

The Economy of **Communion**

a n e w c u l t u r e

THE EOC AFTER 18 YEARS

ECONOMY OF COMMUNION

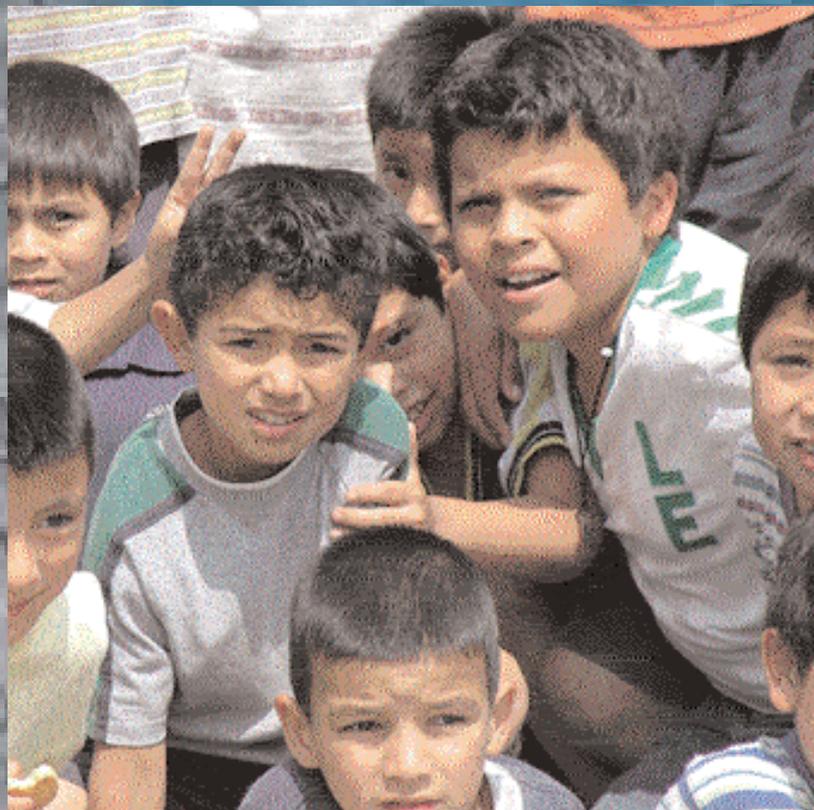
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THE ECONOMY OF COMMUNION AFTER 18 YEARS

Alberto Ferrucci

On May 29, 2009, the Economy of Communion (EoC) project reached adulthood, and with Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical "Caritas in Veritate", it seems like a sign that in this same year the universal Church recognized it as its own. Today, Chiara Lubich, the foundress of the Focolare Movement who announced the project 18 years ago and gave it to us, admires it from heaven "already" as it should be, as one of the pearls of her charism of unity.



Now it's our turn to bring it ahead, day by day, towards what it should be, conscious that this isn't only for us. Since the very beginning, the EoC was thought of for all of humanity,

which, now in a current economic crisis, awaits it more and more each day.

To spread the project, it's necessary to know how to elaborate, transmit and enhance its messages with the concrete experiences of those who already live them out. Therefore, there is need of concrete experiences, theoretical and media-savvy elaboration, and the availability of the media. This is what motivates us to keep the website, www.edc-online.org, always updated and to translate its content in real time, currently done in five languages.

The Economy of Communion was born to help the needy and form people in the 'culture of giving'. Our magazine wants to document the spiritual and material results of the project, as well as spread the theoretical reflections that come from it and which mark the reciprocity towards all who support it. It is translated in various languages, and beginning with this issue, the Italian version will be sent to all who are shareholders of EdC Spa, the business which manages the Italian Industrial Park named after Lionello Bonfanti, located alongside the Movement's small town of Loppiano near Florence.

Various times in the past, we have provided news in the magazine about the amount and the destination of the businesses' shared profits and the contributions from private individuals. While, in 2008, this information was published in a specific report, this year we've dedicated an issue of the magazine to the report so that the data reaches a more vast and international audience.

This is not, however, only a collection of tables full of numbers and graphics. We also want to report the result of the analysis and reflections about various aspects of the project over these years. We've done this by presenting experiences about the life of communion, within the businesses and in the environments in which they operate. Our reflections on how to use the funds for the formation in a culture of giving have also been added, as well as those on how to truly help people in need, respecting the paradigm of fraternity and doing everything we can to help them pay back the loan as soon as possible, avoiding dependency.

There is also a description of various projects geared towards creating new jobs for people in need and formational activities on the culture of communion, particularly those taking place at the Sophia University Institute at Loppiano. There, 50 graduate students coming from different parts of the world are now starting the second year of the Masters Program in Culture of Unity. Following the first year focused on the theological-philosophical sphere, they are now delving into politics and economy.

The tables that summarize the profits gathered and how they're used, both from businesses and personal contributors, show the amounts nation by nation. Instead, in the final graphs, we've added data regarding what type of intervention was made.

It's our pleasure to see that, with respect to previous years, notable progress has been made in the creation of new jobs. And thanks to the collaboration with the Action for a United World (AMU), we've taken a step forward in defining, organizing and assisting projects in various parts of the world.

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“TO GIVE”



“Culture of giving’... Are these words not perhaps the antidote to that “culture of having” and possessing so dominant today, precisely in economy? Yes, certainly. These words – the culture of giving – stand for that characteristic culture which our Movement brings and spreads in the world: the culture of love”.

“Give, give - put ‘giving’ into practice. Make the culture of giving arise and grow. Give whatever we have extra, or even what is necessary if that’s what our heart suggests. Give to who doesn’t have, knowing that this way of using our things produces immeasurable interest, because our giving opens God’s hands. And He, in His providence, fills us in abundance so that we can continue to give and receive again, and, in this way, be able to meet the immense needs of many”.

“The cause of the Economy of Communion does not demand that we love only the needy, but everyone, because this is what the spirituality of unity asks of us. Therefore, it wants us to love all those who are involved in the business”.

“Let’s give always, let’s give a smile, understanding and forgiveness; let’s listen; let’s give our intelligence, our will and availability; let’s give our experiences and capabilities. Giving: let this be the word that gives us no respite”.

Chiara Lubich

Chiara Lubich, *Four Aspects of the Economy of Communion to Underline*, speech at the convention “Ten years of the EoC”, in Castel Gandolfo (Rome), April 2001.

BEYOND THE CRISIS WITH THE EOC

Luigino
Bruni



Two-thousand eight and 2009 will be remembered as the years of the global economic crisis, a crisis that has roots in the transformation of the economic system, no longer based on real economy but always more on that of finance. What has emerged is a fragile, empty system that concentrates wealth in the hands of few and passes on the costs to the community. In the last two centuries, it is the most dramatic manifestation of a process that has led to the substitution of a personal search for private well-being for the collective search for the common good, at all costs.

We believe, in fact, that the crisis underway is not so much an economic one, but is above all a cultural and moral one, regarding our lifestyle and our relationship with goods and with others. With the arrival and development of the industrial and technological society, in fact, we have progressively deceived ourselves into thinking we are capable of “immunizing” ourselves from personal relationships and the “wounds” that these inevitably cause. Instead, we aim always more at accumulating money as a means of satisfying needs, as a “status symbol”, and as a vehicle of relationships. And then from here, we have moved on to debt pile-up, the mad dash for goods, but also to trusting our own “securities” to money. We have not realized that, in this way (by distancing ourselves from human relationships), we

have become immune to happiness itself, to the fact that one can only “live” in the dramatic encounter with others. Above all, there is need for a cultural change. Never as in this last year has this been so evoked, necessary and awaited.

History shows that great changes, even in the economy, have come from charisms. These are gifts that Providence brought about in order to offer answers and indicate ways to men and women in times of crisis. From Saint Benedict to Gandhi, from Francis to Father Milani, charisms have been concrete answers to concrete needs - not ideologies, but acts of love.

We are convinced that the EoC is one of these gifts that the Spirit has brought about, within the Focolare Movement, in these times of epochal crisis. They are times in which the market economy is trying to move beyond capitalism (profit as the purpose of business, consumption as the purpose of a citizen), and saving civilization’s inclination from the market economy. The reference to the businesses of the Economy of Communion in Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (n. 46), is a great sign of hope, and an encouragement to all of us to go ahead, with greater force and generosity, along the road begun.

