

3.2 FAMILIES AND THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM

CHALLENGES

The connection between family, common good and economic life is very strong: economy comes from *oikia-nomos*, the art of managing the family, the household, in a macro-economic sense.

The responsibility of economic decision makers cannot continue to neglect the conjugal family and the original relationships that constitute it.

SUGGESTIONS

In the economic system, it is necessary, not optional, to safeguard relationships and, first and foremost, the leading role of the family.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- abandoning the individualistic concept of the person
- recognizing the subjectivity and priority of the family as the foundation of the common good
- promoting working conditions and mechanisms for redistributing the balance between care and professional roles in the labor market
- promoting economic growth that takes into account people's basic relational and family needs
- promoting renewed economic models also based on personal conversion and generosity toward those most in need
- exposing the virtuous mechanisms that are generated by an economic system centered on the family as well

Guidelines for family-focused university research

Further research should be conducted on:

- economic mechanisms whose economic subject may be the family
- economic models based on the relational goods that the family generates and that can positively affect market mechanisms
- economic models that assess the impact of economic and financial choices on the family and propose them as economic policy criteria
- models to counter the effects of inflation on households
- support to businesses that foster the development of relational assets in the family
- a more just tax system that takes into account the number of children
- efficient models for extending paternity leave
- mechanisms of labor remuneration proportionate to the household in the weaker segments
- reforms for international economic and financial institutions so that they can promote equitable relations between rich and poor countries



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