selected stakeholders (to whom? with whom?) and a prepared business plan (how?) with solutions according to the guidelines and information found will help you to achieve your jointly chosen goal.

Pro-environmental activities in the area of agriculture

Since 2004, when Poland joined the EU, thanks to the support of the CAP agri-environmental programmes, a farm can change its agricultural land management profile from cereal production based on intensive soil cultivation to the management of permanent agricultural land.

There are two main components to regenerative agriculture:

Restoration – a series of actions a farmer takes to position his or her farm operation in line with the cycles of nature, for example, the energy, water, or carbon cycles

Regeneration – a situation in which nature takes control of an ecosystem after the farmer has allowed it to do so in order to increase the level of ecosystem services provided.

Mateusz Ciasnocha from the Ciasnocha Family Farm, which as a family farm manages 700 ha of farmland located in the Żuławy Wiślane region, shares his experience (see also: *Part IIa. European Carbon Farmers*, pp. 14-17).

5 small steps

for regenerative agriculture and restoration

Designing a farm that fits with shaping the terrain

This allows for optimal use of naturally occurring cycles in a given ecosystem to generate ecosystem services, some of which the farmer can monetize.

1

The change of land use was a fundamental action to return to the proper cycles of nature in the ecosystem we manage. Due to the risk of partial flooding of the land we manage, historically these lands were dedicated to forage production, to which we returned in 2008. This decision allowed us to no longer fight the cycles of nature, but to cooperate with them.

Optimisation of the use of agricultural inputs

Agricultural inputs are seeds, plant protection agents and fertilizers. Their correct use leads to an optimum yield with the least expenditure.

2

In the area of optimising the use of agricultural inputs, since 2008 we have completely eliminated the use of plant protection agents. Furthermore, we have drastically reduced the use of fertilisers to a single dose of 50 kg/ha of urea in the spring applied at the same time as the meadow harrowing process in the spring. This change ensures a higher precision of fertiliser application compared to using a standard fertiliser spreader and therefore reduces costs and N₂O emissions. Regular reseeded of meadows with new seeds (once every three years) allows us to maintain the production potential of our farm.

Minimise tillage (no more ploughing)

Ploughing is the practice of turning the soil 180 degrees. No-till farming avoids disturbing nature's naturally occurring transformations, especially the carbon cycle.

3

Changing the production profile of our farm allowed us to completely eliminate soil tillage and to stop ploughing.

Covering the soil as much as possible all year round with plants with roots living in the soil

The practice of integrating after-crops into the crop rotation in combination with no-tillage protects and increases the organic carbon stored in the soil.

4

The cessation of ploughing combined with the maintenance of year-round vegetation cover leads to a sequestration of 6.5 t CO₂ eq/ha/year. In the future, the farm plans to experiment with reseeding the meadows with post-harvest mixtures to improve the health and fertility of our soil and increase levels of carbon sequestration in our soil.

Enhancement of biodiversity

It should take place within the field, the field boundaries, and the whole environment in which the farm is embedded. This activity contributes to the resilience of the ecosystem and the ecosystem services it provides in which the farm is embedded, particularly in the face of progressive climate change.

5

In the area of increasing biodiversity in the ecosystem we manage, we have introduced a grass mixture to increase biodiversity within the field. By eliminating the use of pesticides, we allow the various natural species of grasses, herbs and flowers to reestablish their populations. In addition, late mowing of our meadows (after June 15) creates breeding habitats for birds, such as corncrake, and resting areas for wildlife: roe deer, wild boar, and hares. The actions taken by us, i.e. planting rows of trees naturally occurring in our ecosystem, such as willows, also lead to an increase in biodiversity by creating opportunities for birds to nest, while at the same time reducing the problem of strong winds in the Żuławy Wiślane.

Pro-social activities in the non-profit area

Not every initiative in the spirit of the Economy of Francesco has to involve high costs, and some of the projects mentioned in *Part II* are implemented on the basis of unformalized voluntary work of people of good will. An excellent example is the Financial Education for Life project described in this paper (see *Part IIa. Educação Financeira para a Vida – EFV*, pp. 29-31), which began recording podcasts during the pandemic with its own means.