The history

In May of 1991, Focolare founder Chiara Lubich was walking

through the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and was touched by seeing firsthand, next to one of the greatest concentration of skyscrapers in the world, the vast extension of “favelas” that existed there. When she reached the Movement’s small town near Sao Paulo, Mariapolis Araceli (today called Mariapolis Ginetta), she ascertained that the communion of goods practiced in the Movement up until that point was not enough, not even for those Brazilians who she felt so close and who were living in an emergency situation. Pushed on by the urgency of providing food, shelter, medical treatment, and possibly work - and with Pope John Paul II’s recently published encyclical, “Centesimus Annus” in her heart - Chiara launched the Economy of Communion:

“Industries must begin here, businesses in which profits would be freely put in common with the same goal of the Christian community: first of all, to help those who are in need, offer them work, make it possible that there be no one in need. Then, the profits also serve to develop the business and the structure of the small town so that it can form new men and women. Without new men and women, it is not possible to make a new society! A small town like this, here in Brazil, with its wound of discrepancy between rich and poor, could become a beacon of hope” (May 29, 1991).

The “dream” of that moment became a reality in the midst of the contradictions of our times: businesses and activities soon arose, not only in Brazil, but in many other countries in the world. Industrial parks began in the various small towns of the Focolare; businesses that already existed made the project their own, changing their style of management and the allocation of profits.





USE OF THE RESOURCES

The EoC project is worldwide, unique and articulated - according to the principle of subsidiarity - at the local or zonal level.

Each business that adheres to the project distributes its own profits in three parts, giving importance to each of these parts in order to align business practice with Chiara's invitation of dividing profits into three-thirds. The first goes to consolidate the business, another to help those in need, and the last towards the formation of new men and women.

The management of the last two-thirds is entrusted to the International EoC Commission, which evaluates requests and needs coming from all over the world. The Commission allocates the resources to activities which directly help those in need and to activities that provide formation towards the "culture of giving".

The profits allocated for the business, and which remain in it, are invested by the business. They are used towards its functioning and development, focusing primarily on creating new jobs.

The activities which help those in need are also financed by personal, spontaneous donations from members of the Focolare Movement. This transforms the experience of communion into one not only among businesses but "of a people".

Among the objectives of the development and assistance projects carried out in the EoC, the first is that of building fraternal and reciprocal relationships between persons and communities. This is why the aid offered never covers all that is needed. Rather, it is integrated alongside the resources of who is helped and the help he receives from his local community.

In fact, before everything else, the local communities try living the communion of goods by putting all that could be extra and useful to others into circulation. Often, in this way, they are able to resolve some situations of need and to reduce requests for help.

Without a locally lived communion of goods, no type of external intervention will be able to help people get out of poverty's trap. External help can even worsen the situation in some cases, creating vicious cycles of well-fare dependency.

From this point of view, interventions made are characterized by the personal relationships which we try to build between those who manage the funds on-site and the people who make use of them. Usually, this also leads to sharing deeper sufferings.

The relationship of collaboration and communion built makes many of those helped feel the desire to reciprocate the gift received, in the most

various ways. And many, as soon as they are able to maintain themselves autonomously, give up that aid in order to offer it to others.

Being able to reciprocate often leads people to feel that they are already out of their previously difficult situation, stimulating self-esteem and a spirit of initiative, and allowing them once again to start looking at life with trust. This is why we continually search for more ways to calculate models which stimulate reciprocity already during the planning phase of an intervention project.

Among those who receive aid, there is almost always a number who contribute to the actions taken with a part of the economic resources necessary. For example, students look for a part-time job to pay for their food and housing expenses at the university; or during the start-up of a small business, they give up part of their salary at the beginning, so that they can put those profits back into the business itself, and so on. Very often, among the recipients of aid, there are those who immediately commit themselves to do something for others, to indirectly give back the support received. Some offer after-school lessons for children. Others give a hand in the activities of a social center for the elderly, etc.





“With respect to last year, there are fifteen people who no longer need the help, among them M., of who we report this experience: We feel obliged to inform you about our current family situation. We’ve received help for a few years, for which we are extremely grateful. We built our house while our family grew – five children have arrived and enriched our family!

We feel that God has always been very close and has generously rewarded our ‘yes’ to life. Our house is not big, and it is not complete, but we have all that is necessary. We even have a nice garden, which is useful for us and the children. We even have transportation, necessary because public transportation almost does not exist.

Our financial situation has recently improved, so we no longer need the help. Besides the concrete help, we have experienced that using money which is fruit of the communion of goods, ‘God’s capital’, has been educational for us and for our children. We thank you again for the help that has made us experience the love of God through our brothers and sisters”.

These projects made it possible for the 28 families helped to be able to not only have regular, daily meals or to fix their houses, but also to grow together in fraternity, solidarity and reciprocity. For example, one woman wanted to offer her time to help the local coordinators who keep in touch with beneficiaries, so she made time to visit another person in need. Another gave her time to help in the kitchen during formation meetings of the community. The families who had received help to fix bedrooms hosted some people who needed a place to stay, while receiving medical treatment or other situations, and they opened their houses to host community meetings.

In general, we noticed that many have been more attentive to the needs of others and have shared what they have among each other, concretely helping with their time, for example, painting houses, or simply offering a cup of rice to those who do not have anything to eat.

Sao Paolo, Brazil

Southeast Europe



MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECTS AND FORMATION OF LOCAL COUNTERPARTS

The experience in these years has reinforced the desire to help each person in the best way possible, finding the most adequate solutions for them, and aiming at doing so in a competent and prepared way. This involves accurate evaluation of interventions made, to use the experience for the future, and the continual formation of the workers responsible for managing the aid activities on-site.

In 2008, we have already held a few formational seminars for our local workers in Brazil, involving more than 50 people. In 2009, we are preparing a seminar on formation in cooperation and project management, which will take place in Brazil in February 2010.

The following are pieces of news related to the projects financed in the last few years and which were received from the local EoC commissions. They highlight the process underway which aims at an always better preparation for managing the projects.

■ Brazil *Integrating income, Sao Paulo*

According to needs, this distribution was monthly or bimonthly, in order to follow each beneficiary's particular situation.

The projects were overseen by 7 appointed people who live close to the beneficiaries and act as contact points for these projects. These people carried out their work voluntarily, personally assuming related costs. Now, we feel the need to further improve this aspect, by hiring a full-time person to follow these projects.

■ Mexico

The work completed this last year, through careful evaluation done together over the situation of every person being helped, continues to give fruit.

The method which we try to follow has three stages: 1) identify the needs; 2) understand if they can be met through the communion of goods in the local community; and 3) there where help on behalf of the EoC seems necessary, make known from where the help originates.

We try to place economic help side-by-side with formation to the culture of giving, especially for the youth. Our goal and hope is that they truly become "new men and women" in the future who can, in their turn, contribute to helping others.

FROM BUSINESS TO THE COMMUNITY

One of the characteristics of the EoC, in fact, is not only trying to manage profits with communion, but to make it a lifestyle and way of conducting business on all levels: within the business, with clients and suppliers, with public institutions and with the competition. In this way, sharing isn't just "downstream" from the productive process, as far as how the produced wealth is used, but is an "upstream" inspiration to the way in which wealth is generated. The following are two experiences from Eastern Europe related to this aspect:

T: "Our business was founded in 1991. Then, in 1999, I became our second associate.

For me, it's fundamental to run our business in three: the two of us associates and God. We take all the important decisions together. One time, I went to talk to I. about buying a shed because we needed a place to store materials. I had already seen it, and it seemed like a great solution, being close, not costing very much, etc. I was already trying to understand how to finance it. Going to I., I had my proposal already complete, and I expected that he would simply say, 'Yes, okay'. I felt that this was not communion. So I left all my documents in the car, and I went inside, wanting only to make this an



experience of unity. When I presented him with my point of view, I told me very delicately that he didn't think it was a good choice. It wasn't easy to give up my idea, but in that atmosphere, I understood that it was right to not take further action. A year later, it was very clear that the choice made together was the better one for our small business".

