



Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation

Dublin Process - Ethics in International Business and Finance

Ethos, Education and Training: Avenues toward equality and ethical behaviors in the digital era Seventh Consultation Meeting

Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Milan

Introduction

The FCAPP Board decided to focus the Seventh Consultation's analysis on the role of education and training in fostering a new range of goals and models conducive to an acceptable and decent life for each and all of us through the affirmation of solidarity, justice and respect. This requires, as the Holy Father teaches us, a new way of thinking and therefore major investment in culture and knowledge to promote a form of training not limited to the educational cycle but embracing the entire working life.

A new model of development

In his May 2016 address to the Foundation Pope Francis expressed the hope that our work "*will contribute to generating new models of economic progress more clearly directed to the universal common good, inclusion and integral development, the creation of labour and investment in human resources*". It is a very demanding task which the Foundation is trying to fulfil with the greatest attention and dedication. The crises, divisions, inequalities, injustices that are ever more the bane of our communities clearly indicate that a new economic and social model is urgently needed. In the path toward a more humane economy we must therefore use an intelligent approach making a clear distinction between short and long term goals. In the short or medium term we must urge national and global institutions to promote policies conducive to sustainable development, businesses to adopt man and environment friendly models, individuals to adopt sustainable lifestyles. All this is crucial to address the problems of today, to respond to humanitarian crises, to battle the prevalent throwaway culture. But we must also think long term, we must look further ahead so that the future may build a fairer and more humane society. In this perspective education and training are crucial.

Pope Francis' indications

*“Many things must be changed but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great **cultural, spiritual and educational** challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.” (Laudato Si, 202).*

*“An awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them.... **We are faced with an educational challenge.**” (L.S., 209).*

“If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behaviour. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. Otherwise, the paradigm of consumerism will continue to advance, with the help of the media and the highly effective workings of the market.” (L.S., 215)

Education has therefore a crucial role in the construction of a world of peace, solidarity and justice, the promotion of a culture of sharing and of the care for our common home. A solid all round education will allow the new generations to bring about a process of social, cultural and environmental change.

Themes and context

Today’s society needs more discernment to manage a growing complexity, needs to educate a community of executives, entrepreneurs, financial operations - whether Christian or not - who will put into practice the ethical and operational principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church (SDC). Without a cultural change, without the formation of a human and social capital inspired by the fundamental values of SDC it will not be possible to bring about the “conversion”, to achieve an integral ecology, advocated by the Holy Father. To do this we must operate at both education and training levels.

The question the Foundation is posing with this Consultation is whether and how universities and the business and finance communities have the means and tools to educate and train the young and create a working environment conducive to ethical behaviours, keeping in mind not just one’s own interest but that of the common good.

To this end all the universities, and in particular the Catholic ones, can do a great deal, for instance modifying their curricula. For the role of universities is not merely to transmit knowledge but also to train responsible citizens capable of acting ethically in complex and constantly evolving contexts such as today’s digital age. In other words, to create a human capital capable of implementing the most advanced technologies with success and ethically.

At the same time, and consistently with the teachings of universities, business and finance must act on their formative processes to make sure they include and transmit the basic principles of SDC and this implies a change of corporate culture, often much neglected. Corporate culture, we know, is the corpus of written and oral rules that characterizes the modus operandi and very essence of a

business. Asking that business and finance draw inspiration from SDC may sound utopian, but we should remember that the young expect solidarity, sustainability and respect and award the organizations which operate according to these principles. The Foundation looks with interest at the recent evolution in the business field and in particular at the recently issued Statement (Aug, 19, 2019) by the Business Roundtable that in many respects recalls the *Laudato Si'*.

Universities and business must cooperate to promote the knowledge and effective implementation of the basic principles of SDC. It is a daunting challenge especially in a context of rapid, intense and constant technological evolution governed by a few large companies that operate at a global level and are far more capable than governments of determining living conditions and rules of play in the various countries.

We are facing a double fundamental requirement of knowledge and evaluation of the technological progress. Reducing the digital gap and the marginalization of those who do not have the knowhow and abilities that are now required teaching the correct use of these new tools; conversion and reorientation of behaviors toward new beliefs, new attitudes, new lifestyles, as the Holy Father teaches. Two processes that must unfold together and support each other in the pursuit of a humane economy and a humane world. Certainly it is not easy to overcome the conflict between the individualism that characterizes our age and the principles of solidarity and the pursuit of the common good that the Magisterium of the Church indicates to us.

The Foundation is aware of this as well as the fact that the training process starts from an early age and that primary and secondary schools play a fundamental role. It is also aware of the educational responsibility of families. Facing the theme of education / training, as one of the pillars of the path towards the realization of an inclusive economy with a human dimension, we made the choice to start from tertiary education and company training.

We have also chosen, in this Consultation, to involve primarily Catholic Universities for their specific mission of providing teaching and carrying out high quality research capable of making faith and reason dialogue through the guidance / testimony of discernment and pursuing the full development of human person. We believe that they are the ideal place to face the challenges posed by today's world. We hope that the Consultation can help to develop a more intense collaboration among the Catholic Universities also through shared research on new development models as desired by the Holy Father.

Bankers and entrepreneurs are also involved in order to seize the present changes and stimulate their training action towards the establishing in the companies of the primacy of ethics as the cornerstone of action.

This event on education and training is the beginning of a journey, we hope to start a useful collaboration that will bear fruit also in the future.

Public session

31st January 2020, 3:00PM

Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Milan
Crypt of the Aula Magna - Largo A. Gemelli, 1

3:00PM Greetings from the authorities

FRANCO ANELLI, Rector, Catholic University of Sacred Heart

ANNA MARIA TARANTOLA, Chairwoman of Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation

H.E. MSGR. MARIO DELPINI, Archbishop of Milan

3:30PM Opening Speeches

Chairwoman and Moderator: ANNA MARIA TARANTOLA, Chairwoman of Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation

A global education agenda (15')

ELENA BECCALLI, Dean, School of Banking Finance and Insurance, Catholic University of Sacred Heart

Building a common future through education and research (15')

HELEN ALFORD OP, Vice Rector, Pontifical University of St. Thomas

Education in the digital world (15')

IGNAZIO VISCO, Governor of the Bank of Italy

Youth poverty and social exclusion: the difficult construction of the future (15')

H.E. MSGR. NUNZIO GALANTINO, President of APSA

4:40PM Round Table - Education and training: preparing young people for work

Chairman and Moderator: GIOVANNI MARSEGUERRA, Coordinator of Scientific Committee, Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation

Panelists

PHILIPPE BORDEYNE, Rector, Institut Catholique de Paris

PIETRO GUINDANI, Vice-Chairman, Assolombarda

5:40 PM Conclusions

ALBERTO QUADRIO CURZIO, Professor Emeritus of Economy, Catholic University of Sacred Heart

6.00 - 6.45 PM General debate