
Sbilanciamoci!

The economy as it is and how it might be.
For an Italy capable of a future



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c/o "Lunaria" Social Promotion Association

We ask and act for a development model radically alternative to the neoliberal one, based on the principles and priorities of peace, environmental sustainability, economic and social justice, and solidarity.

We want to know, discuss and critically analyse the facts of the economy and of the socio-economic system in which we live, aware that information on this front suffers from a lack of democracy and transparency, and that the debate on the prospects of the economy, society and politics is too concentrated in the heads and media of a few.

We want to update and enhance the tools of economic policy in the globalized economy, recalibrating the political agenda on the urgencies of climate change and of the imbalances in the world distribution of wealth and income, telling the practical experiments of new economic and organizational models.



Since 1999...

...we have been promoting and coordinating Sbilanciamoci! ("Let's get unbalanced!"): a coalition that brings together 46 Italian civil society organisations and a network – which is largely part of the coalition itself – of economists, researchers, journalists, students and social workers.

For twenty years, Sbilanciamoci! has been committed to redirect the allocation of public resources and public money towards greater social justice and a sustainable and peaceful economy; to enhance and consolidate collaboration at European level with networks and social movements involved in the construction of a democratic, just and solidarity-based Europe; to develop research activities, advocacy, training and communication initiatives aimed at promoting a fair and sustainable development model, in Italy and all over the world.

That's why Sbilanciamoci! runs and manages the web magazine of information and socio-economic critical analysis www.sbilanciamoci.info; publishes articles, research reports and dossiers; engages in dialogue, advocacy and confrontation with institutions and public decision-makers on the adoption of new public policies; organizes public events, scientific conferences, training seminars and promotes public debate on economic issues and economic alternatives; participates to and supports campaigns and social movements.

For twenty years we have been talking, raising awareness and interacting with thousands of people. We have always worked, studied, mobilized and built bridges and alternatives: for a fairer and more sustainable economy, a more supportive society, a more forward-looking policy making.

For an Italy capable of a future.



The Magazine

Sbilanciamoci.info is a web magazine launched in the second half of 2008 and dedicated to promoting and spurring research, information and public debate on the economy "how it is and how it might be".

Born on the initiative of a group of economists, researchers, journalists, students, social workers, trade unionists belonging to or close to the Sbilanciamoci! coalition, its objective is the free and open dissemination of critical thinking on economy and society, with the publication of articles dedicated to the analysis of current events and the reporting of initiatives, news and comments from other websites and blogs.

The contributions collected on www.sbilanciamoci.info deal with crucial economic, social, environmental and political issues, addressing them in a context that is not only national, but also European and international: all content is accessible free of charge and their circulation and re-publication is allowed for non-commercial purposes and with mention of the source.

The site also hosts several sections: the most recent materials and all the publications of Sbilanciamoci! since 2000 – with a large archive of more than 100 titles in free download, including reports, e-books and dossiers – the news, analysis and initiatives of the Sbilanciamoci! coalition, reviews and reports of books just published in bookshops, articles from foreign press and magazines.

Sbilanciamoci.info is an important information tool for all those who are interested in the critical analysis of the economic and social system, and in possible alternatives to be put in place.

The Sbilanciamoci! coalition

The Sbilanciamoci! coalition brings together 46 Italian civil society organizations committed to the issues of public spending and economic policy alternatives, with particular attention to labor, tax justice, peace and disarmament, environment, school, university and research, inclusion of migrants, ethical finance, international cooperation, fair trade, social economy. In the course of its twenty years of activity, Sbilanciamoci! has produced many initiatives, analysis tools and proposals for action, with the aim of building an economy based on the principles of economic and social justice, environmental sustainability, peace and solidarity.

