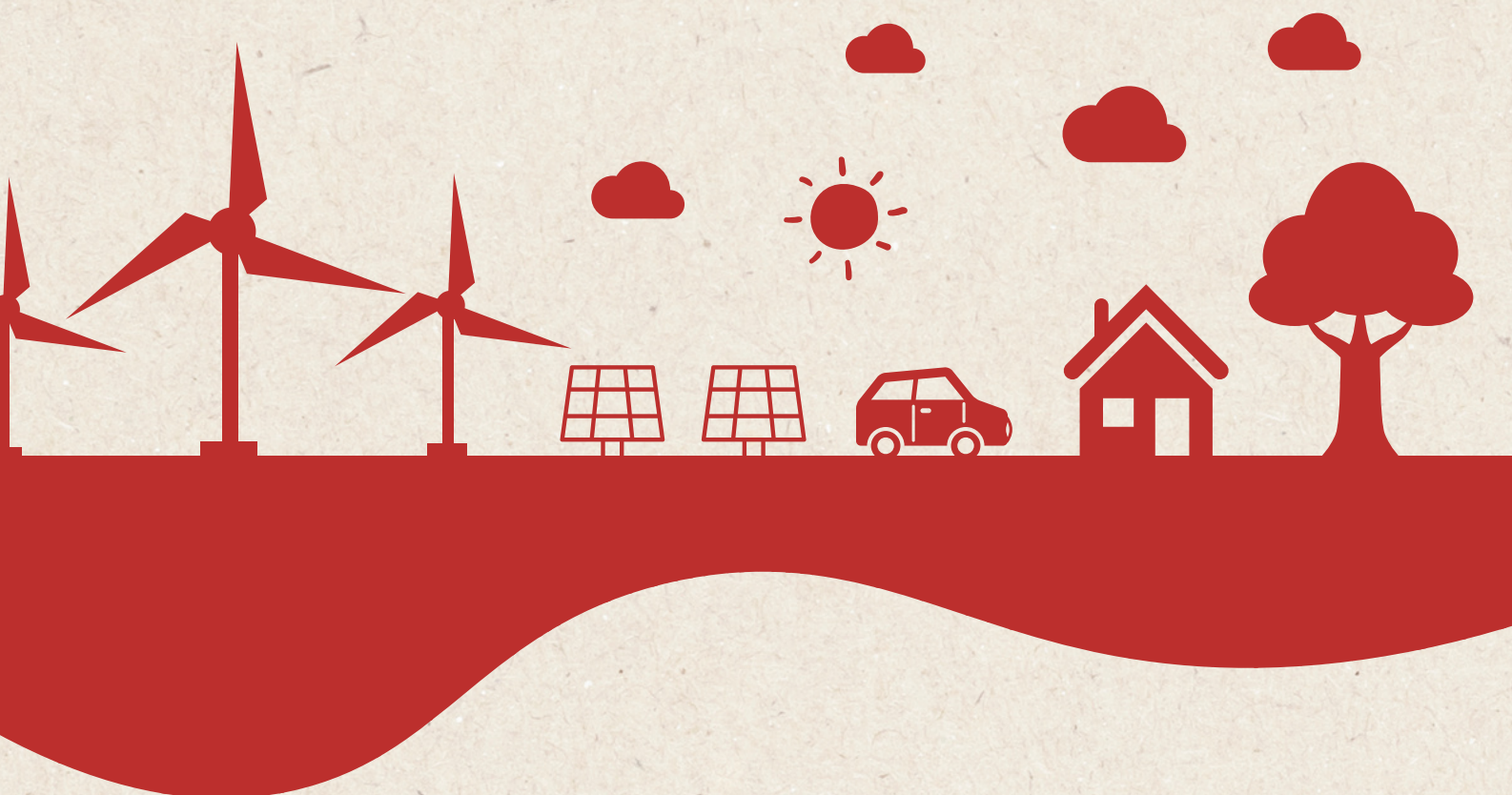


FLASHES OF LIFE

EC^d



EDITORIAL

We present to you the second edition of Flashes of Life.

