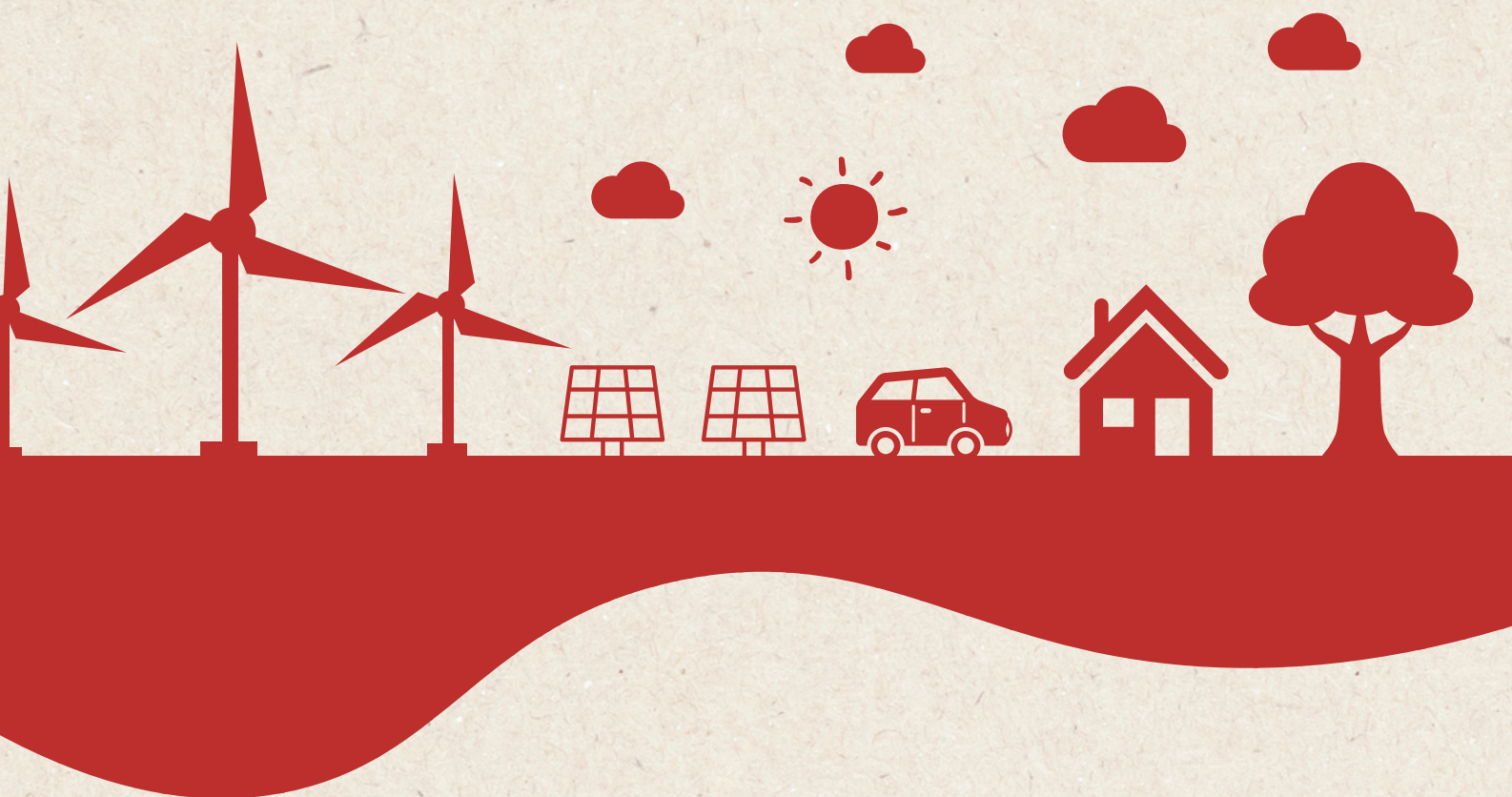


THANK YOU FOR LIFE!