The “Alternative Budget Law”

Since 2000, Sbilanciamoci! publishes every year, in correspondence with the presentation of the Executive’s Budget Law, its “Alternative Budget Law”, i.e. a Report – entitled “How to use public money for rights, peace and the environment” and now in its twentieth edition – which analyses in detail the choices and measures of economic and financial policy proposed by the Italian Government and sets out at the same time an alternative, zero balance budget maneuver, with concrete proposals to redirect public spending in favor of an economy of justice, the guarantee of rights and social inclusion, a model of fair and sustainable development. Since 2016, a web platform specifically dedicated to the Report has been active, with analyses, data and in-depth analyses on the Budget manoeuvre and the alternative proposals of the coalition.

Training on Italian Municipalities’ and State’s Budget

Since 2016, Sbilanciamoci! organizes “Let’s unbalance our cities. Understanding and changing local budgets” and “Let’s unbalance public accounts. Understanding and changing the State budget”: two training seminars lasting two days each with the twofold objective of providing agile and functional keys to the analysis and understanding of the structure and processes of the Italian Municipalities’ and State’s budget, and to transmit at the same time tools for capacitation and civic activation on issues of public finance. The seminars – which have so far been held in Rome (3 editions), Bologna and Bari – address a wide audience of beneficiaries: members of civil society organizations, parties and trade unions, journalists, political and institutional representatives, active citizens.

Public Budget Transparency

Since 2010, Sbilanciamoci! joins the Open Budget Survey, the world’s leading independent Report on the quantity and quality of information made available by governments on public accounts and government budgets. The Report, prepared every two years and coordinated by the International Budget Partnership, rigorously evaluates the levels of transparency, accountability, oversight and public participation in the processes of budget formation, approval and reporting. Sbilanciamoci! answers for Italy to the detailed survey questionnaire completed in each of the 115 countries by independent representatives of civil society, experts in public finance.

Well-being Indicators, beyond GDP

In 2003, Sbilanciamoci! devised a composite indicator to measure the quality of development in the Italian regions – the QUARS – based on 41 indicators distributed over 7 dimensions: Environment, Economy and work, Rights and citizenship, Health, Education and culture, Equal opportunities, Participation. The work of QUARS – whose annual Report, entitled “How do we live in Italy?”, has been published until 2012 – is part of the national and international movement and research on the measurement of well-being “beyond GDP”. Thanks to this innovative experience in the Italian framework, in 2012-2013, Sbilanciamoci! was involved by ISTAT (Italian National Statistical Institute) in the consultation process that led to the development of the set of indicators of BES – Fair and Sustainable Well-being. Specific declensions of QUARS have been realized to measure the quality of development at regional (Lazio and Piemonte Regions), provincial (Provinces of Trento and Ascoli Piceno), and municipal (Arezzo and Cascina) level.

Training on the Economy

In 2014 and 2015, Sbilanciamoci!, in cooperation with the Department of Economics, Society and Politics of the University of Urbino, organized in Urbino at the Faculty of Economics the Summer School “Economy as it is, and how it may change”: a residential school of 5 days to offer basic training on the themes and fundamentals of economics and economic and social policies. The School has deepened knowledge on the economic system in Italy and Europe, welfare, the labour market, globalization and finance, providing essential concepts to understand and critically analyze economic phenomena through lectures, exercises, working groups and round tables.

Military Expenditure and International Cooperation

The themes of military expenditure and development cooperation are of utmost importance for Sbilanciamoci!. Through the publication of "Armed economy", the promotion of the campaign "Cut the wings to the arms" and the editing of Dossiers on the purchase of fighter-bombers F-35, Sbilanciamoci! promotes a critical analysis of the sector of military expenditure and the policies of defense of the Italian Government, while providing insights into the production and international trade of weapons and data and proposals on how to reduce military spending reorienting it in a social sense. In addition to this, there is the monitoring of public cooperation carried out by Sbilanciamoci! with the "White Paper on Italian development cooperation", seasoned with alternative proposals on the allocation of resources for public development aid, solidarity and respect for international objectives in terms of cooperation.