I.: "Our collaborators are paid in proportion to their personal productivity. Among them was a person with a mental disability. I explained to the others that it would be easier for me to fire her rather than work with her, but I ask everyone to pay special attention to her, to help her out. It was very beautiful to see that, after awhile, they made the proposal to divide all of the production done together into equal parts among all the employees. When I decided to open a new environmental projects business, many people warned me about the fact that without advantageous relationships with government employees, it would be impossible to be successful, and especially, to win public contracts. With our shareholders, however, we decided to choose only 'clean work', competing for public contracts without making compromises, without offering favors of any kind to the administrators, with the risk that our business wouldn't survive. As soon as we signed the con-

tract for the first big public competition that we won, we received a request for payoff, under the threat that without it, we wouldn't receive the necessary information to carry out our task. After a very demanding discussion for everyone, because it was uncertain how we could continue our work, we decided to refuse the payment. There were no consequences. We received the contract, obtained the necessary data for the project and successfully finished our work. This experience encouraged us, and we went ahead with the same strategy. We tried to maintain a clear line of refusal, while also trying to not slam the door on anyone at the level of personal relationship.

Most recently, against all expectations, we saw that we were assigned a job together with other associated businesses. We wondered how it was possible, especially as our competitors had offered more advantageous prices. We then discovered that one of our associates, without our knowing it, had pressured a public administrator to tamper with the competition documents so that the choice fell on us. It was a hard blow for us. We felt trapped by our friends. After speaking with the associate in question, who then admitted the dishonest action, we decided to go for broke. Before the winner of the concourse was made

official, we turned to the public administrator, asking him to put the other businesses back into the competition. In this way, we obviously lost the work, but we gained back a trustful relationship and renewed friendship with our associate, who undersigned a declaration of honesty in front of us.

Following this line, we failed to obtain various very important projects as well, and this has certainly not left us indifferent. But sometimes I ask myself where our business would be if we had taken another road. Perhaps, having following what "everyone" does, would we now have more collaborators and higher salaries? Or would we find ourselves having to face serious judicial problems?

With the businesses with which we more closely collaborate, a new, fresh, freeing culture is being established. These taboo topics are also beginning to be spoken about, and this encourages us to continue along this road".

THE PROJECTS

Francesco Tortorella

Poverty, misery, and exclusion are concepts that do not identify one unique situation but take on different connotations in every context, in every era, and for every person. There are some instances in which suffering is due to age or illness, others to the temporary lack of income, to hardships caused by calamities, and to lack of instruction. In some situations of poverty, it is possible to redeemed oneself – by acquiring professional formation, for example, or obtaining credit for starting one's own business. Instead other situations, instead, that can be eased but never completely overcome – a permanent disability, a chronic illness, or an insufficient pension. Temporary poverty and structural poverty should be faced in different ways, with interventions that are different and adequate for each situation.

That is why we have undertaken a process in the last few years of defining and specializing the businesses. In particular, this is done always more frequently where the profits of the EoC businesses are committed towards investing in the future of those helped, in order to face those situations of hardship from which it is possible to get out. The goal is to create, where possible, new productive jobs in the EoC businesses and to sustain the launch of micro-businesses. With outside help, one would be able to redeem oneself with his own work.

In other cases, the help is an investment in instruction and in the professional formation of youth. Support is offered to complete basic studies, either university or professional, in such a way as to have the best possibilities to get into the working world, therefore, to a better future. This investment



is that which we feel we need to develop always more.

But in helping those in need, one also deals with situations of “chronic poverty”, in which there is need to offer assistance to support basic needs: income support, medical assistance, housing improvements and maintenance. This type of help is now predominately financed by the spontaneous communion of goods at the local level by members of the Focolare Movement, and only by means of subsidies with the help of the EoC businesses.

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

The first area in which interventions are made with development projects is that of work. In most cases, when the EoC offers help to start up new businesses or consolidate those which already exist, part of the help is free and the other part is given as a loan. With this goal, a local loan fund is made which gives microcredit and, therefore, is maintained by the progressive return of funds.

The financed activities are always characterized by the creation of new jobs for the needy, previously needing long-term help, and who are now able to earn what is necessary with their own work.

Here we report are few of the current actions starting out in 2009:

■ Ivory Coast *Chicken raising, Abidjan*

Two young veterinary technicians and an expert administrative director began a chicken farm with the goal of selling naturally- raised, quality chickens. The project aims at carrying out professional formation courses and at giving work to other youth in the next few years.

■ Brazil

“Fast food” restaurant, Cascavel

In order to respond to the dramatic situation of minors who are abandoned or taken from their families by social services, a couple adopted seven babies with serious health problems. With the EoC's contribution, they are starting a small “fast food” restaurant, selling homemade goods, which will allow them to increase their family income and be able to sustain the children's medical treatment.

Artisan bakery, Jandaia do Sul

The EoC contribution will help consolidate a small artisan bakery managed by a mother, who until now sold her products in factories and businesses, transporting the goods by bicycle.

With the acquisition of an automobile for deliveries and the hiring of a second person as a cook, the small business will be able to give stable income to two families.





***Agricultural excavation,
Palmares do Sul***

The EoC help is aimed at re-launching the activity of a small agricultural excavation business, which was forced to interrupt its activity because of an intense season of rain. It was possible to repair the excavator used by the family as a source of income, also allowing one of the children to go back to school after having interrupting her studies to help out with family needs.

***Sales representative,
Curitiba***

Thanks to a small loan it will be possible to replace the old car with which the father of a family carries out his work as a sales representative, allowing his business to remain active.

***Family pizza business,
Catalão***

For a number of years, a group of families have organized their free time to make pizzas and deliver them to people's homes. Their aim is to fund activities which offer formation to the "culture of giving". Starting this year, with the help of the EoC, the voluntary business will become a true and proper small business, giving regular work to six people.

The following is a brief summary of the results of a few projects supported over the last few years:

■ **Serbia**

Mushroom cultivation, Becej

The local EoC commission wrote: D. and E. are happy and thankful for the microcredit obtained, because with this activity they are able to earn what is necessary to support their families. This year, they were able to pay back the first installment of the loan and have set aside an equal sum to invest in expanding production. Even their son enthusiastically helps in the business. He has occasional work but sees mushroom cultivation as a possibility of a stable and profitable job.

At the end of the year, they gave a certain amount of mushrooms as a gift for the poor and another part for the formational centers of the community.

■ **Croatia**

Agricultural business, Krizevci

"We're in our fourth year of business as an orchard and are expecting our first significant harvest of plums (nearly 30 tons). Thanks to the machines that we were able to buy with the microcredit, all 3.5 hectares of our land were well-cultivated. Our professional assistance is assured by the Regional Institute of Fruit Farming and an Italian entrepreneur. Every year, we receive a contribution from the state, and a few

Serbian entrepreneurs cover the costs of treatments. In 2008, thanks to the second EoC loan, we were able to hire an unemployed person at full-time.

Now, in order to assure good production, an irrigation system should be installed. The preparatory work has already been done, and we're looking for funding."

Sock production, Krizevci

"In 2008, there was a rise in sock production. Thanks to the purchase of a new machine, financed by an EoC microcredit, we gained access to an announcement for supply to the Minister of Internal Affairs. Sales to our main client also grew throughout the year. This all made it possible to hire another person.

The salaries of our workers are low, even if they are, on the average, in the top 40% of the average industry salaries in Croatia.

In the last few months, we've felt a slump in sales. Plus, the state reduced the time we had to pay our taxes, our suppliers want payment in advance, and our buyers want more time to pay their invoices. When we began production, all our machines were already more than 20 years old, so we need to substitute some of them now. Small businesses like ours are not able to go into debt, but we're looking for backers."



SUPPORT FOR BASIC EDUCATION, AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL FORMATION

Education is a fundamental component for the growth of every person and every community. It's a right that ought to be guaranteed, and the exclusion of people and classes of the population from its benefits cannot be allowed. Ensuring education from an early age is also an investment in the future of the young generations, in their possibility to live a dignified life and to fulfill their own aspirations. Often, the aid offered by the EoC in this area serves to help with school and university taxes, professional courses and the cost of school books, as well as transportation and housing for students who must live in university cities far away from their families.

The photo in the upper right corner shows some of the students who are taking advantage of an EoC scholarship in Brazil, and below is some news that has arrived from the north of the country:

Belem, Brazil

"I'm from an inland city in the state of Pará, where my parents live. Since last year, my brother and I have had to rent a room in a nearby city where we study, as the distance from our city makes it too far to commute everyday. With the apartment, we were able to begin

our studies. Despite the fact that we attend a public university, the monthly expenses of living in another city were too high for our parents.