If in the course of discussions with stakeholders it turns out that the planned activities require a legal form, even though they are not intended to make a profit, you can establish a non-profit organization, which in Poland most frequently takes the form of an association, or join an existing non-governmental organization, including foundations. Non-profit organizations obtain the necessary financial resources from various public budgets: state, regional, and local. These organizations may conduct economic activity, but their income is used to finance their activities, and cannot be distributed among the individuals working within them. All of the financial resources of a non-profit organization are allocated to realizing the goals specified in its statute. For example, a number of educational activities can in this case be financed by grants and voluntary donations, as demonstrated by some of the projects described [see: *Part IIa: Campus de la Transition* (pp. 18-21), *ProAble Academy* (pp. 32-34), *Pacar School Foundation Limited* (pp. 22-25); *Part IIb: Cumbres Blancas* (pp. 40-41); *Part IIb: Human Dignity Curriculum – HDC* (pp. 45-46), *Por Igual Más* (pp. 50-53), *TheLaudato Si' Challenge* (pp. 76-78)].

One way of exerting a positive influence on changes in the local environment is through the activities of think tank organizations. These are non-profit organizations whose goal is to provide expert knowledge to political decision-makers and the public. They often advocate certain solutions by presenting arguments based on thorough analysis and scientific sources. The profile of a think tank usually falls somewhere between journalism and science, often entering both fields. The main resource of an organization of this type is people with expert knowledge and the ability to analyze sources. The legal form most frequently adopted by think tanks is that of a foundation conducting business activity.

Examples of think tanks are described in *Part IIb. CoopTech Hub* (pp. 47-49) and *Conexus* (pp. 63-65).

5 small steps

towards an association

Set goals for the association

1

In action, the most important thing is the will, but even the most sincere desire can turn to nonsense if we do not determine the goals that guide and motivate our actions.

Use the universal SMART method, which will allow you to transfer the needs and problems from point 2 into properly selected and defined goals:

- **Specific** – Concretising and naming the objective
- **Measurable**
- **Attainable** – Acceptability of goal by members of organization
- **Relevant** – Reality of implementation of the objective
- **Time-bound** – Timely completion of a goal within a specified time horizon

You can read more about how to set goals for your organization, for example, here:
<https://learn.rumie.org/jR/themes/smart-goals>

Identify actions necessary to achieve the objectives

2

Once you have defined your objectives, think about how you can achieve each of them. To plan your association's concrete strategic actions, look at your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats using a SWOT table. This will help you see where your potential lies and where you need help:

(S-Strengths)	(W-Weaknesses)
(O-Opportunities)	(T-Threats)

Put the planned activities on a timeline to put them into perspective. You can use, for example, the Gantt chart technique, common in project management.

Draw up a statute for the association

3

This is an obligatory document for associations in Poland. It must include such information as:

- Name
- Registered office and area of operations
- Objectives and means of achieving them
- Membership rules and rights and obligations of members
- Authorities of the Association and their competences
- Issues relating to directors' eligibility for remuneration
- Method of association representation
- Method of obtaining funds and establishing membership dues
- Rules for amending the Statutes
- Method of dissolution of the association

The legal basis for this type of organization is the Act of 7 April 1989 Law on Associations (Journal of Laws 1989 No. 20, item 104, as amended). Familiarize yourselves with it. In order to supplement your statute with the necessary information, you may use the guide published on the NGO.pl: <https://poradnik.ngo.pl/co-musi-zawierac-statutszenia>

Get seven people for the first meeting

4

This is the minimum number of founding members to be included as such in the statute of the association. Do not be afraid, there are no legal complications connected with it. During the founding meeting you have to make formal decisions about: establishment of the organisation, adoption of the statute, election of the association's authorities.

Beforehand it is a good idea to prepare a list of the founding members with the following information: first and last name; date and place of birth; place of residence; handwritten signature. The list should also include a statement by the founding members that they are Polish citizens, have full legal capacity and full civil rights (pursuant to Art. 3 Sec. 1 of the Law on Associations). The list should be prepared in 3 copies – 2 of them will be filed in the KRS (National Court Register), one will remain in the organisation's records.

During the founding meeting the following should be established: resolution on establishing the association, resolution on accepting the statute, resolution on electing the management board, resolution on electing the audit committee.

Apply for registration with the National Court Register (KRS)

5

Such an application should be submitted by the Association's Management Board. This is the most sensitive point of the process, as it may take from several days to even several months, depending on the location of the organisation. It is therefore worth being patient and preparing well in advance. The moment an association is entered into the National Court Register it acquires legal personality. The description of the whole process, together with the necessary documents, can be found in the NGO.pl: <https://poradnik.ngo.pl/rejestracja-stowarzyszenia-formularze-dokumenty>



Remember:

Documents and information to be submitted during the registration of the Association in the National Court Register:

- Statutes of the Association
- founders list
- minutes of elections
- head office
- bank account number of the Association

Time

it is worth taking care to commence registration with the National Court Register well in advance, as sometimes this process can take more than a month

Good alignment of objectives and means to achieve them

the key to success is to use involvement in the right way, reducing the risk of bouncing off a wall, which often happens when we do not match solutions to the objectives they are supposed to achieve

People

not only the founders of the Association and its potential recipients, but also more broadly – potential volunteers or simply friendly people; when running a social organisation it is worth trying to 'infect' everyone around with your vision, it may soon turn out that someone who likes it works e.g. in the municipal office, which will allow you to get to know the rules and specific details of official activity and opportunities you may not have heard about!