# FLASHES OF LIFE

**EC**<sup>d</sup>





## EDITORIAL

An infinite **thank you to each and every one of you** because you are here, because this economy is a living reality thanks to you, those who one day answered the call to build an economy of communion and remained faithful to it. Small, fragile and too discreet as it may be, it exists, it is alive, prophetically testifying that communion within the economy is both possible and worth it. Thanks to your perseverance, your generosity, your faith and fidelity, others can discover it today and commit themselves with us to making room for communion to grow in businesses, universities, schools and throughout society, in the various aspects of the economy and in many parts of the world. We are immensely grateful!

Our common hope on this anniversary is that we continue to serve and develop this economy of communion with ever more responsibility, courage, creativity and prophecy. In order to grow and spread, it needs all of us, who live and bear witness to it with strength and radicalism, in ever new and innovative ways, and who know how to support each other in the inevitable crises and trials of life.

Let us remember that wherever  
there is someone who lives  
according to their spirit, the whole  
EoC is present and, at the same  
time, that we are only truly an  
economy of communion together.  
Let us keep moving forward  
together!

THE **EOC** TODAY IS A  
PLURAL REALITY: A TREE  
WITH SOME RIPE FRUITS  
AND OTHERS THAT ARE  
STILL UNRIPE.

THE EOC IS MANY THINGS BUT  
ABOVE ALL, IT IS LIFE BEING  
GIVEN...





THANK YOU FOR LIFE!

# FLASHES OF LIFE

# E<sup>d</sup>C

Amid so much EoC life, today we want to start sharing small samples that take us to different parts of the world, to both large and smaller realities. Stories that allow us to experience the spirit with which the Economy of Communion is experienced today. This is the first of a series of news, which we will share with you that will show the most salient features of the EoC today in different aspects (poverty, companies and culture) and in different parts of the world.

## • ARGENTINA



Love is what turns  
us into a **home** and  
a community

Project Domus (Lincoln)

The Domus Project (which means home in Latin) was born out of the pain of many families who did not dare ask for a house because they had never dreamed of one, opening the door to mutual relationships, the construction of houses and personal and social dignity.



Domus has printed the desire of some Argentine families who, like so many others, wished to see the right to own their own home realized, on its walls; a dream made possible thanks to the participatory self-construction project of housing, launched in the municipality of Lincoln (Argentina) in 2019.

With the help of professionals, people of all ages have joined forces and trained in the art of construction, while generating reciprocity, citizenship and fraternal community.

25 families are building their homes in a neighborhood in Lincoln today, another 30 families will then do it in **Bragado** and another 30 in **9 de Julio**, two other cities in the region.



To watch the **DOMUS** video  
you can click on this icon or  
scan the QR code.



# • CAMEROON

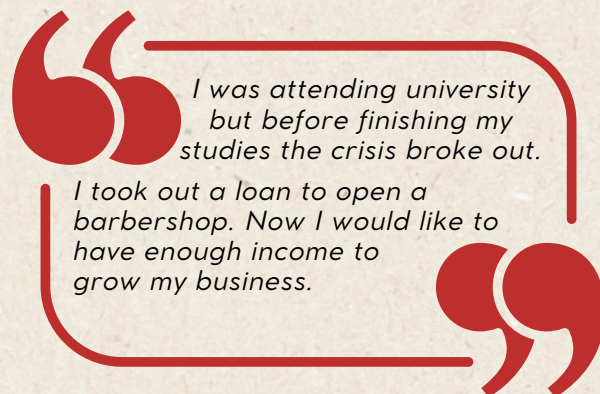
## Financial education for internally displaced persons



Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, is a perfect place to experience the social transformation that is taking place in the country, with its many facets and complexities; after the so-called Anglophone crisis, the city found itself hosting hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people.

The crisis has led many to abandon not only their homes and cities, but also their occupations.

Once in Yaoundé, they seek accommodation with relatives or find precarious accommodation together with other families. The project participants run several small income-generating businesses to address issues such as sustainability, housing and tuition fees, in their 'new homes'. The training has therefore mainly focused on internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are already hairdressers or barbers or already have sewing, shoemaking or other practical skills.



*I was attending university but before finishing my studies the crisis broke out.*

*I took out a loan to open a barbershop. Now I would like to have enough income to grow my business.*



To read more about this initiative you can click on this icon or scan the QR code.