I had the chance to participate in the EoC scholarship program, in order to reduce our expenses a little. In the meantime, my brother needed to undergo some costly medical exams, and we found ourselves in a delicate situation. The scholarship became the help that arrived "just in the right moment" because we didn't have enough to pay our rent".

"My parents are separated, and we're three at home: my mom, me and my little brother. My mom had to begin studying again in order to not lose the years built up at her job and be able to obtain a good pension plan. At the same time, I had finished high school and was starting college. To not weigh too much on my mom, I have a small job as a manicurist and sell various products... I receive an EoC scholarship, which is a gift because it covers the costs of transportation and study materials. This aid was particularly precious at a certain point last year. The work I do can only be done on the weekends, and for a number of weeks I couldn't work because of health problems and university commitments. With all of these unexpected events, it was only thanks to the scholarship that I was able to take all my classes without compromising our family budget. At that point,

my heart was filled with gratitude... the aid has always been precious to me, but that month it had become essential".

"At home, we're 8 brothers and sisters, my mom, who is a housewife, and my stepfather who works as a bicycle repairman. Our economic situation is very difficult because all of our earnings are not enough to support our family. I work in a small store, but the earnings are little and aren't enough to pay for more education.

Plus, since I always studied in public schools, I didn't have an adequate cultural foundation to try for a state university program, in which it is very hard to get accepted.

Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to prepare myself better for the exam, and I was accepted in the Liberal Arts Department".

ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

There are some situations of poverty from which, for various reasons, there is no way out. Here, we're dealing with forms of "chronic" poverty, which nevertheless can be lightened. In the course of the 20th century, in many countries in the world, the state progressively took on the weight of this function by creating so-called "welfare" systems, in the healthcare, pensions and employment, etc. In the last few decades, nevertheless, the state is slo-



wly renouncing the role of worrying about assisting its own citizens, delegating the job more and more to the private sector. One of the consequences of this evolution is the increase in costs for citizens. Therefore, families who do not have sufficient income to sustain a pension fund or health insurance are excluded from access to services. An unexpected illness or loss of a job risks being transformed into a chronic situation of indigence if there is not a community ready to offer support.

In these cases, the EoC offers support to sustain family income, to face medical treatments or to fix-up rooms. Some experiences which have reached us from around the world can give an idea of the importance of this type of help:

Croatia

“Other than a small apartment, we don’t own anything. We don’t have a car, and we don’t travel or go on vacation. We have old furniture and we don’t do anything which costs money...we live modestly and spend only on the necessary: rent, food and clothing. This is why we’re grateful for the help we receive and conscious of the greatness of love that is among us all”.

M. and S. have 5 children, 4 of which still live with them. Because of a serious illness, S. had to retire. Two of their children, still young, have health

problems and the help from the EoC serves to pay for specialized speech and physical therapy. They write us: “We can’t say that we don’t have bread, but this help makes life lighter. Despite our attention to every cent, it is only because of this help that our children are able to attend the needed speech therapy in our city. And this year we will also have to pay for one of them to stay in another city until he can attend a special school”.

A. is a widow and lives with two children who study. She has a chronic illness and always needs to take medicines. She doesn’t work. She writes, “One time I went to buy a medicine, but I saw that it was too expensive for me, so I decided not to take it. That afternoon, the help from the EoC arrived and I understood that I had to buy that medicine, in order to serve my family and community better”.

“Thank you for this help, because without it, it would be very difficult for my family to do all it needs to do. Our biggest problem is health, which is also reflected in our economic situation. One of the children depends completely on our care, and requires that we spend a lot of time with him. We truly reach the end of every month with fatigue and the rising prices worry us, but also thanks to your help, a month passes by unexplainably lighter. We have taught our children

the value of modesty and they don’t have very many needs. I hope one day that we will also be able to help someone”.

I. and I. are both advanced in age and live off of the produce of their land. Last summer, a large fire broke out on the island where they live. It lasted a few days and burned their olive grove full of century-old trees. Now, they can no longer sell the oil that supported them and so, with the help of the EoC, we try to comfort their suffering. They do not have children and feel that we are their large family.

Bosnia

“I live with my sick mother-in-law and two children. The biggest expenditure in my annual budget is the cost of heating during the winter. So this year I have been thinking for awhile. I was invited to spend a few days at a meeting of the Focolare community. My economic situation didn’t allow for it. We talked about this at home, and everyone encouraged me to go. When I arrived, I received the help from the EoC – exactly the sum necessary for the wood. With this action begun by Chiara Lubich, I felt her motherly care and that of many others. Thank you to her and to others for the light that is burning in my life, and which I don’t want to ever go out”.

FORMATION OF “NEW MEN AND WOMEN”

Benedetto
Gui



Chiara Lubich affirmed various times that *“without new men and women, there is no new society”*. And, as the ambitious objective of the EoC is that of contributing to the transformation of society, it is necessary to form “new men and women” capable of living the culture of giving – renewed people who know how to choose communion as a lifestyle, every day, and even in economic activity.

That’s why, each year, a part of the profits put in common by businesses who adhere to the project is allocated to activities which form people in the culture of giving and of communion. These activities involve those in need, young students, families, workers, entrepreneurs, etc: people of every culture and social stratus, throughout the world, who are in various ways participants of the EoC experience. It is an investment that reinforces the culture of gratuitousness and of reciprocity. It ensures that many needy people, even in the future, will be able to find support in a community that is alive, one that lives the economy of communion.

There are various types of activities financed in this sphere. Mostly, they are actual formation activities like conventions, seminars and intensive courses. An example would be the courses which take place in the small towns of the Focolare Movement and which are always more geared towards the youth.

This year, too, about 90 youth from various countries in Latin America will be able to take advantage of EOC support in their year-long experience at the Focolare little city of O’Higgins, in Argentina. They will work in some of the businesses that adhere to the spirit of the EoC and will follow formational courses on the culture of giving and on socio-political topics.

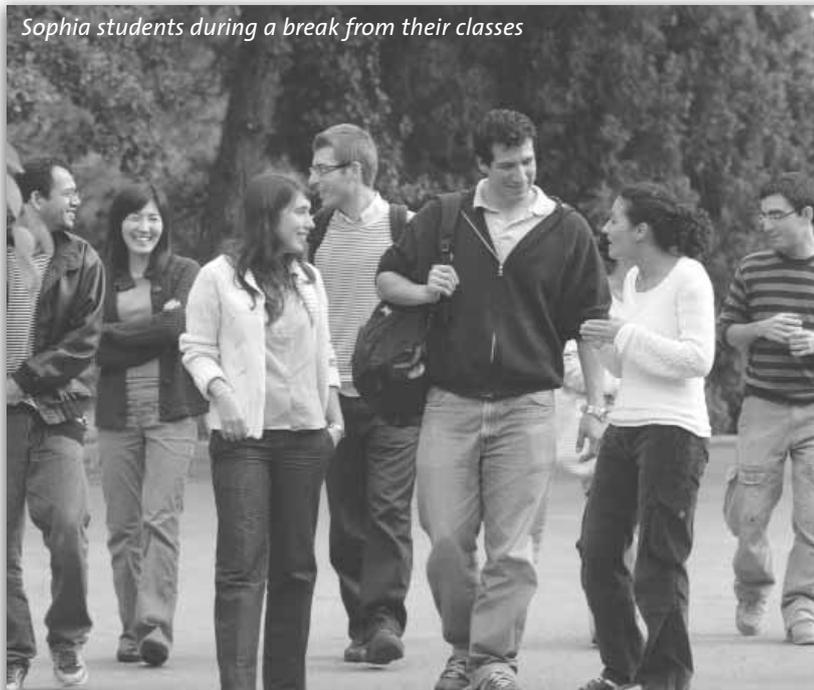
Other significant topics regard the development and printing of formational materials and the construction or maintenance of buildings used for formation meetings, especially within the small towns of the Focolare Movement.

Starting last year, and also in

2009, a significant part of the resources for the formation of “new men and women” will be allocated for the Sophia University Institute, which is located in the small international town of Loppiano near Florence, Italy, which hosts students from all over the world. The Institute offers Master’s degrees in “Principles and Perspectives of a Culture of Unity”, following two tracts: theological-philosophical and political-economical.

The particular formative project and academic method of the Institute foresee as a priority that study and life integrate and become one reality. Students and professors commit themselves to placing a pact of reciprocal welcome at

Sophia students during a break from their classes





the basis of the didactic and formative activity, putting the “Word of Life” taken from the Bible into practice, and communicating experiences arising from such.