Links:

Act of 7 April 1989. Law on Associations

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU19890200104>

**Mobile Advisors - Sector 3.0
(free help in developing NGOs)**
<https://sektor3-0.pl/szkolenia/>

List of accredited Social Economy Support Centres (OWES)
https://www.ekonomiaspoleczna.gov.pl/Wykaz_akredytowanych_Osrodkow_Wsparcia_Ekonomii_Spolecznej_3920.html

Contact to the Department of Social Economy and Solidarity in the Ministry of Family and Social Policy
ekonomiaspoleczna@mrpips.gov.pl
+48 (22) 661 16 20

Funding of activities:

11 ways to finance your NGO's activities
<https://publicystyka.ngo.pl/11-sposobow-na-finansowanie-dzialan-organizacji-pozarzadowej>

European Funds - Cofinancing of salaries of the employees of non-governmental organizations
<https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/Strony/Wiadomosci/Dofinansowanie-wynagrodzen-pracownikow-organizacji-pozarzadowych-NGO-i-pozytku-publicznego-OPP>

Current competitions
<https://fundusze.ngo.pl/aktualne>

Grants
<https://granty.pl/>

Useful Facebook groups:

Grants. NGOS. Applications for funding. Support and assistance.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/szukam.help.applications.grants/>

Formalities in NGOs
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/formalnosciwnngo>

Accounting for associations/foundations
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/560612214142775/>

NGOs – Competitions. Grants. Grants
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/konkursyngo/>

NGOs – current news
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688110097905475/>

Many of the resources are relevant to both associations and foundations which are also NGOs. Therefore, you can find more links on p. 101.

5 small steps

towards a foundation

Set the goals of the foundation

1

They should be socially or economically useful, consistent with the fundamental interests of the Polish State, mainly such as: culture, art, health care, social care and assistance, environmental protection and others, which can be found in the Law on Public Benefit Activity and Volunteerism of 24 April 2003 (Journal of Laws 2003 No 96 item 873, as amended). These are only some of them since a foundation may implement in its activity any charity or community goals. The condition, however, is that your activities must be of a public character. The legal basis for a foundation's activity is the Law on Foundations of April 6, 1984 (Journal of Laws 1984 No. 21 item 97, as amended).

Determine the size of the initial fund

2

The resources allocated to the founding fund should enable the foundation to commence its activities. The founding fund may consist of: money, securities, movable and immovable assets transferred to the foundation's ownership. The law does not stipulate a minimum amount, but in practice it is assumed that the minimum founding fund amount for foundations without business activity is between 500 and 1000 PLN. If you are thinking of establishing a social enterprise within the foundation, the amount is at least 1,000 PLN.

Make a foundation act

3

Once you have defined the foundation's goal and established the amount of the founding fund, go to the notary and draw up the foundation act. This is required by law. A foundation act is a formal declaration of will of the founders aiming at establishing the foundation, which defines the purpose of the foundation and the assets allocated for the accomplishment of this purpose.

Make a Foundation statute

4

The statute is the most important internal document in the foundation, it is in this that all the information about the foundation's rules should be found. It is passed and written by the founders. According to the Law on Foundations it should include:

- Name
- Seat and assets
- Aims, principles, forms and scope of activity of the foundation
- Composition and organisation of the Management Board
- Method of appointment, powers of board members

It may also contain other provisions, in particular on business activities, amendments to the statutes or the creation of other bodies.

Apply for registration with the National Court Register (KRS)

5

When you have collected all the documents you will need to make an entry in the National Court Register. The registration must be made by the founders or the foundation's Board. An application for registration with the National Court Register consists of official forms and appendices, documents such as the statutes, resolutions. Remember that a registration in the National Court Register is payable and in the case of foundations without business activity it amounts to 250 PLN.



