



For an Economy of Peace

A shared journey with Peacemed towards dignity, justice, and ecological balance

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Peace as common good

- ▶ Not linked to **particular** interests, but...
- ▶ Benefits everyone, excludes no one (rights not privileges)
- ▶ Requires collective action to build and maintain
- ▶ Interdependence: vulnerable to individual and group actions
- ▶ Non 'rival': one person's use of the good does not reduce the amount available for others to use. Really non 'rival'? (pure Vs non pure public goods)
- ▶ Non marketable, not subject to market transactions. (market failures)
- ▶ At global level: redistributive implications
- ▶ Framework of **positive peace**

Clean air, safety, knowledge, peace,

KAUL I. (Ed.), *Global public goods: international cooperation in the 21st century*, Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY 1999.



Building blocks

- ▶ Education: Conflict resolution, critical thinking, empathy
- ▶ Civil Society: Community dialogue, grassroots initiatives
- ▶ Governance: New Transparent institutions, rule of law
- ▶ Economic Justice: Opportunity and fair distribution
- ▶ Environmental Care: Sustainable resource management



Debunking

- Economic interest is **not** the only incentive for human behaviour
- There is no such thing as '**universal laws of economics**'.
- There is no 'mechanistic' way to predict **how things will evolve**.
On the contrary, we are in the midst of the 'era of complexity'.
- Thus, as we speak about 'economics' we speak about a **complex** of different and somehow disparate elements, which are difficult to 'direct' but can be influenced and accompanied

What is expected does not happen; for the unexpected, one god will find a way
(The Bacchae, Euripides)



The Economy is Never Neutral

When we talk about peace, we think of diplomacy, ceasefires, security. But peace is also shaped by **wages, debt, food prices, access to energy, housing, and public trust.**

Every economy distributes not only income, but also vulnerability, power, and hope. The question is not *whether* the economy influences peace – but *which economy* are we building.

- In your context, which economic issue most threatens social peace today? Unemployment, inflation, food insecurity, debt, youth exclusion, migration, housing?

Two Economies Compared

Peace is not merely the absence of war: it is the **presence of just social and economic arrangements.**

| Economy that Fuels Conflict | Economy of Peace |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Concentration of wealth and power | Equitable access and basic protections |
| Corruption and institutional capture | Transparent and accountable institutions |
| Extractive use of resources | Shared ecological stewardship |
| Social neglect and debt traps | Social investment and decent work |
| Speculation on essential goods | Ethical finance and long-term value |
| Normalization of violence | Participation and trust-building |

What is a Peace Economy?

An economy that reduces the structural causes of conflict and strengthens the conditions for a **just coexistence (positive peace)**.



Protects Dignity

Guarantees fundamental rights and basic protections for all



Rewards Cooperation

Incentivizes the common good instead of economic predation



Celebrates Diversity

Views different identities, cultures, and perspectives as resources for collective enrichment, not sources of division



Reduces Inequalities

Counters humiliating disparities and blocked mobility



Respects Ecological Limits

Integrates environmental sustainability as a foundation for stability



Invests in Future Generations

Thinks long-term, protecting opportunities, resources, and ecological inheritance for young people and generations to come

Peace/Conflict Mechanisms within the Economy

How economic structures concretely translate into peace or conflict: four key dynamics.

1

Inequality and Humiliation

When disparity combines with blocked mobility and elite impunity, it becomes explosive. Youth exclusion is particularly destabilizing. Unaccompanied technological change is one of the main causes of inequality

2

Insecurity and Fear

When food, energy, and income become unstable, fear grows. Precariousness weakens trust and facilitates polarization.

3

Extractivism and Ecological Stress

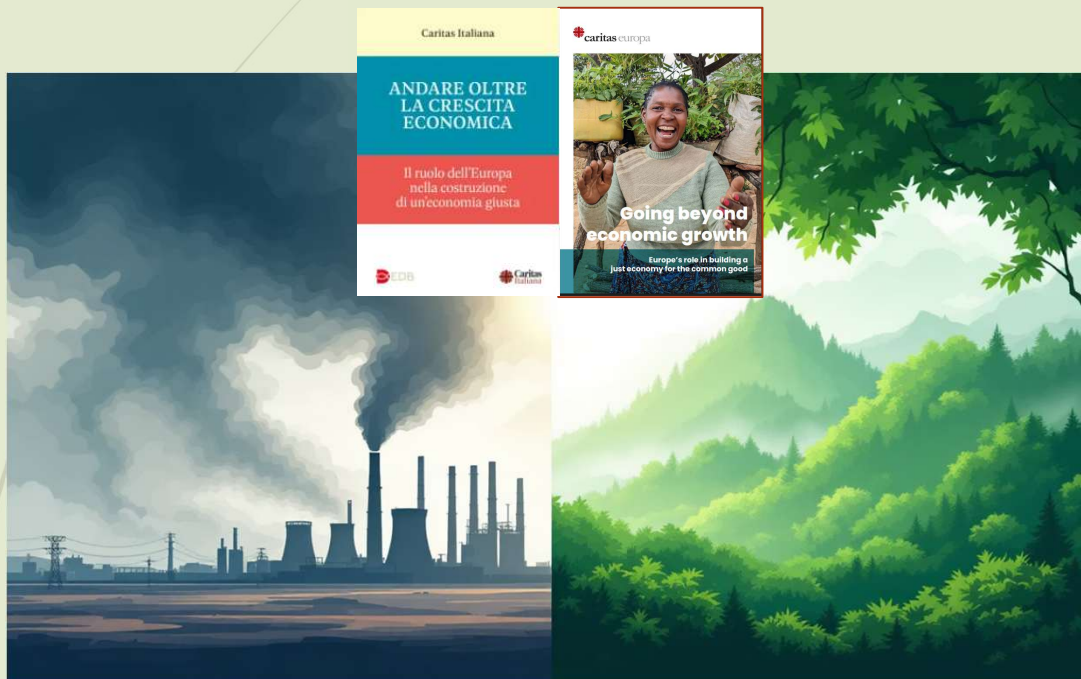
Climate shocks primarily affect vulnerable communities. A green transition without justice creates new exclusions.