An edition that we have prepared with the desire to share an economic report for the year 2022 which, however, is necessarily partial since **it reflects only the funds and projects tracked by the International Commission of the Economy of Communion.**

We know, in fact, that the funds raised and managed locally by companies, associations and other organisations related to the Economy of Communion (EoC) are larger in total than those we report in this issue.

Actually, this number only includes the allocation of profits pooled by individuals and companies in the following geographical areas:

Belgium	246.201 €
Italy	148.142 €
South Korea	116.545 €
Souther Cone (Argentina, Cile, Uruguay)	83.293 €
Eastern Europe	31.456 €
Germany	20.000 €
Athers	14.638 €
Total	660.275 €

These funds were allocated during 2022 to various projects and actions, which are detailed in this issue and which we can systematically group together as follows:

Helping people and families in need	€ 297,595
Development projects	€ 219,197
Culture of giving and communion entrepreneurship development	€ 135,711
International Commission secretariat and miscellaneous expenses	€ 14,275
Total	€ 666,778

To give an overall view of the actions globally developed by the EoC in 2022, **we would like to add locally managed projects in future issues of Flashes of Life.** In this issue, in fact, there is no reporting on the profits of countries with a very significant presence of EoC companies, such as Brazil or France, to name but two, which have associations or foundations that allow them to manage projects locally.

We also know that many of the individual companies that join the EoC carry out actions to combat poverty directly, which take on very different facets, often with great creativity. These are actions that, if not shared, risk remaining unnoticed.

As the various local structures and EoC companies wish to communicate to us about the funds collected and the projects developed directly, we will be able to offer a more complete vision of the scope and implications of the actions undertaken by the Economy of Communion in the world.

And so we will continue to say together: **FOR ALL OUR LIFE... THANK YOU!**

THOSE WHO ARE FACING
ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY, THE
RECIPIENTS OF A PORTION OF THE
PROFITS, ARE NOT SEEN
SIMPLY AS ASSISTED OR
BENEFICIARIES OF THE
ENTERPRISE: INSTEAD, THEY ARE
**ESSENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE
PROJECT**, WITHIN WHICH THEY
MAKE **A FREE GIFT** TO THE
OTHERS OF WHAT THEY NEED.



THEY TOO LIVE THE **CULTURE OF
GIVING**. THE EMPHASIS IS NOT
ON PHILANTHROPY ON THE
PART OF A FEW, BUT RATHER
ON **SHARING**, WHERE EACH
PERSON GIVES AND RECEIVES,
WITH EQUAL DIGNITY, WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF A
RELATIONSHIP OF **RECIPROCITY**.



CHIARA LUBICH - HONORIS
CAUSA DEGREE IN ECONOMICS
- PIACENZA, 29 GENNAIO 1999

FOR ALL OUR LIFE, THANK YOU!

FLASHES OF LIFE

E^dC

But before we start...
Shall we put on our glasses?



Trying to explain the actions that the Economy of Communion has taken in the fight against poverty is not always easy. Above all, to do so in a language that everyone can understand.

The "Leo Andringa" Observatory of Poverty (OPLA) was born precisely with this purpose in mind and has been working for the past 6 years to create a sort of map to understand the EoC's actions against poverty at different levels.

In this sense, the following main categories have been identified in which the anti-poverty efforts are divided and with which we will approach this edition of **Flashes of Life**:

- **Support to individuals and families** in a condition of socio-economic vulnerability
- **Projects for the development** and incubation of new entrepreneurial activities

When **Chiara Lubich** had the inspiration that led to the birth of the Economy of Communion, it was very clear that she saw it as a '**cultural**' project and not just one of mutual support. She already sensed in the EoC a new way of conceiving economy and experiencing economic relations. In fact, she put the cultural aspect at the same level of importance as the actions against poverty.