Remember:

Decisions

it is worth remembering about whether the foundation will run business activity or not at the very beginning, as any later change made in the National Court Register is subject to additional fees

Contacting

with the Social Economy Support Centre, if you are afraid to set up a foundation on your own, in the Centre you will receive support and obtain all the information

Links:

Guides:

<https://poradnik.ngo.pl/jak-zalozyc-fundacje-krok-po-kroku>

<https://poradnik.ngo.pl/fundacja-wzory-dokumentow>

<https://poradnik.ngo.witkac.pl/uchwaly-protokol-zmiana-statutu-stowarzyszenia-fundacji>

Webinar - How to start an NGO:

<https://youtu.be/jdNUeZHtO20>

Useful Facebook groups:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/grants.UNION>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/grants.EU.grants.loans.funds>

Many of the resources are relevant to both foundations and associations that are also NGOs. Therefore, you can find more links on p. 97.

5 small steps

to a think tank

Assess the areas in which you have competences

1

In order to establish a local think tank, it is necessary to have a group of people who are interested in local issues and who combine this interest with theoretical knowledge in one or more specific fields, such as environmental protection, economics, water management, spatial planning, social assistance, agriculture, etc. These do not have to be individuals who deal with these areas scientifically. Think tanks rarely conduct typically scientific research – but the ability to read and draw conclusions from scientific sources and statistical data will be essential.

Plan your objectives and product types

2

Among the purposes of the activities of think tanks are: research, consulting and preparing various types of analyses, searching for answers to social problems, and participating in public debate by means of conferences, debates, books and interviews. Think tanks constitute a sort of bridge between academic or political institutions and society. They often promote certain ideas and concepts, and in doing so must be careful to ensure that they serve the common good and not a particular interest group.

Plan sources of funding

3

There are several ways of financing think tanks related to the creation of different types of studies. In the Polish reality it is rare to maintain a team of several people in full-time employment. The work provided for a think tank is rather an additional occupation for experts. The sources of income for think tanks are mainly

— Procurement from the public sector

Public sector entities often order documents or training whose preparation corresponds to the profile of a think tank's work. These may include reports, analyses, forecasts, program evaluations, consulting and similar analytical work. These types of orders should be searched for on the websites of the Marshal's Offices, county and municipality offices in tabs like 'Orders and enquiries' or 'Public Information Bulletin'.

— Grants for non-governmental organizations

governmental, local and international institutions subsidise the activities of think tanks in the form of grants for general activities or for carrying out specific projects. The search engine for grant programs and competitions can be found International grants can be found at <http://fundusze.ngo.pl/>

— Sponsorship

More and more large companies carry out regular socially responsible activity, e.g. by running their own foundations or directly implementing socially beneficial projects. Sometimes they organise competitions for specific projects, yet it is also possible to cooperate directly with an organisation which will create educational or analytical materials under the company's patronage in the area related to company's activity. It is worth monitoring activities of corporate foundations or companies themselves which are CCI committed and contacting those with whom we see room for cooperation.

— Donations from recipients and supporters

Financial support for media and educational activities that are close to our hearts It is becoming more and more popular in Poland. If you run a local think tank, you should not expect it to be your main source of income, but if you take up issues important for the local community, you can ask your audience for such support.

Create a pool of external experts to work with

4

The team of permanent members of a think tank is usually limited to a few or several dozen individuals, but it is important to maintain cooperation with external experts, who often specialize in narrow fields. They can prove very helpful, for example as authors of excerpts of larger studies. It is worth keeping a list of such individuals, maintaining regular contact with them, and constantly expanding this list.

Get the paperwork done and set up a foundation

5

How to establish a foundation is described above in 5 small steps. If the foundation is to carry out business activity, this information must be included in its statutes. Business activity is always an additional, and not the main task of the foundation, and all the income from such activity must be allocated to the accomplishment of the statutory goals.



Remember:

a foundation running business activity has additional obligations, such as submitting an annual report to the National Court Register and keeping more detailed accounts than in the case of a regular foundation

Links:

<http://poradnik.ngo.pl/jak-zarejestrowac-dzialalnosc-gospodarcza-krok-po-kroku>

<http://poradnik.ngo.pl/prowadzimy-dzialalnosc-gospodarcza-obowiazki-i-przywileje-wazne-terminy>

[http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/WydBAS.nsf/0/AEE487CF31D5A165C12578B00047620D/\\$file/Infos_104.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/WydBAS.nsf/0/AEE487CF31D5A165C12578B00047620D/$file/Infos_104.pdf)

Other resources on NGOs are available on pages 97 and 101.

Pro-social activities in the for-profit area

If the activity is related to making profit, it should also include social elements, using business competences – capital, contacts, infrastructure, know-how. It can be registered as a sole proprietorship or a company.