4

Institutions and Trust

The same economic shock produces different outcomes. Where institutions are credible, conflict can be mediated.

What to transform and reduce : beyond 'economy of growth'



Models we need to overcome

- Extractive and predatory business models
- A discourse on private entrepreneurship fully and solely anchored to the principle of the 'shareholder value'
- Corruption and opaque contracts
- Ideology of market that often hides unbalanced power relations
- Speculation on food, housing, energy
- Financialization is the problem, not the solution!
- Policies that externalize social and ecological costs
- Narratives that treat people and territories as disposable

The Economy of Peace is not a single model: it is a **direction of travel** guided by dignity, justice, and ecological responsibility.



What to Build: Directions for the Journey



Economy of Care

Health, education, social support, community work



Dignified Work

Youth leadership and worker dignity



Ethical Finance

Social and environmental criteria integrated into financial choices



Local Resilience

Energy communities, short supply chains, mutual support



Ecological Justice

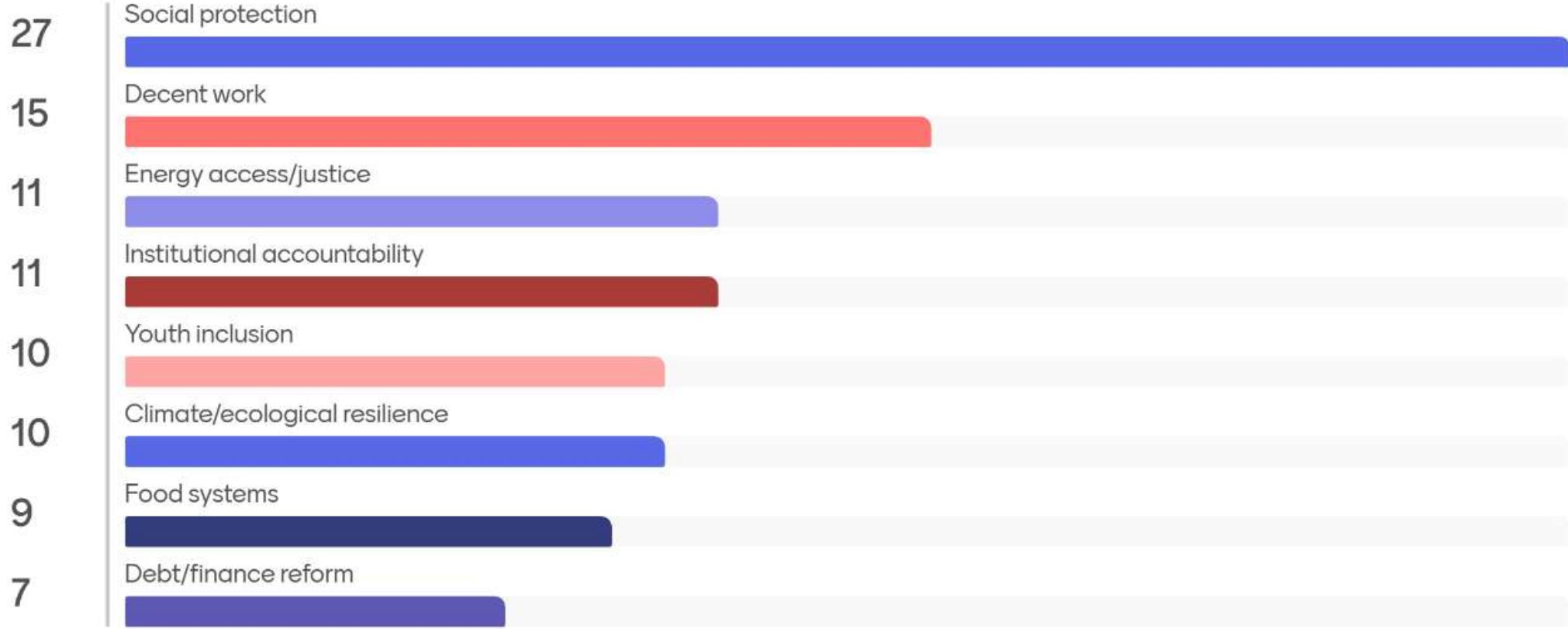
To protect our common home, means protecting the most vulnerable. Climate action and poverty/inequality action cannot be separated



Transformative

Keeping the balance between the "prophetic niche" and the need of transforming the whole of the economy

Which lever is most urgent in your context for an Economy of Peace?



Concrete Examples of Practice



Energy Communities

Shared renewable systems,
reduced bills, local governance



Industrial Reconversion

From crisis to socially useful
production, driven by workers



Food Solidarity

Linked to rights and local
producers, not just emergency
distribution



Intersectoral Local Pacts

CSOs, municipalities, schools,
faith communities, and
cooperatives together

Peacemed Dialogue: Common Challenges, Shared Responsibility

The 'enlarged Mediterranean area' is not just crisis. It is a **shared political and moral space** where interdependence is undeniable.

Interdependence Without Governance

Energy, food, migration, water, climate, and security are linked across borders

Youth with Blocked Futures

Education without opportunities, participation without real power

Local Solidarity Under Pressure

Civil society, faith communities, families, and municipalities bear too much weight alone



From Diagnosis to Practice: A network Commitment?

A concrete, collective, and scalable action across three levels, starting from ourselves, in our day to day experience and life.

