

PEKEA World Conference 2009

A Political and Ethical Approach in Economic Activities

Provisional indications to prepare contributions

PEKEA, NGO with a consultative status to ECOSOC, UN, has been set up to prepare a research programme that would be based on a Political and Ethical approach in economic activities.

This conference will contribute to enter into the next stage: to carry out a new research programme.

First, the conference will take stock of all previous works; this will be made easier thanks to a synthesis which is in preparation. Second, this conference would provide “good” papers that are relevant to this research programme. Third, papers and discussions will make possible the writing of the common terms of reference of the researches that must be carried out to deal with this research programme.

The choice of themes

The relevant set of concerned fields is vast as the interest of the conference lies mainly in finding out a way, a specific manner, to define problems and issues and to say how to carry out researches. You are invited to make a contribution that takes care of terms of references which will be said, it is the PEKEA way to analyse economic activities.

Moreover, since the general reference is expressed as « an ethical and political approach », it is already including new subjects otherwise considered as out of the picture.

May we remind some indications that are drawn from our previous conferences:

(i) analyses must take into account « values » and « powers » (phenomena linked with general concepts as Dignity, Responsibility, Citizenship, Loyalty, see: <http://www.pekea-fr.org/AttachNLetter/En-Pekea-2007-04.pdf>)

(ii) analyses must avoid to refer to only one discipline but will use references from several human and social sciences.

(iii) analyses should be documented from field studies or be raised from problems coming from the ground : this does not ban theoretical and technical contributions but avoid abstract approaches.

(iv) analyses must listen to actors in the field and debate with them as they have a ground and citizen expertise, this allows among others to avoid the application of ways of thinking ready to make top-down decisions.

(v) analyses must have a scientific intent, avoiding slogans, decisions in principle; they must build sound arguments, based on new material and on the resources of many past works that may be fully compatible with our own terms of references, as well.

(vi) analyses are built in acceptance of an ethics of scientific discussion, what means that all works are contributing within a community to make a decision according to democratic procedures in force and in accordance with an interpretative pluralism.

Provisional list of themes.

Thus, the choice of the « main themes » is an extension of the general theme of the conference: to share a common « ethics » that first will enable to interact reciprocally (theme 1) and that states, as a first shared order, that the search for the common good, implies its organisation and management, what constitutes, in this sense, a “political” approach (theme 2). This second theme must be divided according to the reality which is that of the multiplicity of the levels of “collective” and of their articulation (themes 2.1, 2..2, 2.3).

The political and ethical approach deals with economic activities, these activities are the outcome of work and are all different ways to be an « entrepreneur » : how to analyse, to carry out these activities with this approach ? This is the subject of the theme 3. Education, culture, sport... are examples that, intuitively, show the difficulty (or the artificiality) to classify our activities and to qualify or not some of them as « economic ». Our activities have ends – linked to our ethics- and the theme 4 will welcome contributions about activities that are contributing to our common good without the « economic » qualification. Finally, the theme 5 will gather methodological contributions that may help us to design the conceptual and epistemological framework of our works.

1. Towards a declaration for a universal ethics

2 Contributions to a new management of the common good

2.1. Organisation of inter-local relationships and mainly inter-national ones

2.2. Planetary issues - mainly environmental and information ones

2.3. Local issues - mainly the role of Local Governments

3. Societal spirit for business management and work

4. A Culture of collective and individual blooming

5. Methods to analyse complexity and systems