An interesting concept is the use of cooperative technologies that can create a kind of "marketplace" for social enterprises. Creating such a platform would not only stimulate mutual contacts between social entrepreneurs, but could also be a form of promotion and contact with potential partners and recipients of products and services. Eventually it might even be possible to use platforms for supporting employee volunteering, such as Volontarius (<https://volontarius.org/>) A social enterprise is an entity conducting economic activity which sets itself strictly social goals (such as including groups of people at risk of exclusion such as the long-term unemployed or people with disabilities), which is not oriented towards making maximum profit, and which invests its financial surplus in its activities or in the community, depending on the goals it has set itself. It does not distribute its profit or balance sheet surplus among its shareholders or employees, but uses it to strengthen the enterprise's potential as non-distributable capital and, in a specific proportion, for professional and social reintegration or public benefit activities carried out for the benefit of the local community in which the enterprise operates.

A real CSR programme implemented by a given enterprise does not have to rub shoulders with green washing. It is most effective when the company/institution engages in activities closely related to its economic activity. Responsibility in this case does not consist in counteracting problems that one creates oneself, but rather on the proactive use of competencies that are acquired in business [see: *Part IIa: European Carbon Farmers* (pp. 14-17); *Part IIb: Plast-Mar* (pp. 68-71); *AGÁTA Rösterei & Café GmbH* (pp. 54-55)]. Also remember

that employees are an integral part of your business. It is a good idea to offer them better than contractual minimum conditions. This will increase the chances that employees will identify with the company and become more involved in their work.

People learn best by example. Apart from promoting good practices in social media, it is worth actively promoting noteworthy initiatives. A good example is the cooperation established by Caritas Polska with two interesting Polish companies – SOLACE Housing and Plast-Mar, which results not only in the promotion of the companies themselves, but of the entire broader pro-social practices of which they are examples [see: *Part IIb. Plast-Mar* (pp. 68-71)].

Some projects provide, as good practice, almost ready-made business solutions, as in the case of Economy of Communion [see *Part IIb. Economia di Comunione* (pp. 42-44)] or Goel Gruppo Cooperativo s.c.s.p.a. (pp. 56-59) by the Village of Agriculture and Justice's programme to support and promote regenerative agriculture, The Farm of Francesco [see *Part IIa. The Farm of Francesco* (pp. 11-13)], the franchised chain of Repair Cafés [see *Part IIb. Repair Café* (pp. 72-75)] which aim

to build local communities, or the Cooperative Pubs [see *Part IIb. Browar Spółdzielczy* (pp. 60-62)] which employ people with disabilities.

A social cooperative is an entity which combines features of a business – conducting economic activity – and a non-governmental organisation the achievement of a social objective. The cooperative allocates the generated profit (after paying the costs of activity, including the salaries of employees) for the implementation of its mission to support the reintegration of its employees who belong to one of the excluded groups.

If you want to develop a business idea in the form of a social cooperative, find public benefit organizations and discuss with them the possibility of establishing a cooperative. Gather the necessary knowledge on what a social cooperative is and what the legal requirements are. Websites such as: <http://spoldzielniasocjalnawpraktyce.pl/> or <http://ekonomiaspoleczna.gov.pl/> will be helpful in this regard. Find the website of your local Social Economy Support Centre and find out what services it offers. Pre-business incubators can help you develop any business or start-ups.

5 small steps

to a social enterprise

Decide on a legal form

1

So far, the concept of social enterprise has not been defined in any way at the level of Polish legislation. However, it must have some kind of legal personality. This category has been introduced to the activities of Social Economy Support Centres on the basis of "Guidelines for the implementation of projects in the area of social inclusion and combating poverty using the resources of the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund for 2014-2020" – within this project, the version of this document dated 9 January 2018 is applicable. A social enterprise can take the form of a sole proprietorship or a limited liability company, but it can also be established by a non-governmental organisation. It may conduct paid public benefit activity, educational activity, or cultural activity. Decide whether it will be a foundation, association, non-profit company, social cooperative, sports club or initiative group. The goal of such an enterprise should be social and professional integration, which may also be accompanied by the implementation of social services provided in the local community.

See who can work for you

2

A social enterprise competes with other companies on the market and should therefore provide products that are attractive to potential clients and can be produced with the participation of disadvantaged people. The enterprise may employ, for example, people in difficult or crisis situations such as unemployment, homelessness, people leaving educational institutions or correctional facilities, or people with certified disabilities. The level of employment of disadvantaged people should be at least 50%, or 30% in the case of creating jobs for people with moderate or severe disabilities. In the case of social services provided in the local community, the level of employment should be at least 20%. Disadvantaged persons are employed on the basis of an employment contract, a cooperative employment contract for at least ¼ time or on the basis of a civil law contract for a period of not less than 3 months comprising not less than 120 working hours in total.