Study, research and lessons aim at instilling constant dialogue between professors and between the students and the professors. From this derives collaborative teaching on the part of the professors, and the personal and active contribution by students to shared research.

The theoretical lessons are integrated with practicals, guided tours, meetings with civil and ecclesial realities, with communities of the various Christian traditions, with representatives of the various religions and of the multiform expressions of contemporary culture. The course also includes internships or stages in various environments, particularly in professional, cultural and social spaces which are expressions of a “culture of unity” – for example, in the businesses of the Economy of Communion.

Finally, the funds for the formation of “new men and women” are also used to sustain special scholastic institutes which, in regular primary and secondary school programs, carry out tracts of formation in the culture of giving. In 2008, for example, we supported the Aurora School in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The following are some experiences of a few of it’s students:

Scuola Aurora, Sao Paulo (Brazil)

“Dear everyone, we want to thank you with all our heart for the chance that we have had to study this semester in the Aurora School. We came to the small town of the Focolare Movement to live an experience of the culture of giving. We’ve wanted to study at the Aurora School for a long time because it is a different school, whose teaching method is influenced by the spirituality of unity.

Other than being a fundamental part of our formation, this experience has been important for us because it has given us the opportunity to study in

such a high-level school. It was the first time that many of us studied in a private school. At the beginning, it seemed difficult, but the most beautiful thing was the help among us and the availability of the teachers who accompany us while we learn. At the end, it seemed that we were all at the same scholastic level.

We were 23 from 11 Brazilian states, and we stayed from June until mid-January. This experience was great, an immense deepening in Gospel-based life. We feel that we grew as people and as Christians. It will definitely remain as a point of light in our lives. We’re leaving now, but we want to bring this light wherever we are!”

Students of the Aurora School



COLLABORATION WITH AMU

Leo Andringa



The collaboration between the EOC and AMU, begun a decade ago, is always closer, more operative and fruitful. And since 2006, it has been significantly reinforced.

What is AMU?

The Action for a United World Non-Profit Association (AMU in its Italian acronym) was founded in 1986 with the goal of promoting cooperation projects in developing countries and spreading the culture of dialogue and unity between peoples everywhere. Inspired by the value of universal fraternity, on which the experience of the Focolare Movement is founded, AMU commits itself to beginning sustainable activities that set the stage for effective development.

Whether in dealing with the local social, cultural or economic realities, the association works together with the populations involved in a spirit of dialogue and reciprocal listening. Until now, the support initiatives begun in various countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe regard professional formation, agricultural and artisan development, the cure and prevention of diseases, basic education, support for basic necessities (housing, food, healthcare) and other social development and formational activities.

AMU is a non-governmental organization (NGO) recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be suitable for development projects, as

well as formation and education on development, both in Italy as in developing countries. It is also accredited by the Italian Minister of Public Instruction for the formation of school personnel on global topics and human rights.

Over the years, AMU has brought about 25 significant projects in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Lebanon, Croatia and the Philippines. It has also supported nearly 400 micro-projects, defining and adapting them to the level and needs of small communities in many countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

To know more about AMU, www.amu-it.eu.

The EOC-AMU Collaboration

AMU contributes its experience and competence in beginning and following development projects in developing countries. It also applies this experience in managing a portion of the profits shared by EoC businesses. The collaboration with AMU is especially oriented towards developing projects which begin or consolidate economic activities that create new jobs, but it also extends to other sectors of aid. In close collaboration with local EoC representatives, AMU evaluates proposals, examines the feasibility of projects and constantly follows their imple-





mentation. Throughout each project, AMU analyzes and evaluates the process through descriptive and financial reports sent by the local commissions. . This way, it can provide useful input to help improve projects, where needed, and keep the documentation that accounts for the project up-to-date. AMU wants to be as transparent as possible with regards to its donors – businesses or individuals – who can, in any moment, ask for news and to see documents of the projects being financed by them.

Between 2006 and 2008, AMU looked after the realization of 46 EoC projects and micro-actions in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay), Africa (Kenya, Uganda), Eastern Europe (Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia) and South East Asia (Indonesia), for a total of 558,000 euro.

During 2009, AMU followed 21 projects and micro-actions, totaling nearly 202,000 euro, in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay), Africa (Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda), Eastern Europe (Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia).

The Italian legislation allows businesses and individuals to deduct the contributions to NGOs up to 10% if their tax-

ble income.

Besides this, a recent ruling by the European Court of Justice (01/27/2009), has established that the benefits of sanctioned fiscal deductions given by a government should also be applied to the donations made by its own citizens in favor of entities present and running in other countries of the European Union. If, for example, a German citizen makes a donation to a German NGO and enjoys the benefit of a fiscal deduction, he should also be able to enjoy such a deduction when he makes a contribution to an Italian NGO. From now on, therefore, an individual citizen or a business that wants to donate a contribution to AMU and is resident of any EU country in which the fiscal deduction is foreseen, can deduct the contribution from his own taxable income.



SUMMARY OF THE 2009 EoC DATA

Leo Andringa

In this section, we present a global synthesis of the 2009 EoC project data. The following sections, instead, will distinctly illustrate the data relative to the profits put in communion by the businesses and those

relative to the personal contributions made by members of the Focolare Movement. The data of incoming funds (business profits and personal contributions) are based on the revenue received during

the period of October 2007 - September 2008. The data regarding outgoing funds refers to the expenditures in the period of October 2008 - September 2009.

Summary by Region

Region	INCOME €			EXPENDITURES €		
	Business Profits	Personal Contributions	Total Contributions	Aid projects	Formational Activities	Total
Sub Suharan Africa	759,79	3.093,00	3.852,79	108.404,14	8.500,00	116.904,14
Central America		12.335,00	12.335,00	65.592,71	7.000,00	72.592,71
North America	52.621,41	10.073,32	62.694,73			
South America	85.554,00	75.121,25	160.675,25	536.266,60	39.319,43	575.586,03
Asia	41.456,00	35.837,65	77.293,65	125.414,12	7.000,00	132.414,12
Eastern Europe	20.355,73	19.971,27	40.327,00	153.352,00	31.700,00	185.052,00
Western Europe	180.187,05	208.231,61	388.418,66		28.000,00	28.000,00
Italy	189.368,35	161.244,61	350.612,96			
Middle East and North Africa	3.340,00	7.788,00	11.128,00	23.052,00	7.000,00	30.052,00
Oceania		3.481,75	3.481,75			
Previous balance	104.768,54	153.287,34	258.055,88			
Focolare Movement Centers		49.289,03	49.289,03		10.300,00	10.300,00
Newsletter and EOC Report					11.117,00	11.117,00
University Institute Sophia					200.000,00	200.000,00
Administrative costs						55.791,24
Total	678.410,87	739.753,83	1.418.164,70	1.012.081,57	349.936,43	1.417.809,24