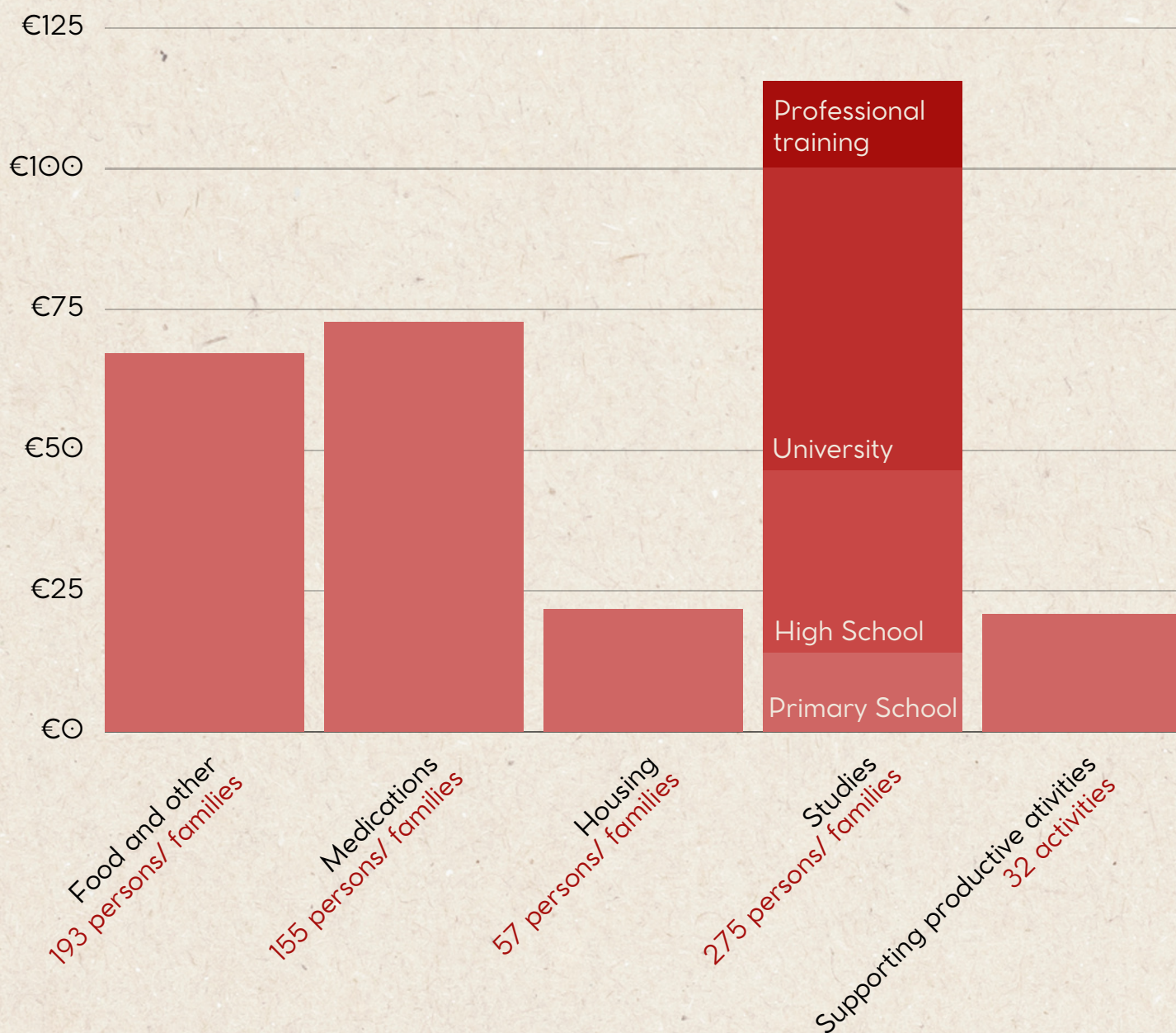
These two aspects, together with intra-company life, still shape the soul of the Economy of Communion today.