Plan your reintegration activities of disadvantaged people

3

It is not enough to create jobs for these people. For their reintegration into the labour market to be effective, they need to be properly prepared and reintegration activities need to be planned, such as:

- implementation and support during activities
- vocational training
- joint excursions and outings aimed at social integration

These activities must be adapted to the capabilities and specifics of the company, but also to the needs of its employees. It is the effectiveness of the reintegration of disadvantaged employees and satisfied clients that will prove the success of a social enterprise.

Introduce clear governance rules

4

These should be set out in the founding statutes or articles. The social enterprise should be based on the principles of employee participation, employee share ownership and, in the case of cooperatives, co-determination.

Try to get a grant

5

You can receive funding to set up a social enterprise, but you must meet several conditions that must be reflected in the documents (e.g. in the statute):

- it must be a separate entity, it must have its own NIP (tax number), REGON (National Business Registry Number).
- employ min. 3 persons threatened by social exclusion – social and professional reintegration
- democratic management – taking into account the voice of employees, consulting them on certain issues
- the management board may not earn more than three times the average monthly salary and the surplus should be allocated to the social purposes of the organisation

You can apply for funds for reintegration activities (e.g. training) at the National Training Fund or in the Development Services Database.



Remember:

capping of remuneration of all employees (including executives)

the limits specified in the Act of 24 April 2004
on public benefit activity and voluntary work

the principle of indivisibility of profit

earmarking its surplus for social purposes that
constitute the organisation's statutory objectives

Links:

<https://iped.pl/european-social-economy-network.html>

<http://koowes.pl/index.php/dotacje-owes/czym-jest-przedsiębiorstwo-spoleczne/>

<https://przedsiębiorstvospoleczne.pl/category/jak-zaczac-i-zalozyc-przedsiębiorstwo-spoleczne/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Social-Enterprise-how-to-found-and-grow-a-social-enterprise-113893813646016/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SocialEnterprise>

5 small steps

to the Economy of Communion

Get to know the idea

1

The Economy of Communion was founded in Brazil in 1991 as a response to the social inequalities visible to the naked eye (rich neighborhoods bordering favelas). Currently it brings together social entrepreneurs from different countries. You can read more about it in *Part II b. Economia di Comunion* (pp. 42-44).

Get to know people

2

“Give, and it shall be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.”

(Luke 6:38)

In Poland, the Economy of Communion is currently lived out by 23 businesses and individuals who practice the monthly Penny of Communion.

Because the Economy of Communion needs a community atmosphere, some entrepreneurs in Poland attend retreats of the ‘Talent’ Ministry, meetings of the Focolari Movement and participate in regional and international conferences for entrepreneurs of the Communion Economy. Thanks to the fact that among the enterprises of the Economy of the Communion there are also international companies, it is possible to cooperate and organize local branches of global enterprises. Young people from all over the world also take part in the Economy of Francesco Network co-organised by the Economy of Communion.

Furthermore, in Poland there is a local Commission for the Economy of Communion, which is a platform of communication between entrepreneurs, members of the Focolari Movement, youth and persons from the scientific world. During the meetings of the Commission various needs, ideas, projects, experiences and social goals are discussed and consulted, for which material and non-material resources are shared. The President of the Polish Commission is Andrzej Miłkowski. If you are interested in the information described here regarding Polish environment, you can contact him by e-mail: milkowski.a@gmail.com

Adjust the mission, purpose and objectives of the undertaking within the proposed organisational culture

3

In the hierarchy of values of the Economy of Communion, the person and his dignity comes before capital. However, the enterprise of the Economy of Communion does not aim to be solely charitable and philanthropic, as is the case with non-profit NGOs, where there is sometimes asymmetry and dependence of the poor on the aid received. Instead, it looks for symmetrical solutions, based on reciprocity and involvement of those receiving help from the enterprise. Profit (and its maximization) is not the goal of the Economy of Communion enterprise, but a means to build the common good for all stakeholders in the internal and external environment of the company.

The new economy with a sense of mutual responsibility should not only eliminate the harmful effects of actions, but also strive to eliminate injustice and social inequality, poverty and social exclusion by changing the standards of production and consumption. This is an alternative to the idea of Corporate Social Responsibility, which is sometimes perceived as a means to gain competitive advantage and strengthen the image of the company, and which is reproached for the inconsistency between its proclaimed values and the behaviour of entrepreneurs.

Enterprises are not just producers of wealth or job-creating environments, but instruments for the renewal of socio-economic life. The Economy of Communion proposes an organizational culture based on a paradigm of unity and a shift from a "culture of possession and consumption" to a "culture of giving" and participation in a community of goods, which functioned in the first Christian communities.