Zone	INCOME €			EXPENDITURES €		
	Business Profits	Personal Contributions	Total Contributions	Aid Projects	Formational Activities	Total
Angola ²		580,00	580,00	4.850,00		4.850,00
Cameroon ⁶		1.050,00	1.050,00	18.853,01	7.000,00	25.853,01
Ivory Coast ¹¹	609,79	718,00	1.327,79	10.812,00		10.812,00
Kenya ¹⁸		310,00	310,00	28.210,63		28.210,63
Madagascar ²¹	150,00	100,00	250,00	2.000,00	1.500,00	3.500,00
Nigeria						
Dem. Rep. Congo ²⁶				42.778,50		42.778,50
South Africa ³¹		335,00	335,00	900,00		900,00
Sub Saharan Africa	759,79	3.093,00	3.852,79	108.404,14	8.500,00	116.904,14
El Salvador ³		6.760,00	6.760,00	40.214,00		40.214,00
Haiti				760,00		760,00
Mexico ²²		5.575,00	5.575,00	20.496,71	7.000,00	27.496,71
Dominican Rep. ²⁸				4.122,00		4.122,00
Central America		12.335,00	12.335,00	65.592,71	7.000,00	72.592,71
Canada	10.212,11	2.032,10	12.244,21			
USA	42.409,30	8.041,22	50.450,52			
North America	52.621,41	10.073,32	62.694,73			
Argentina	3.109,00	7.836,00	10.945,00	77.258,93	11.819,43	89.078,36
Brazil	71.095,00	53.084,64	124.179,64	368.139,19	10.500,00	378.639,19
Chile ⁷	545,00	1.230,00	1.775,00	11.469,50		11.469,50
Colombia ⁹	4.134,00	5.963,61	10.097,61	38.760,30	8.000,00	46.760,30
Uruguay ⁴⁴	1.576,00	1.936,00	3.512,00	22.255,68	5.000,00	27.255,68
Venezuela ³⁵	5.095,00	5.071,00	10.166,00	18.383,00	4.000,00	22.383,00
South America	85.554,00	75.121,25	160.675,25	536.266,60	39.319,43	575.586,03
China ⁸	8.278,00	9.739,00	18.017,00	4.144,00		4.144,00
Korea ¹⁰	10.100,00	8.963,00	19.063,00	4.000,00		4.000,00
Philippines	22.254,00	5.262,00	27.516,00	92.661,12		92.661,12
Japan		7.934,45	7.934,45			
India ⁵		117,20	117,20	2.778,00		2.778,00
Pakistan ²⁴					3.000,00	3.000,00
South East Asia ¹⁶		2.038,00	2.038,00	14.075,00		14.075,00
Thailand ³²	824,00	1.784,00	2.608,00	7.756,00	4.000,00	11.756,00
Asia	41.456,00	35.837,65	77.293,65	125.414,12	7.000,00	132.414,12
Albania				12.447,00		12.447,00
Lithuania ²⁰		265,00	265,00	1.100,00		1.100,00
Poland ²⁵	1.180,00	4.210,00	5.390,00	23.937,00	3.000,00	26.937,00
Czech Rep.		458,00	458,00	5.458,00	6.000,00	11.458,00
Russia ²⁷		288,00	288,00	10.819,00	10.000,00	20.819,00
Slovak Rep. ²⁹	1.355,00	4.548,00	5.903,00	4.351,00		4.351,00
Slovenia ³⁰	1.210,00	3.115,00	4.325,00		2.500,00	2.500,00
South East Europe ⁵	13.711,00	5.045,00	18.756,00	95.240,00	10.200,00	105.440,00
Hungary	2.899,73	2.042,27	4.942,00			
Eastern Europe	20.355,73	19.971,27	40.327,00	153.352,00	31.700,00	185.052,00
Austria	8.315,30	25.045,19	33.360,49			
Belgium ⁴	73.850,00	18.460,00	92.310,00			
France	19.980,00	27.241,00	47.221,00			
Germany	5.682,64	37.542,65	43.225,29		28.000,00	28.000,00
Great Britain		5.000,00	5.000,00			
Ireland		600,00	600,00			
Holland ²³	7.027,54	12.360,92	19.388,46			
Portugal		18.293,29	18.293,29			
Spain	2.538,54	22.809,09	25.347,63			
Switzerland	62.793,03	40.879,47	103.672,50			
Western Europe	180.187,05	208.231,61	388.418,66		28.000,00	28.000,00
Italy	189.368,35	161.244,61	350.612,96			
Algeria ¹		1.590,00	1.590,00	3.500,00		3.500,00
Egypt ¹²	2.390,00	133,00	2.523,00	2.600,00	4.000,00	6.600,00
Jordan ⁴⁴		1.800,00	1.800,00	4.883,00	3.000,00	7.883,00
Lebanon ⁹	950,00	3.065,00	4.015,00	5.290,00		5.290,00
Holy Land ¹⁷				6.779,00		6.779,00
Turkey ³³		1.200,00	1.200,00			
Middle East and North Africa	3.340,00	7.788,00	11.128,00	23.052,00	7.000,00	30.052,00
Australia ³		3.481,75	3.481,75			
Oceania		3.481,75	3.481,75			
Previous balance	104.768,54	153.287,34	258.055,88			
Focolare Movement Centers		49.289,03	49.289,03		10.300,00	10.300,00
University Institute Sophia					200.000,00	200.000,00
Newsletter and EOC Report					11.117,00	11.117,00
Administrative costs						55.791,24
Total	678.410,87	739.753,83	1.418.164,70	1.012.081,57	349.936,43	1.417.809,24

Summary by Zone of the Focolare Movement

DESTINATION OF THE EoC BUSINESSES' PROFITS

In this section, we present a summary of the data related to the profits put in common by the businesses that adhere to the EoC, allocated to the typical project aims in 2009.

Zone	INCOME €	EXPENDITURES €		
	<i>Business profits</i>	<i>Aid projects</i>	<i>Formational activities</i>	<i>Total</i>
Angola ²		350,00		350,00
Cameroon ⁶		4.483,50	7.000,00	11.483,50
Ivory Coast ¹¹	609,79	9.792,36		9.792,36
Kenya ¹⁸		11.455,14		11.455,14
Madagascar ²¹	150,00	1.450,00	1.500,00	2.950,00
Nigeria				
Dem. Rep. Congo ²⁶		11.298,21		11.298,21
South Africa ³¹				
Sub Saharan Africa	759,79	38.829,21	8.500,00	47.329,21
El Salvador ³		1.914,95		1.914,95
Haiti				
Mexico ²²		5.685,48	7.000,00	12.685,48
Domenican Rep. ²⁸		2.064,21		2.064,21
Central America		9.664,64	7.000,00	16.664,64
Canada	10.212,11			
USA	42.409,30			
North America	52.621,41			
Argentina	3.109,00	14.358,17	11.819,43	26.177,60
Brazil	71.095,00	114.782,52	10.500,00	125.282,52
Chile ⁷	545,00	3.740,49		3.740,49
Colombia ⁹	4.134,00	11.231,06	8.000,00	19.231,06
Uruguay ²⁴	1.576,00	1.956,56	5.000,00	6.956,56
Venezuela ³⁵	5.095,00	4.308,52	4.000,00	8.308,52
South America	85.554,00	150.377,32	39.319,43	189.696,75
China ⁸	8.278,00	4.144,00		4.144,00
Korea ¹⁰	10.100,00	4.000,00		4.000,00
Philippines	22.254,00	20.220,73		20.220,73
Japan				
India ⁵		112,00		112,00
Pakistan ²⁴			3.000,00	3.000,00
South East Asia ¹⁶		7.980,27		7.980,27
Thailand ³²	824,00	4.213,14	4.000,00	8.213,14
Asia	41.456,00	40.670,14	7.000,00	47.670,14
Albania				
Lithuania ²⁰				
Polond ²⁵	1.180,00		3.000,00	3.000,00
Czech Rep.			6.000,00	6.000,00
Russia ²⁷			10.000,00	10.000,00
Slovak Rep. ²⁹	1.355,00			



Zone	INCOME €		EXPENDITURES €	
	Business profits	Aid projects	Formational activities	Total
Slovenia ³⁰	1.210,00		2.500,00	2.500,00
South East Europe ⁵	13.711,00	62.843,32	10.200,00	73.043,32
Hungary	2.899,73			
Eastern Europe	20.355,73	62.843,32	31.700,00	94.543,32
Austria	8.315,30			
Belgium ⁴	73.850,00			
France	19.980,00			
Germany	5.682,64		28.000,00	28.000,00
Great Britain				
Ireland				
Holland ²³	7.027,54			
Portugal				
Spain	2.538,54			
Switzerland	62.793,03			
Western Europe	180.187,05		28.000,00	28.000,00
Italy	189.368,35			
Algeria ¹		2.000,00		2.000,00
Egypt ¹²	2.390,00	700,00	4.000,00	4.700,00
Jordan ¹⁴		957,45	3.000,00	3.957,45
Lebanon ¹⁹	950,00	3.437,30		3.437,30
Holy Land ¹⁷		191,51		191,51
Turkey ²³				
Middle East and North Africa	3.340,00	7.286,26	7.000,00	14.286,26
Australia ³				
Oceania				
Previous Balance	104.768,54			
Focolare Movement Centers			10.300,00	10.300,00
University Institute Sophia			200.000,00	200.000,00
Newsletter and EOC Report			11.117,00	11.117,00
Administrative Costs				18.803,55
Total	678.410,87	309.670,89	349.936,43	678.410,87

