



2. To listen to the voices of children and young people ...
- and 3. To encourage the full participation of girls and young women in education

Michele TRIDENTE

Responsible of IFCA Youth Coordination

[dopo video gv]

A warm greeting to everyone, wherever you are at the moment.

The Global compact on Education promoted by Pope Francis involves Catholic Action in a special way. For many years our associations have in fact been engaged at all levels in our respective countries in promoting a culture of dialogue and encounter that still questions us today.

When we talk about the Educational Pact, we are not only talking about instruction, but we are also talking about the promotion of processes of formation for peace and justice, which - the Pope points out very well - are aimed at promoting the dignity of the human person, wherever we are.

Formation requires personal investment, and not only that. Investing in formation allows us to invest in the community around us and allows us to grow in the hope that we can do good," said Johann of ZAK Malta well...

Alongside personal investment, however, there is also a need for economic support that derives from the political will of the States to ensure that education policies in the various countries guarantee fair access to opportunities for all children, boys and girls and young people.

As Jeanne D'Arc said in reference to the case of Senegal, State investments are not always sufficient to guarantee quality education for all... This is true in Senegal as in Italy, Argentina as in Romania...

The most recent statistics and the levels of unemployment highlighted tell us that educational and economic policies are not always planned in the same direction. The integration of young people into the labour market is made difficult by "other" logics that do not have as their first objective the full formation of the human person. And this contributes to the widening of differences and social laceration.

A few days ago, the Economy of Francesco initiative, is over. many young people belonging to our association took part, participated in it to discuss with other students and experts all over the world new models of economic development . Among the topics dealt with, there was also that of education, a topic undoubtedly extremely connected to that of the economy. In the logic of promoting integral human development of which Pope Francis speaks, education and economics walk together. During the Economy of Francis we shared experiences and listened to those of other countries, but this initiative should only be considered as a starting point. As International Forum of Catholic Action, we are called to respond strongly to the Pope's call, weaving educational alliances on the territory capable of generating processes at local level.

What can we young people of Catholic Action do concretely to give shape to this Pact that involves all of us? Put the person at the centre, starting from our parish groups, to design new formative paths closer to the teen ages and the young, to the students, to our peers. To support the activities of the student movements and commitment in the everyday life within our associations, so that we can give new life to the missionary spirit of CA in the various national realities. To increasingly qualify training courses for educators so that they are authentic companions in the life and in the faith of the young people they accompany. This is a question that each one of us in our discernment paths is called to ask ourselves. With this question I wish to greet you, hoping that each one of us will be able to renew our reflection in our local realities of Catholic Action.