The proposed organisational culture implemented and executed in the Economy of Communion enterprises includes the following 7 aspects (colours):

— **internal environment:**

functioning of the company, participation in the decision-making process, creation of new jobs, implementation of a culture of giving, helping the needy

— **external environment:**

offering products to consumers and quality services at fair prices, fair relations and cooperation with competitors and other stakeholders, promoting a culture of giving outside the organization

— **ethics and staff formation:**

betterment of an employee through work, ethical and lawful activity, employees' striving to achieve the company's goals

— **quality of life and business operations:**

concern for the environment, concern for the health and well-being of employees and their family, adherence to safety, working conditions and hours, employee support and problem solving, community building

— **harmony at work and respect for the environment:**

Promoting employee initiative and teamwork, care for economical and sustainable use of resources, and the appearance and ambience of workplaces

— **education, instruction, knowledge:**

knowledge acquisition, entrepreneurial responsibility for employee development, promoting a culture of giving within the organization

— **communication:**

feedback and an open and frank climate in the company's internal and external environment, exchange of experience at local, regional and global level, contact with other enterprises of the Economy of Communion, reliable information for clients and consumers

Guidebook published at:

<https://www.edc-online.org/en/imprese-alias/linee-per-condurre-un-impresa.html>

Include a breakdown of profits in your business model

4

The following model of the tri-partite distribution of profits is proposed to the enterprises of the Economy of Communion:

- **1/3 for the sustainability and needs of the business, including:** capital building, new jobs, investments
- **1/3 for the development and formation of workers in the Economy of Communion, including:** educational programs, youth scholarships, publications, spiritual formation, development of scientific doctrine
- **1/3 to satisfy the basic necessities of a decent life for people living in deprivation, including:** maintenance, education, medicines, own business.

Depending on the business, the investments made, or the different situations, this model can be modified by the business managers in consultation with the local Economy of Communion Commission, but it is important to take into account all the 3 pillars above in the company's business plan.

If your activity, or the one you plan, is not an enterprise, but you still intend to give a percentage of your profits earned in other ways (such as in Christian practices like almsgiving or tithing on a regular basis – i.e. a tenth of the income) for social purposes, you may be interested in the Penny Communion initiative.

At a meeting with entrepreneurs on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Economy of Communion, the Holy Father Pope Francis said on February 4, 2017: “*The Economy of Communion will have a future if you give it to everyone...and he added ...A cheerful giver God loves*” (2 Corinthians 9:7) These words have been read as a call for the idea of the Economy of Communion to be taken up by people who are employed in various companies and institutions, in addition to entrepreneurs.

If you need start-up support...

5

The Penny Communion is addressed to people of good will who, working with their household budget, would like to make a regular monthly voluntary contribution to the social goals of the Economy of Communion. The essence of the Penny Communion is to practice the evangelical "widow's" penny of communion and systematically offer it, through the Economy of Communion, to projects carried out in the world and in Poland to reduce poverty and to form people in the spirit of giving. The initiative has resulted in an increase in the number of economic entities in Poland which have begun to practice the Economy of Communion in the same way.

The pillars of the Economy of Communion include supporting young people in starting socio-economic activities and education and formation. If you feel the need, you can take advantage of business incubators, internships, and even degree programs.

Business incubators

Economy of Communion has formed a platform of the Economy of Communion International Incubating Network (EoC-IIN) since 2016. It is a community of individuals and companies that share their talents and experiences to facilitate the growth of a new generation of entrepreneurs. Through its hubs, access points on all continents, it offers many useful services for the process of creating a socially-oriented enterprise based on trust, cooperation and reciprocity. The closest hubs are in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Croatia. In Europe, hubs are also in place in Calabria, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Online resources and remote tutoring are available. The network does not provide funding for the project, but during its creation it helps to build a fundraising strategy and advises on how to obtain funding. In addition to this network, in Germany, in cooperation with e.g. the Focolari Movement, there is the association Stark Macher e.V., whose aim is to discover the talents of young people and jointly search for their social usefulness through the implementation of various projects.

In Trzcianka (Wilga district) there is a retreat and formation centre for the Focolari Movement. Chiara Lubich, the founder of the Movement, while visiting "the town" had the desire that it be filled with all the colours of flowers, that is, with all aspects of life, and gave the place the name Mariapoli Fiore. In response to this desire, at the initiative of the Economy of Communion, a pre-incubator is now being set up. It is in the initial stages of organization, with its launch planned for September 2021. The pre-incubator aims to create transitional, environmentally unobtrusive workplaces in the spirit of the Economy of Communion. Plans include that the boiler house be modernised, CO₂ heating be based on the use of solar energy, as well as an office and online shop with products of cuddly toys modeled on saints (handicrafts).