Legend of geographic zones: see pg. 27

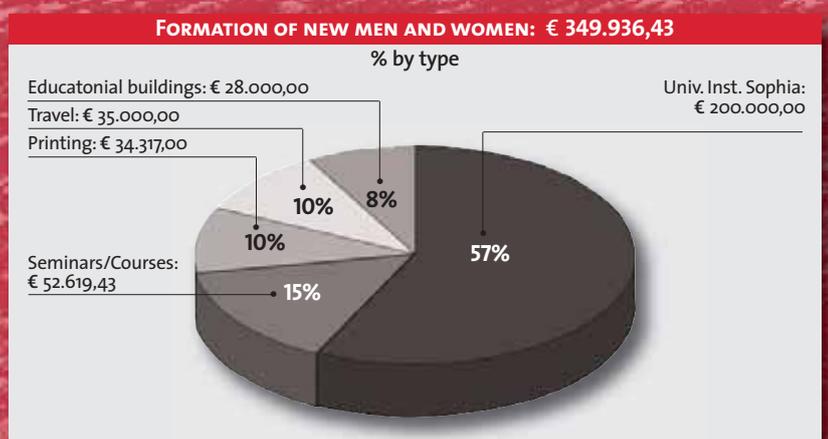
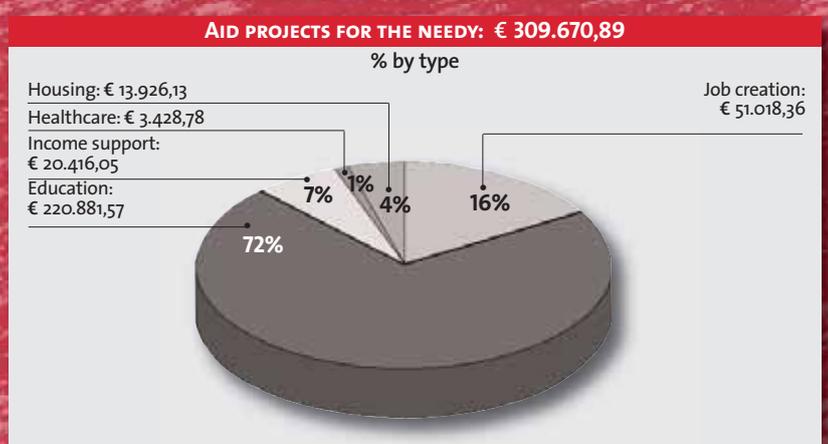
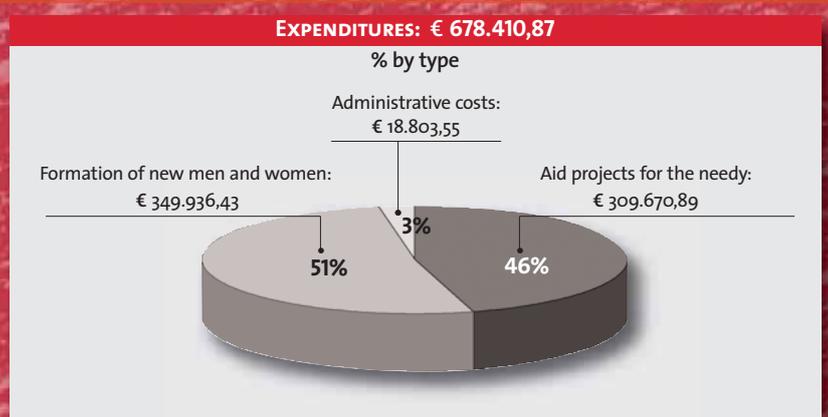


Expenditures

Respecting the project's objectives, 46% of the profits were allocated to the needy, 51% to formation activities of "new men and women", and 3% for management costs.

Seventy-two percent of the businesses' profits allocated to help those in need was invested in education and instruction, from primary school to university. Sixteen percent (eight times what was invested last year) was invested in projects that create new jobs or consolidate those at risk. The remaining twelve percent was allocated to housing and healthcare in emergency situations and to integrate low income.

Educational businesses' profits allocated for the formation of "new men and women" was mostly used to finance direct formational activities - among which 57% to the Sophia University Institute, 15% for seminars, courses and schools of formation in many zones of the world, 10% to finance trips to reach the places of formation, 10% for printing and 8% to maintaining structures aimed at formation.



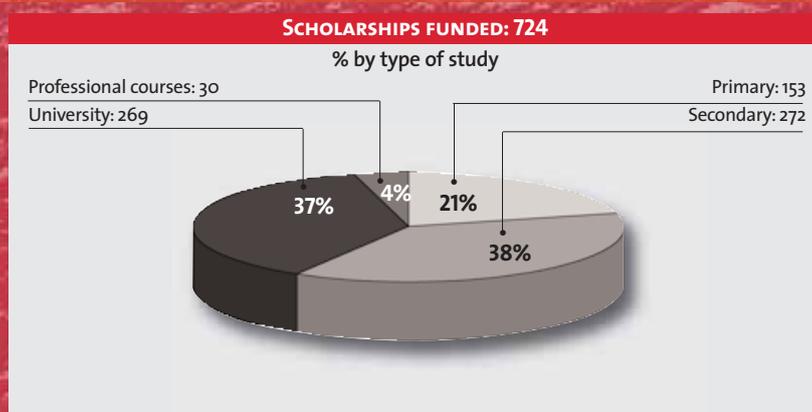
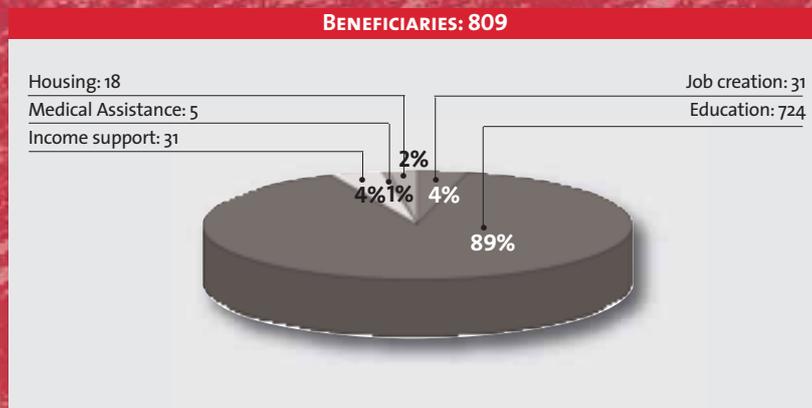


The beneficiaries of the projects

Beyond the hundreds of people who took advantage of formation activities, 809 others were helped directly with the businesses' shared profits. They took advantage of temporary help, necessary to cover urgent needs, and from the moment of the initial intervention until the beneficiaries regained economic independence, they were personally followed by the project's local coordinators.

Regarding the types of help, 90% went to students between 6 and 30 years old. The number of jobs created or consolidated rose 50% to last year.

Scholarships were distributed 37% to university students, 38% to high school students, 21% to elementary school students, and 4% to around 30 youth participating in professional courses.



PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

After having analyzed the profits put in communion by EoC business, we examine the use of personal contributions, by members of the Focolare Movement or others who are close to the EoC project, to support those in difficult situations throughout the

world. For us, this second channel of resources for the EoC project is coessential. It underlines, with concrete facts, that the Economy of Communion is more than a communion of profits between businesses or a project of entrepreneurs (although it includes

this). The communion of goods, lived spontaneously and personally, makes the project's all-bearing element visible. "We're poor, but many", which calls each person, whether entrepreneur or needy, to live a lifestyle open to sharing and to Providence.

