

TURNINGPOINTS.EU

The Opening of TurningPoints

The NGO, TurningPoints, officially opens its doors on September 21, 2019 on the UN International Peace Day. TurningPoints has established itself with new concepts, new program, new board, membership of CISU and a first collaboration has already been established with an NGO in Guatemala, ILEPAZ.

Why Establishing TurningPoints?

The world is facing an unprecedented growth of the world's population, which is heading for 11 billion people. This is happening in a world of limited resources.

This development is unsustainable and will result in ecological collapse and violent social conflicts if left to political and economic ideas developed in the 17th century. We need to realise that these old ideas cannot produce answers and effective practical solutions to the current global situation when it comes to sustainability, basic human needs, job creation and social-economic security:

- We cannot expand material growth to obtain more sustainability. We have to Re-distribute and share!
- We cannot compete to less inequality. We have to cooperate!
- We cannot regard humans as means to ends. We have to humanise!
- We cannot force humans to peace. We have to mediate!

We need to realize that the weapons and violence we are protesting against are simply the tangible results of deeper-lying political and economic assumptions about nature, people and the economy - that violence is a prerequisite for present politics and the economy. We may be able to stop one weapon system or one war, but new ones will continue to be produced.

We therefore need to develop new ways to prevent violence. And we also need to find ways to create common social security and trust. This does not happen by letting violent concepts set the agenda.

The Purpose of TurningPoints

TurningPoints works with economy and security. Our goal is to create sustainable and peaceful economies through a new type of business and develop better and more fair police work around the world through better concepts about leadership and conflict. We chose this focus because:

Poverty and violence are closely intertwined - to solve one problem, the other must be solved too

The lack of security and the lack of protection against violence is one of the main reasons why poor people are poor - and one of the primary reasons why they remain poor. Without security for the poor, no development will take place.

The Organization of TurningPoints

TurningPoints is the coordinating unit for experience and knowledge, and at the same time the unit that coordinates the two focus areas, each of which forms their own division of TurningPoints: Pass It On (business creation) and Politeia (teaching, workshops and research).

Pass It On

The purpose of Pass It On is to establish companies that create new democratically owned and lead companies. Sustainable, profit-sharing businesses that co-operate with the local community.

Politeia

The purpose of Politeia is to teach police leadership theory, conflict theory, conflict resolution, and how to build a professional police force that people trust.

Context Analysis

Liberalism was an invention that did away with absolutism and its economy, mercantilism. Therefore, today's democracy and market economy of our society today rests on several of the assumptions of nature, people and economy that the early liberals made in the 18th century.

The liberal political project was to distance itself from the monarchs of absolutism and to place the legitimate power with the 'people' of the nation. Thus, liberalism had to find a foundation other than the Deity into which the monarch had justified his power. The choice was Newton's scientific-mechanical thinking, which therefore came to characterize the many concepts of the time, and which today constitute both liberal politics and economics. The economy over a short period of time evolved to consist of mechanisms and factors that would exclude ethics, morals and subjectivity in the market where free competition was to prevail. Similarly, the security policy of the nation-state evolved to consist of a mechanical thinking that saw nation-states like billiard balls colliding in wars.

Today, these ideas face nuclear weapons, Internet commerce and global migration, and clearly they have reached their limits and must be further developed.

Globally, we face three fundamental developmental needs, that, because of today's dominant 18th-century concepts in the political field of thinking, seem to be mutually exclusive: sustainability, the right to life and the right to financial security:

“The only way we can change this development,” says Kathrin Robertson, is to stop thinking in boxes and start thinking in systems. In contexts. When a rainforest is felled, it makes way for a field of soy, which is sailed on our side of the globe and used as fodder for Danish pigs. Full stomachs in one place is a felled forest in the other. More people in education is more dignified lives. More dignified lives are increased consumption. Increased consumption is more food production. More food production is increased CO2 emissions. Increased CO2 emission is more climate change. More climate change is more extreme weather conditions. More extreme weather conditions are more people in crisis. More people in crisis are more refugees. More refugees are... ” Kathrin Robertson, Zetland, July 24, 2019

This complexity faces the legal aspects of the right to life and the right to a life of economic security, both of which are expressed in the UN Declaration of Human Rights:

“Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security.

Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.”

Because violence is one of the major obstacles to social and economic development, both direct and structural violence must be taken into account in response to the current challenges. In other words, development cannot become sustainable if it does not become peaceful at the same time.

There are three crucial challenges which regard nature, people and economics - and they cannot be answered by the mechanical—isolated-antagonistic thinking of the 18th century. As Robertson points out, the crisis facing the population globally is a 'complexity crisis'.

The problem is that our politicians, economists and business life are generally stuck in this 18th century thinking in relation to nature, people and the economy. This maintains an unsustainable development.

Around the clock, around 3 billion people go to work - a work of which very large parts are neither sustainable, democratic nor peaceful. In addition to this situation and due to global population growth, an additional 600 million jobs are needed in the near future - especially in MENA, in the East African countries and in Central America.

In other words, if we are to meet both sustainability goals and human rights goals, then economy and security are absolutely central factors that need to be changed fundamentally.

The answer must be that in near future around 4 billion people will go to work in workplaces that are sustainable, enriching those who produce the values, collaborate with the local society and create peace.

Thus, all economic activity must be changed to be sustainable, democratically controlled and peaceful.

In response to these challenges, TurningPoints has developed companies that are democratically owned and led, that create new similar companies (economic distribution) and which have central sustainability mechanisms in place. Development must come from below, be local and in cooperation with the local authorities, especially the local police, in order to be robust and sustainable.