Internships and courses in the business park

Within the Economy of Communion, production centers and business parks (Italian: poli produttivi) have been established. One of them is Polo Lionello Bonfanti, located in Tuscany, Italy. It is the first European center, working to unite more than 200 Italian companies identifying with the Economy of Communion.

One of the key activities of Polo Lionello is formation. There are thematic courses that can be attended on site or online (mostly in Italian), such as the School of Civil Economy <https://www.scuoladieconomiciacivile.it/>

Various programs and internships are offered for those involved in the Economy of Communion or who wish to learn more about it. Internships are organized locally or in various places around the world where the Economy of Communion operates.

For more information, visit (on):
<https://www.pololionellobonfanti.it/news>

Other such business parks in Europe are: Solidar in Rotselaar, Belgium, the Box in Augsburg, Germany, Polo Giosi Guella in Portugal and Polo Mariapoli Faro in Croatia.

Studies at Sophia University Institute in Loppiano near Florence, Italy

For those who wish to continue their academic path, Master's and Doctoral studies are offered at the Sophia University Institute. The Institute is located in the town of Loppiano, Italy, which since 1964 has been a centre of the Focolari Movement and a place for educating families, youth and adults in the Gospel way of life, similar to the Polish centre in Trzcianka, near Wilga. The inhabitants of Loppiano come from about 70 nations, which is an opportunity for dialogue and intercultural exchange in getting to know one another. The offer of studies is updated every year to respond to current needs. The fields of study offered include economics and management, Trinitarian ontology, political science, or the culture of unity. It is possible to realise the so-called double diploma in cooperation with other universities.

More information can be found at:
<https://www.sophiauniversity.org/it/>
and by emailing:
info@sophiauniversity.org



Remember:

formation

The idea of the Economy of Communion would not have come about if it were not for the Gospel being put into practice by a small group of people. The proposed organizational culture is only a form that needs substance in everyday life.

community, participation and co-responsibility

Capacities and experience, needs and gains – these are all potentials that, with the participation of others in a communion of goods, can create the conditions suitable for the growth of the common good and for conducting business in a responsible and sustainable manner.

gain, which is another human being

The Economy of Communion is not a CSR program or a marketing ploy to maximize profit. The dignity of the other is paramount to the ethics of the business conducted.

Links:

The Focolari Movement and the Economy of Communion

<http://focolare.org/poland/>

<http://focolare.org/>

<https://www.edc-online.org/>

Andrzej Miłkowski, Economics of Communion
miłkowski.a@gmail.com

International Incubation Network for the Economy of Communion (EoC-IIN)

<https://www.eoc-iin.org/>

HUB Czech Republic and Slovakia: Ludmila Barborková
info@ekonomikaspolecenstvi.cz

HUB Croatia: Peter Fabjan – peter.fabjan@uez.hr

HUB Spain: Roylán Quesada – eociin.spain@gmail.com

HUB Italy: Amelia Stellino – eoc.iin@edc-online.org

HUB Portugal: <https://eoc-iin.wixsite.com/hubportugal>

Polo Lionello Bonfanti

<https://www.facebook.com/pololionellobonfanti/>

<https://www.pololionellobonfanti.it/>

<https://twitter.com/pololionello>

<https://www.scuoladieconomiciacivile.it/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/67451200@N07/albums>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EDICSPA>

Other Economy of Communion Production Centers/Parks:

<http://www.solidar.be/>

<https://thebox-augsburg.de/>

<https://www.facebook.com/edc.portugal/>

<http://uez.hr/>

Starkmacher Association e.V.

<http://starkmacher.eu/>

Christian Röser – c.roeser@starkmacher.eu

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Sophia Sophia University Institute

<https://www.sophiauniversity.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/IstitutoUniversitarioSophia>

info@sophiauniversity.org

Pastoral Care 'Talent'

<https://duszpasterstwotalent.pl/>

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Warsaw 2021

ISBN 978-83-961114-2-5

TRÓSKA JEST BOSKA



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Projekt „Ekologia integralna encykliki Laudato Si’ w działaniu wspólnot Caritas i społeczności lokalnych” realizowany przez Caritas Polska, został dofinansowany ze środków Narodowego Funduszu Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej. Za treść opracowania odpowiada wyłącznie Caritas Polska.



Dofinansowano ze środków
Narodowego Funduszu
Ochrony Środowiska
i Gospodarki Wodnej