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Personal Contributions</i>	<i>Help for the needy</i>
Angola ²	580,00	4.500,00
Cameroon ⁶	1.050,00	14.369,51
Ivory Coast ¹¹	718,00	1.019,64
Kenya ¹⁸	310,00	16.755,49
Madagascar ²¹	100,00	550,00
Nigeria		
Dem. Rep. Congo ²⁶		31.480,29
South Africa ³¹	335,00	900,00
Sub Saharan Africa	3.093,00	69.574,93
El Salvador ³³	6.760,00	38.299,05
Haiti		760,00
Mexico ²²	5.575,00	14.811,23
Domenican Rep. ²⁸		2.057,79
Central America	12.335,00	55.928,07
Canada	2.032,10	
USA	8.041,22	
North America	10.073,32	
Argentina	7.836,00	62.900,76
Brazil	53.084,64	253.356,67
Chile ⁷	1.230,00	7.729,01
Colombia ⁹	5.963,61	27.529,24
Uruguay ³⁴	1.936,00	20.299,12
Venezuela ³⁵	5.071,00	14.074,48
South America	75.121,25	385.889,28
China ⁸	9.739,00	
Korea ¹⁰	8.963,00	
Philippines	5.262,00	72.440,39
Japan	7.934,45	
India ¹⁵	117,20	2.666,00
Pakistan ²⁴		
South East Asia ¹⁶	2.038,00	6.094,73
Thailand ³²	1.784,00	3.542,86
Asia	35.837,65	84.743,98

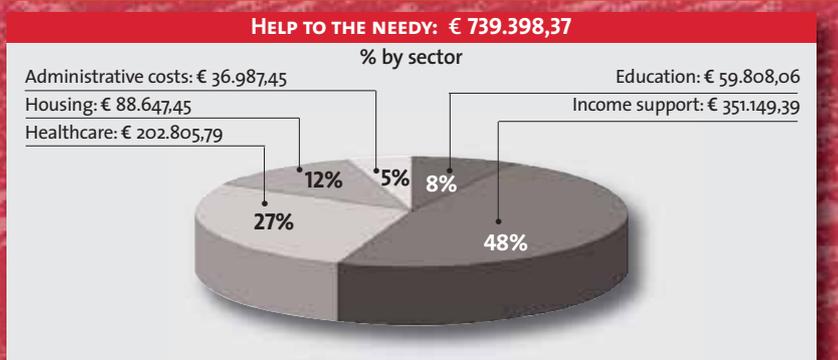
<i>Zone</i>	<i>Personal Contributions</i>	<i>Help for the needy</i>
Albania		12.447,00
Lithuania ²⁰	265,00	1.100,00
Poland ²⁵	4.210,00	23.937,00
Czech Rep.	458,00	5.458,00
Russia ²⁷	288,00	10.819,00
Slovak Rep. ²⁹	4.548,00	4.351,00
Slovenia ³⁰	3.115,00	
South East Europe ⁵	5.045,00	32.396,68
Hungary	2.042,27	
Eastern Europe	19.971,27	90.508,68
Austria	25.045,19	
Belgium ⁴	18.460,00	
France	27.241,00	
Germany	37.542,65	
Great Britain	5.000,00	
Ireland	600,00	
Holland ²³	12.360,92	
Portugal	18.293,29	
Spain	22.809,09	
Switzerland	40.879,47	
Western Europe	208.231,61	
Italy	161.244,61	
Algeria ¹	1.590,00	1.500,00
Egypt ¹²	133,00	1.900,00
Jordan ¹⁴	1.800,00	3.925,55
Lebanon ¹⁹	3.065,00	1.852,70
Holy Land ¹⁷		6.587,50
Turkey ³³	1.200,00	
Middle East and North Africa	7.788,00	15.765,75
Australia ³	3.481,75	
Oceania	3.481,75	
Previous balance	153.287,34	
Focolare Movement Centers	49.289,03	
Administrative Costs		36.987,68
Total	739.753,83	739.398,37

Legend of geographic zones: see pg. 27



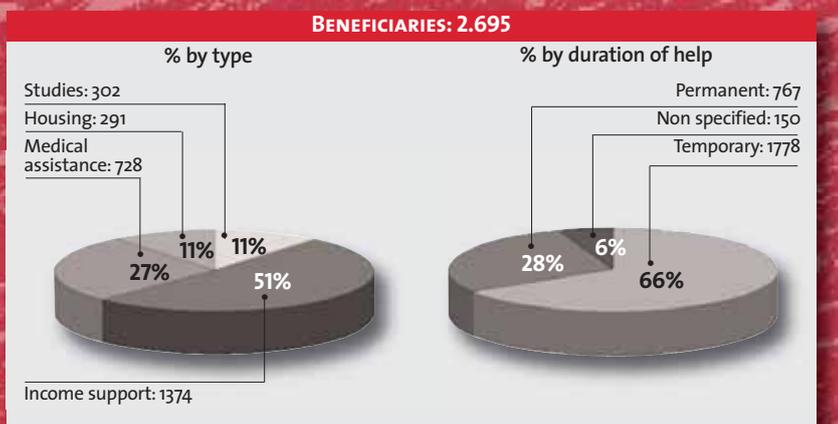
The destination of contributions

All 739.398,37 Euro from personal contributors were used to help needy families, integrating the profits from EOC businesses allocated for this aim. Forty-eight percent of the aid was allocated to support lower income, 27% for medical treatment and 12% for living needs. Eight percent was used to support education and 5% for management costs.



The aid beneficiaries

There were 2,695 people helped with personal contributions in 2009. The chart right illustrates the distinct sectors of aid. Fifty-one percent received income support, 27% medical assistance, 11% aid for housing costs or studies, respectively.



Two-thirds of the people were temporarily helped to face and overcome particularly difficult moments, while permanent help went to 767 people with chronic illnesses or with insufficient retirement pensions.

THE EoC AND OPEN CHALLENGES

Luigino Bruni

This second EoC report arises above all from the need for reciprocity and communion with all the project's actors: with entrepreneurs who generously and trustingly give their profits each year; with the many people who, with the shared profits, make the EoC projects possible; with AMU and its private and institutional representatives; and with all who ask the EoC to be always more accountable for the communion that is lived and promoted.

We know that we're still far from a report that expresses the entire reality of the EoC, which is always more articulated and complex in the various regions of the world. Both the 2008 and 2009 reports provide data related mostly to the profits received and how they were used, as well as the projects we're supporting. Starting next year, we would like to add a second, co-essential element to the report, because it would be valid to publish data related to the businesses. Almost a year ago now, we launched a "new census" of the EoC businesses in order to have updated information to publish.

Moreover, the official site, www.edc-online.org, is an updated source of news, reflections, experiences and papers that complement all that is published in the present report. The "Lionello Bonfante" Industrial Park is also finishing its new site, which will also be a precious source of information and news.

As we said in the opening, the EoC has come of age: we feel that we are in front of new challenges, which we want to face with enthusiasm and responsibility. We need to develop the industrial parks more, and do what is needed so that they become "laboratories" and "beacons" of a new civil economy, in dialogue with all who are searching for a market from the human perspective. We need to increase our love for the "crowns of thorns" of our cities, as well as poverty's old and new facets taken on today in our globalized societies. And we must do so while in dialogue with political institutions, without which it is not seriously possible to fight poverty. We need to give life to new forms of communal governance, those "new wine skins" of communion indicated to us by Chiara Lubich as a new challenge in the last message she wrote to the EoC. Most of all, we need to renew our faith and hope that an Economy of Communion is possible, here and now, in the middle of the joys and contradictions of our times and of our everyday lives.

The screenshot shows the website 'economia di comunione' with a navigation menu at the top. The main content area features several news articles with titles and brief descriptions. On the right side, there is a sidebar with a search bar, a 'Logga form' section, and a list of social media links. The articles include topics like 'L'Economia di Comunione (EoC) è un progetto di imprese, lavoratori, dirigenti, consumatori', 'La crisi che stiamo vivendo non è soltanto economica', and 'Qualcosa non è cambiato'.

luigino.bruni@unimib.it



Zone Legend

1.	Algeria, Marocco, Tunisia
2.	Angola, Mozambique, Sao Tomè, Zambia
3.	Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands
4.	Belgium and Luxemburg
5.	Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia
6.	Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Rep.
7.	Chile, Bolivia
8.	China, Taiwan
9.	Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
10.	North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia
11.	Ivory Coast, Benin, Burkina Faso, Capo Verde, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierre Leon, Togo
12.	Egypt, Sudan
13.	El Salvador, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua
14.	Jordan, Iraq
15.	India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldive, Nepal, Sri Lanka
16.	Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore
17.	Israel, Palestinian Territories
18.	Kenya, Burundi, Djibuti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda
19.	Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrein, Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Yemen
20.	Lithuania, Estonia, Lettonia
21.	Madagascar, Comoro Islands, Mauritius
22.	Mexico, Cuba
23.	Holland, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
24.	Pakistan, Afghanistan
25.	Polond, Belarus
26.	Dem. Rep. Congo, Pop. Rep. Congo
27.	Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
28.	Dominican Rep., Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Porto Rico
29.	Slovakia, Ukraine
30.	Slovenia, Moldavia
31.	South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
32.	Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam
33.	Turkey, Cyprus, Greece
34.	Uruguay, Paraguay
35.	Venezuela, Costarica, Guyana, French Guyana, Panama, Suriname and Caribbean Islands

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