

THE ECONOMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD CELEBRATED ITS FIRST DECADE IN SPAIN

- Miranda de Azán was the setting for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Economy for the Common Good movement in Spain. This municipality in Salamanca was chosen because it is a pioneer in the world in implementing this management model that promotes ethical economy.

- The meeting served to bring together a large number of the supporters of this movement in Spain and to discuss the evolution and future of the development of the economy based on ethical, human and environmental values.

- The working sessions dealt with issues such as rural development and de-population, the right to live in a sustainable city, climate change, the crises of the economic system, and presented viable alternatives that have sustainability and human dignity as a fundamental principle.

September 27th 2023.- Miranda de Azán (Salamanca) has become the epicentre of the Economy of the Common Good in Spain. For 3 days during the weekend, it was the place where the 10th anniversary of the movement in Spain and its declaration as the first Municipality of the Common Good was celebrated.

The Miranda town hosted a conference in which a wide range of topics were discussed, such as rural development and de-population, the right to live in a sustainable city, climate change, the crises of the capitalist system, and possible alternatives that have sustainability and human dignity as a fundamental principle were presented.

The mayor of Miranda de Azán, José Luis Sánchez, presented the conference indicating that "we are going to idealize our future, to imagine it from the good actions that are already being carried out in the present in order to have a solid base on which to build it". For his part, the founder of the movement, Christian Felber, sent a video from Austria with his congratulations and recognition for the effort and sensitivity that Spain has shown on these issues.

The conference helped to show a complete analysis of the economic and social situation in Spain and analysed the different alternatives and solutions to capitalism, one of them being the model of the Economy for the Common Good "for its capacity to transform the current economic paradigm", according to Javier Ruiz, who also explained the direct relationship between social and political demotivation and the lowest incomes.

Various multidisciplinary working groups were organised. In particular, the panel on public administrations was attended by various public representatives, who explained the policies that they have developed and continue to work on in their respective

territories. Accompanying José Luis Sánchez were Alberto Rubio, Mayor of Guarromán (Jaén), another of the most active Common Good municipalities, and Rafael Climent, former Minister of Social Economy of the Generalitat Valenciana, who explained the specific measures developed to create a Common Good region in Valencia. There were also discussion sessions on the responsibility of the media in the image they convey of the rural world and another on rural development.

The documentary/summary of the 3rd Small Farms Conference was also shown, which analysed the problems of the exploitation of extractivist capitalism, rural abandonment, lack of investment, etc.

In addition to these issues, there were other issues of great concern and importance for our future, both on urban development and citizen participation through urban gardening projects and the greening of common areas such as school playgrounds. Javier Ruiz analysed and explained the alarming outcome of the current chain of crises, where income and social inequality is becoming more and more extreme, and the direct problems that this causes for a healthy democracy. The level of income is directly related to abstention and participation.

The meeting also served to share and pool the work of the various hubs of the EBC in Spain to work on future projects and presented several initiatives and companies that are working within the ECG values and a meeting to project the future actions of the Associations.

In addition to the participation of the local residents who helped the host municipality to welcome all the visitors, it is worth mentioning the attendance of public officials from the province, who have shown great interest in implementing this way of acting in their respective municipalities, as well as academics interested in explaining it and working in their classrooms, and people from the field of social movements who need practical and measurable models to implement in their organisations.