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At the Genfest the launch of a permanent Observatory on universal brotherhood



The Genfest 2012 in Budapest, 31 August to 2 September, will be the occasion for the launch of the **United World Project** - to give life to a permanent Observatory to better understand the impact of fraternity, “the forgotten principle” of modern history, in individual and collective choices. The project, conceived and developed by the young people of the Focolare, wants to collaborate with other youth associations and international networks.

For Francesco Ricciardi, one of its promoters, it is a matter of “enlarging our vision and seeing that every day millions of people choose to welcome, give, forgive, and to live as brothers and sisters. An extraordinarily concrete experience is already being lived out and at the same time daring, as is universal brotherhood.”

The idea for the project began to take shape in June 2011, during a weekend in preparation for the Genfest, The following September, an international committee was formed, which developed the initial idea to the point of articulating the project into three phases: **Network, Watch, Workshop.**

* **United World Network:** the forming of a network of young people in the whole world who will be asked to personally commit themselves, with their signature. Its end goal is to deepen the demand for a culture of universal brotherhood and the commitment to live the “golden rule”: do to others as you would want done to you.

* **United World Watch:** the constitution of an international permanent Observatory to examine activities and initiatives which in fact are done in order to generate an “increase in fraternity” in the social fabric, economic, cultural and political spheres of our world. To evaluate indicators of social cohesion, peace, openness and dialogue between persons of different cultures, of interdependence, of recognition of rights, of forgiveness and reconciliation, of inclusion and integration of peoples, of reduction, of inequalities, of respect for resources and the environment. In addition, the Observatory will also promote “the category of fraternity” through specific cultural initiatives.

* **United World Workshop:** the request to the UN to recognize the international interest in the World Unity Week, confirming and expanding even more the annual appointment that for over 15 years the Youth of the Focolare – together with many others – have been committed to, in order to give voice to universal brotherhood.

The first phase of the project will begin during the Genfest and will take place at the beginning of the next World Unity Week, on May 1, 2013, when the permanent Observatory will be officially inaugurated. Instead the process of recognition by the UN has already begun.

United World Project is aimed at all nations and all peoples, but this journey of fraternity wants to give a privileged status to Africa as the “prophecy of the third millennium.”

The logo, made by a young Italian youth, is composed of two circles. The inside one – traced out in pencil, to denote its vulnerability – represents the world. The outside one – blue in colour, to signify the universality of the skies – represents a protective cloak. Other religious or political meanings are excluded.

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Let's Bridge – Genfest 2012 is inserted in the Project “A United Europe for a United World – YOUNG IDEAS change Europe” as a final event of the project.