**Derrik**, a participant in the financial education program

The administrative and financial training is part of the "Yaoundé Project", which seeks to accompany the beneficiaries in their activities on both a technical and psychosocial level, providing:

- Capacity building in the activities that the beneficiaries are already carrying out.
- Training for those who already have skills.
- "Training to improve" their activity.

The complete report of this project is available on [this link](#).

# • SPAIN - IVORY COAST

## SAGUIPLEU water well



Through its partners, The AEoC (Association for an Economy of Communion Spain) has collaborated with the Association "Get up and walk" (Levántate y anda) in various projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the city of Saguipleu, in the Ivory Coast.

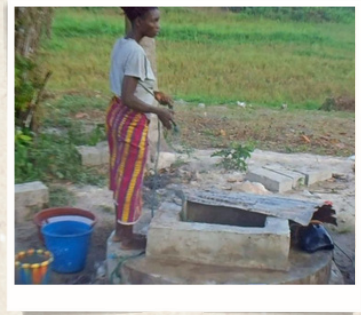




Among these projects, a 10,000-liter tank was installed in Saguipleu and a water well was started, thanks to which the entire population will be able to have access to drinking water in their homes. The well will prevent many diseases and improve the quality of life, especially for women and children.



To read more about this initiative you can click on this icon or scan the QR code.



## • KOREA - MYANMAR

Weave bonds of communion



The political and social conflicts that have hit Myanmar hard have aggravated the economic situation of thousands of families in the country. The inequalities and shortcomings of the economic system have become even more evident in the midst of the various crises. Moved by this dramatic situation, some entrepreneurs and adherents of the Economy of Communion in Korea have decided to implement a project that aims to collaborate with the realities that are experiencing difficulties in both countries: **Atutu Myanmar (아뚜뚜 미얀마) 프로젝트**

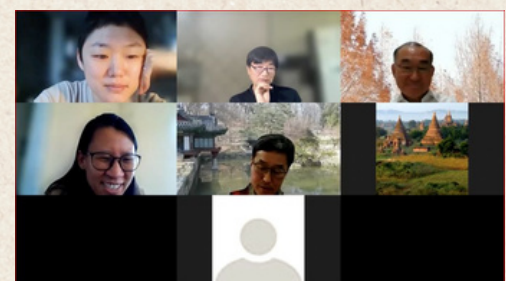
They initially tried to send economic aid, but the government continued to block the channels for it to arrive. Therefore, they decided to import some local products, such as fabrics.

The fabrics are woven by the **Kayan people**, an ethnic minority of Myanmar. Once they arrive in Korea, they are sold by "**Aga Sewing**", a cooperative made up of single mothers who improve their economic situation by learning to sew various fabrics and to make objects intended above all for children.



"Aga Sewing", which means "Sewing for Children" in Korean, is a cooperative incubated by Korean entrepreneurs looking to help mothers who are raising their children on their own.

With their work, the proceeds from the sales are donated to Myanmar through <Economy for All> Korea EoC.





## • ITALY



### POLO LIONELLO BONFANTI

- Loc. Burchio snc, 50063 Figline e Incisa Valdarno (FI)
- info@edicspa.com



In Italy, in Florence, the **Polo Lionello Bonfanti** aims to be a **meeting place**, a place for **relationships** and **inclusion**...

The reopening of the doors of the Polo Lionello Bar - managed internally - represented an important commitment by E. di C. SpA to recreate somethings that, as on other occasions, does not wish to be a "simple bar", but a dynamic place for relationships.



In addition to the coffee shop, this innovative space aims to see **the inclusion of those that are the most fragile and vulnerable** in society through the inclusion of a disabled young person in the workforce. This has led to greater synergy with social services and the involvement of other people in the rest of the Polo's activities. At the moment, there are 3 young people with disabilities working at the Polo.

Many activities resumed in 2022. Halls and corridors were once again filled with life, organizing workshops, corporate activities, conferences, book launches, hackathons, lectures, etc.

