

Dossier – January 2017

Economy of Communion

What is the Economy of Communion? – EoC is an international movement that involves entrepreneurs, enterprises, associations, financial institutions, employees, managers, consumers, savers, academics, financial operators, disadvantaged people, citizens and families. The pillar of the EoC project is a network of enterprises and organizations committed to overcoming poverty and social injustice so as to contribute to a new economic system and a society based on communion.

The Novelty – Entrepreneurs who freely adhere to the project decide to share their business profits with three aims:

- Helping the disadvantaged by creating new jobs and satisfying primary needs, starting out from those who believe in the spirit of the project.
- Spreading the “culture of living” essential to the Economy of Communion project.
- Developing the business.

EoC is born from a spirituality of communion, practiced in everyday life; it combines efficiency and solidarity; it harnesses the strength of the culture of giving to change economic behavior; it believes that the poor are on the same level and have the same dignity as everyone and it works with the poor in a spirit of reciprocity and communion.

Institutional and Academic Acknowledgments – In 1998 Brazil’s Federal Government recognized the EoC as *«an innovative and efficient way to fight poverty and exclusion»* and awarded Chiara Lubich the National Order of the Southern Cross. The Focolare’s founder also received the Federal Republic of Germany’s Grand Cross of Merit from the President Johannes Rau (2003) as well as being awarded with honorary degrees in Economics and Social Science from universities in Poland, Brazil, Argentina and Italy.

Industrial Parks – A fundamental and typical element of the EoC project, these industrial parks are an integral part of the Focolare “little towns”. There are currently 6 EoC industrial parks: in Argentina, Brazil (2), Croatia, Italy, and Portugal. They are spaces for entrepreneurs, academics and economists to work together and to witness the concrete nature of the project.

Cultural Novelty – EoC gives life to a new movement of thought as well as dialoguing at local and international levels with contemporary culture and civil and social economics.