Economic support to people in conditions of socio-economic vulnerability

Shared profits and the direct commitment of entrepreneurs and other agents of communion go to support people in a condition of socio-economic vulnerability through the provision of monetary support of varying amounts, aimed at covering emergency expenses for medical care, food, housing and schooling.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND PEOPLE IN NEED

- 405 families for basic needs
- 275 students
- 33 productive activities
- **297.595 Euro**



Data by geographical area

p/f = Persons/families

America
31.9%
293 p/f

Africa
32.2%
149 p/f

Eastern Europe
14.9%
127 p/f

Middle East
13.6%
47 p/f

Asia
7.5%
64 p/f

It is always a powerful experience to feel God's love through the gratitude of those who receive because **they experience the hundredfold** in the help received and the love of those who put their goods in communion. ● ● ●

Ecuador

Thank you for your help to our people in Egypt! They are numerous urgent needs that knock on the door of our life here. For some people, your help has **prolonged their lives** because they have been able to get the medicines they needed. ● ● ●

Egypt

I can only express the profound gratitude on the part of the people who received aid so that their children be able to **continue their studies, something that otherwise would have been impossible** for them. ● ● ●

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Development projects and incubation of new entrepreneurial activities

In this case, profits are used to consolidate and grow communion enterprises, support the creation of new entrepreneurial activities and development projects aimed at promoting a fairer, more fraternal and inclusive economic culture through their daily actions.

AMU PROJECTS

To help support development projects, the EoC cooperates closely with AMU Azione per un Mondo Unito ONLUS that manages part of the profits pooled by the companies to implement development projects that restore work and dignity to people in socially and economically vulnerable conditions.

The projects always start with proposals from our local partner associations which, sharing the values of the EoC, work in close contact with situations of misery in the world.



Fondi per struttura AMU:
€16392

Ora li conosceremo meglio...



CUBA



€ 26.622

Development of the EoC and impulse to the Economy of Francesco in Cuba

In Cuba, many businesses during the pandemic period had to close or completely reinvent themselves in order to survive, without being able to count on effective government aid.

In this context of great difficulties, last August the local government allowed Cuban citizens for the first time to set up micro, small and medium-sized private enterprises in the form of companies and no longer just as sole proprietorships. It's a major change and a challenge for which the local business community has to be prepared.



In order to accompany self-employed persons to seize the opportunities offered by this transition, the project aims to provide them with the legal and administrative tools and knowledge appropriate for the management of private enterprises.

The pivot of the project is training in running a business according to the principles of the Economy of Communion and the Economy of Francesco.

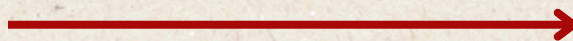
Activities include:

- individual technical accompaniment for small entrepreneurial initiatives and already established micro-enterprises, based on a customised study of needs;
- customised training in business administration and the Economy of Communion;
- training course on the Economy of Francesco;
- national meeting of micro-entrepreneurs for a solidarity-based economy;
- etc.

[To read more
about the project in
Cuba, click here.](#)



BURUNDI



€140.949

Burundi – It's possible! – Community Microcredit and Microfinance

Despite the great difficulties that the country still faces, in recent years we have discovered that supporting the skills and ideas of the local community is the best way for long-lasting and conscious development.

Burundi is the second most densely populated country in Africa, and is one of the five countries with the highest poverty rates in the world.

The project **"It's possible!"** aims to create **community microcredit groups** whose members can self-sustain each other for the creation of business activities and, in a second phase, create a community microfinance group to support the growth of expanding projects.



The microcredit groups using the SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) methodology, include 10 to 25 people who self-select and self-finance by collecting and pooling their own savings. **In this way, the group can grant individual components small credits**, repayable with a minimum interest rate, to meet their short-term financial needs and to support them in starting and managing small income-generating activities

[To find out more
about the project in
Burundi, click here.](#)



SIRIA

€11.700

RestarT – Restart to Stay

The Syrian crisis erupted on 15 March 2011 and has led to years of war that have devastated the country and had serious psychological, economic and social repercussions.

With no prospect of reconstruction activities or economic recovery, families have seen their financial situation gradually get worse. It is estimated that 90% of the population is living below the poverty line and many Syrians are unable to meet their basic needs.



This situation **led to the idea of launching a project to create job opportunities adapted to the current Syrian market** and able to guarantee people a minimum income.

The **RestarT project (Restart to Stay)** is aimed at those who have experience in production and/or commercial activities but are now unemployed. In this way, those who have a project get the support they need to realise it, improve their financial situation and, by staying in Syria, contribute to rebuilding the country after the war.