## • CUBA

### Cuban entrepreneurs, a sign of hope

In Cuba, the Economy of Communion passes through classrooms, businesses and even TV and movie screens thanks to documentaries that tell the story of the various projects in the area. One of these is **EcoArte**, where a group of women united around their passion for sewing, embroidery and other manual arts with the aim of not only creating an income, but also of using their free time in a pleasant way and to create personal relationships.





Furthermore, the EoC/EoF Hub has promoted the formation of various groups of entrepreneurs. A group of them in El Caney are provided with business management skills in the spirit of The Economy of Francesco. Cooking, sewing, handicraft and food preservation courses, as well as fairs and links between them, are organized and food is provided to the poorest of the village.



Cuba supports entrepreneurs, not only in order to bring out their vocation and turn it into reality, but also to instill an entrepreneurial style that includes the human value of solidarity, as well as joy and kindness. **Entrepreneurs are a sign of hope in today's Cuba.**

## • OPLA

In order to keep the memory of Leo Andringa, who was among the first to understand the delicate aspect of the process of distributing aid to the poor, alive, the EoC has decided to name the newly established "Leo Andringa Observatory on Poverty" (OPLA) based at the Polo Lionello Bonfanti, after him.

The following article was recently published by the OPLA team.

# POVERTY SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF COMMUNION

Francesco Tortorella,  
Germán Jorge,  
Maria Helena Fonseca,  
Tainã Santana

«**So that there may no longer be poor people among us**», said Chiara Lubich on the occasion of the launch of the Economy of Communion. In this sense, the EoC immediately tried to implement various initiatives that could defeat vulnerability right from the beginning. A series of different approaches have been adopted over the years in order to do this, starting from different visions, up to being embodied and realized in various forms in the world, in accordance with local culture.



To us, it seems that what the various approaches have in common is that the EoC developed one of its specific characteristic aspects based on actual lived experience: communion. «We do not go to 'give things', but to create relationships and foster communion», says an EoC operator who works in a disadvantaged neighborhood in his city.

**However, when it comes down to it, why communion?**

How can we define what communion is?  
We have numerous conceptualizations that have been built into our narrative.



We heard the following explanation from Brazil: «Why Communion? The power of human beings emerges from meeting others. Hence, to the EoC communion means a culture of encounter capable of promoting, both in life and as in the economy, the connection between opportunity and vulnerability».



Together with other movements and organizations working in the field of fighting poverty, the Economy of Communion has helped the world to understand that the phenomenon of poverty, expressed by economic vulnerability, is a multidimensional phenomenon. Economic vulnerability, which often manifests itself in situations of poverty, unworthiness and absolute scarcity, is the reflection of different types of vulnerabilities that coexist or precede each other: emotional, social, relational, political and educational vulnerability.

The Economy of Communion was born with the aim of eradicating poverty; hence, its action must be complex and multiple. The redistribution of resources is a central and important point, but it is neither the first nor the central one. To overcome vulnerability it is necessary to feel worthy, part of a larger community and recognize oneself as the subject of one's own existence, while walking alongside other people.



Per leggere l'articolo completo si può cliccare su questa icona o scansionare il codice QR.

**This is community, this is communion: a culture of encounter in which life, vulnerability and opportunity are all shared. It is regenerating vulnerability through relationships.**

On this basis, in recent years the EoC international community has expressed in various countries the need to improve and strengthen our resource management process on a global scale, establishing a set of public criteria accessible to all that allow us to deepen and strengthen our ability to face vulnerability in our territories, by sharing different ways of mutually supporting each other.

This year we started this process: based on the study and consolidation of our narratives, experiences, research that have already been carried out, the models practiced by international cooperation organizations and the technical standards applicable to this sector, we have begun the construction of a new global process of management of EoC resources.



# WITH THE ECONOMY OF COMMUNION

SHARING A TABLE WITH THE **POOR**  
HAS BECOME SHARING WORK IN **COMPANIES**

OUR HOME DINING ROOMS HAVE  
BECOME **COMPANY OFFICES.**

**THE FIRST GIFT IS ALWAYS A GIFT OF LIFE:**  
COMMUNION THAT BECOMES THE CONCRETE  
CREATION OF OPPORTUNITIES WITH AND FOR  
OTHERS.

