



# DIALOP


## TRANSVERSAL DIALOGUE PROJECT

### FOR A TRANSVERSAL SOCIAL ETHICS

DIALOP IS THE PROPOSAL OF A RECIPROCAL ENPOWERMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH AND THE MARXIST SOCIAL ANALYSIS IN CATHOLIC AS WELL AS MARXIST INSTITUTIONS IN DIFFERENT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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## **A FRUITFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN DIVERGENT FORCES**

The project of dialogue between the Catholic Church and the European Left, with the mediation of the Focolare Movement, began following a private audience of Pope Francis with the Greek Alexis Tsipras, the Austrian communist Walter Baier, former president of the think tank transform!europe (2006-2020), and Franz Kronreif, focolarino, on September 18, 2014.

Pope Francis then emphasized that in the face of current crises, no force is able to offer solutions alone. Therefore, all forces of good will must unite to act together, in this particular case Catholics and Marxists. Those present at the private audience perceived this message as the launch of a project, which has hence developed between the two components: Catholics and Marxists/Socialists.

### *THE PLATFORM*

Since transform!europe is an institution for research and education, the first interlocutors in the Catholic Church were the Sophia University Institute (with the then dean Mons. Piero Coda) and the Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Mgr. Vincenzo Zani.

The DIALOP project has since carried out several symposia of approach of thought on the basis of the social encyclicals of Pope Francis and in 2018 in Syros/Greece a Summer School for 50 students of both lines of thought.

The operating platform consists of approx. 60 experts, academics, young PhD students, thinkers and masterminds, activists, both from the European Left including transform!europe (the think tank of the European Parliamentary Left) and members of the Focolare Movement as well as other Catholics and Christians (Protestants and Orthodox).

### *THE PARTNERS*

Some universities can be named as collaborators of the initiative, based on the penetration of the dialogical behaviour experienced both personally by the teachers involved in the DIALOP experience, and in the already proven collaboration between university institutes. They are to date:

Sophia University Institute – Loppiano Italy

Universität Innsbruck – Innsbruck Austria

Universidade de Coimbra (Instituto de pesquisa CES) – Coimbra Portugal

UNED – Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia – Madrid Spain

Katholisches Pädagogisches Institut - KPH-Edith Stein, Feldkirch Austria

University of the Aegean – 6 seats in Greece

### *THE COORDINATION*

The coordination of the project is entrusted to a joint group of four people, two from transform!europe and two from the Focolare Movement. The latter acts as a mediator in the

dialogue between the European Left and the Catholic Church, according to the genesis of the project.

#### *POSITION PAPER and THE FUTURE*

Three symposia in 2016, 2017, 2019, and a Summer School in 2018 with 40 students from 19 European countries and overseas together with 12 teachers from both sides – Catholic and Marxist – took place in these first years of knowledge and growing mutual esteem.

In 2020 the book "Europe as a Common. Exploring Transversal Social Ethics" with the contributions of 9 experts from the Christian side and 7 experts and ideologues of the Left with the contribution of Mgr. Zani on the common destiny of Europe and the text of Pope Francis on the option for the poor (general audience of 19 August 2020).

**In 2021 we have jointly drawn up a Position Paper, a Common Charter of Intent concerning our common positions as well as the goals, which will be presented in Brussels on 8th November 2022. In fact, we are convinced of the goodness of the project as a model of the potential of dialogue in institutions and among Countries, for the construction of Peace.**

The publication of the Position Paper is planned, along with the files of the symposium held in Cádiz on Fratelli tutti in August 2021 and the presentation at the conference of the University of Innsbruck in September 2021. In addition, a series of online conferences is planned on topics such as: dialogue, unity and conflict, faith and social commitment in favour of a wider range of interest.

We envisage the establishment of an operational think tank tackling the task of the arising of a *Transversal Social Ethics*, which can serve university institutions as well as various associations and organizations, social movements etc. Half a dozen young PhD students and post-Doctoral students are currently addressing cross-cutting Social Ethics issues.

### **A PROPOSAL FOR INTERCHANGE BETWEEN WELTANSCHAUUNGEN IN FAVOUR OF THE NEW GENERATIONS**

The experience gained so far has refined our sensitivity to the other, the different, and encourages us to propose a more in-depth "transversal" contribution of dialogue between ideologies and doctrines, to be offered to our corresponding institutions, so as to make young people more suited to dialogue through mutual knowledge, free of bias.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE POSITION PAPER IN BRUSSEL ON NOVEMBER 8th 2022**

In collaboration with the vice-president of the Party of the European Left and members of New Humanity and mppu (of the Focolare Movement), DIALOP will offer an evening of presentation and discussion of the Position Paper on 8 November 2022 from 17.00 to 19.00 in a room adjacent to the European Parliament. Interested MEPs and Officials at European institutions are invited, as well as representatives of COMECE, KEK, religious and social Movements, Media, and not least Individuals concerned.