

Scholarship competition for a research project

On the instructions of the International Commission for the Economy of Communion (EoC), the International Association for the Economy of Communion (AIEC), is making a scholarship available for a research project, lasting one year (but renewable the second year), whose objective is to assess the impact of the aid projects for the poor, realized thanks to the shared profits of the EoC businesses.

In these last few years, the NGOs that promote private sector initiatives to fight poverty, and the governments and international organizations that write policies to take action in this field, have felt the urgent need to go from a phase characterized by attention to one of giving a transparent account of the use of funds (criteria of distribution, project management procedures). They are now thus directed at outcome measures, rather than just the input. Without doubt, the change in the methodological paradigm was favored by the work of a few authors (see for example the book by E. Duflo and A. Banerjee, *Poor Economics. A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, Philadelphia: Public Affairs, 2011) that have developed the innovative methodologies to assess the effectiveness of projects, in this way allowing us to grasp the complex relationships at play when we approach the problem of development and to draw out the necessary suggestions to correct our goals, in the cases of lower effectiveness than expected.

Those persons responsible for the EoC project are convinced that the hour has come to develop a similar approach in evaluating our own projects to help those in need: in addition to the usual end goals, considered in this evaluation exercise, we will need to pay special attention to the typical dimensions of the EoC project, such as fraternity, the fact of seeing each person as our neighbor, and the reciprocity-communion established.

Requirements:

The competition is aimed at young people who are attracted by the goals of the EoC project and, at the same time, who also have acquired, through their studies, competences in empirical research empirical and in quantitative analysis, as well as a proficient knowledge of English. It would be preferable (but not indispensable) to have a Doctorate in research or, alternatively, a specialized degree in social sciences with a quantitative approach.

Conditions offered:

The scholarship has a value between € 12.000 - 18.000 annually (according to the seniority /the scholarship recipient and the logistical costs of the research study); at the end of the first year, there will be an evaluation of the work done, a necessary condition for its renewal for the second year.

The main site for the research project will be the Department of Economy of the Sophia University-Institute (Incisa Valdarno, Italy), but one or more trips will be necessary to the sites where the assistance projects of the EoC mainly operate (for example, Brazil, Philippines).

The academic framework of the research project can be a post-doctorate study, in case that the candidate already has a doctorate; otherwise, if the candidate wishes, the scholarship can be used to do doctoral studies at the IUS. Supervision will be provided by Prof. Luigino Bruni and Luca Crivelli, to whom the candidate will refer to for the research design, to give an account of the activities conducted, the discussion of the data gathered and the development of the empirical analysis.

Any individuals interested in applying are encouraged to write a letter in which they mention their strong points, explain why they are interested in the scholarship and why they feel that they are suitable candidates to conduct this research study. Email the letter with your curriculum vitae to luca.crivelli@usi.ch and luigino.bruni@gmail.com by 31 March 2012. The scholarship will take effect in the beginning of June and will be disbursed in two installments, the first (50%) will be on the first day and the second (50%) will be after the first four months.