[To find out more
about the project in
Syria, click here.](#)





ITALIY

€ 13.080

Fare Sistema Oltre l'Accoglienza (Building bridges)

Building bridges supports vulnerable Italians and non-Italians towards integration into society and employment through a network of local stakeholders consisting of companies, families, associations and practitioners committed to inclusion processes.

In its first three years of activity, the programme has involved 198 beneficiaries and created 127 work placements. 77 companies, 97 families, 33 associations and 51 reception centres have also joined the national network.



Activities include:

- Elaboration of Individual Autonomy Plans;
- Professional training courses; Italian language courses and language certification;
- Etc.

[To find out more about the project in Italy, click here.](#)



NIGERIA

€ 10.454

Supporting the 'Casa Alba' project

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and 75% of its population is under the age of 30. Unemployment is high at 13.3% and young people often struggle to acquire skills that will help them earn a regular living.

Casa Alba was started to help **destitute girls, many of whom had already been sent to serve in the homes of wealthy families.**

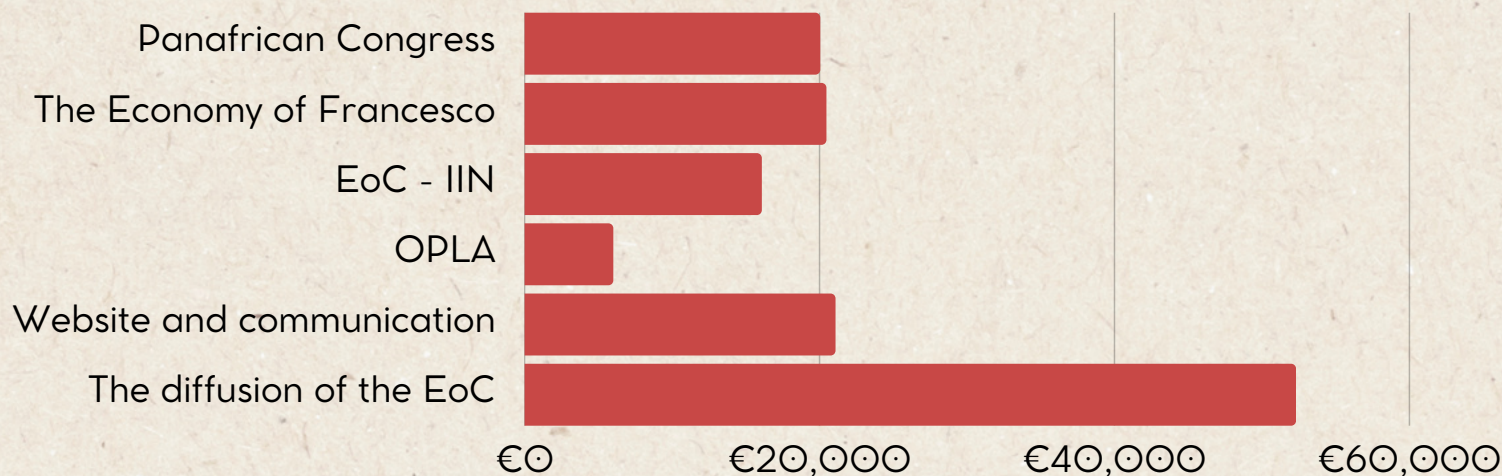
Casa Alba Batik and Sewing School is a project with a twofold activity:

- production of tie-and-dye fabrics to be used in the production of a range of household items (bed sheets, tablecloths, etc.) and clothes
- training of disadvantaged girls in the acquisition of tailoring

[To read more about the project in Nigeria \(in Italian or Spanish\), click here.](#)



CULTURE OF GIVING PROJECTS / DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNION ENTREPRENEURSHIP





EoC Online, an open window on the rich and complex world of the Economy of Communion

Antonella Ferrucci has been editing the Economy of Communion website for 15 years. A site that is available in five languages and contributes to the dissemination of the culture of giving, civil economy and economy of communion, through testimonies of the lives of EoC entrepreneurs, more academic content, stories, articles and news.



[Click here to read the interview](#)