The "Controcernobbio" Forums

From 2003 to 2012, in conjunction with and symbolic opposition to the industrialists' workshop held every year in Cernobbio, Sbilanciamoci! organized its "Counter-Cernobbio": a counter-forum of discussion on the defense of the rights and dignity of work, the protection and promotion of welfare, the prospects of the "green economy" and of an alternative socioeconomic model, radically different to the neoliberal one. Thousands of people participated in the 10 Forums organized by Sbilanciamoci! throughout Italy, and dozens of key international speakers took the floor. Among them: Vandana Shiva, Aminata Traoré, Saskia Sassen, Jeremy Rifkin, Susan George, Wolfgang Sachs, Danielle Mitterand, and many others.

Networks and Campaigns

Since 1999, Sbilanciamoci! has promoted dozens of networks and campaigns. Among the most recent: the "StopTTIP" campaign against the approval of the two treaties of trade liberalization between the European Union and the United States (TTIP-Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) and between the European Union and Canada (CETA-Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement); the "SOCIAL imPACT" campaign to stop austerity policies and exclude social spending from the Italian National Stability Pact; the "005" campaign on the introduction of the Tobin Tax against financial speculation; the "If you tie, you lose" campaign in favour of a Citizens' Initiative Bill aimed at deleting the balanced budget obligation from the Constitution.

European Initiatives and Research Projects

Sbilanciamoci! has inspired many European initiatives against austerity policies and for a radical democratisation of the EU, e.g. the publication of "Budgeting for the Future. Building another Europe" (an alternative Budget Law on the EU budget); the participation to the activities of the EuroMemo Group, a network of European economists for an alternative economic policy; the promotion of the pan-European network "European Progressive Economists Network". In addition, the participation in European research projects is part of the initiatives of Sbilanciamoci!. Among the most recent:

GroWInPro-Growth, Welfare, Innovation, Productivity, a 3-year project (2019-2021) funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme and coordinated by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa. The project aims to formulate economic programs and policy recipes to bring Europe on a path of socially and ecologically sustainable growth. Sbilanciamoci! is in charge of leading the communication and dissemination of **ISIGrowth-Innovation fuelled, Sustainable, Inclusive Growth**, a 3-year project (2015-2018) funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme and coordinated by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa. Its objective is to investigate the relationships between innovation, employment dynamics and growth. Sbilanciamoci! has managed the communication activities and the coordination with civil society organisations, animating a network of European civil society actors aiming at developing new policy proposals for an equitable and sustainable growth. **WebCOSI-Web Communities for Statistics for Social Innovation**, a 2-year project (2014-2015) funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, coordinated by the Italian National Institute of Statistics and dedicated to the new frontiers of innovation related to the use of data and statistics in the digital age. Sbilanciamoci! has been engaged in the analysis of the role and potential of civil society in promoting societal progress and innovation thanks to the production, use and dissemination of "beyond GDP" data and statistics.

Project Wealth-Promoting Local Sustainable Economic Development, a 4-year project (2011-2014) funded by the European CBC ENPI-MED Programme, coordinated by Shatil (Israel), and aimed at the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean network in support of socio-economic development of peripheral regions according to the needs of local communities.

OUR SOCIAL IMPACT

FACEBOOK PAGE

11,078
FOLLOWERS



TWITTER PROFILE

8,191
FOLLOWERS



WEBSITE

150,000
UNIQUE VISITORS
IN 2018



46

MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS



110

PUBLICATIONS



550

WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER
SENT TO
20,000
CONTACTS



4,300

ARTICLES
PUBLISHED BY
500
AUTHORS

IN 2018



23

PARTICIPATIONS TO
PUBLIC EVENTS



70

QUOTES IN THE WEB



11

RADIO INTERVIEWS



22

ARTICLES PUBLISHED
IN NATIONAL DAILY
NEWSPAPERS AND
WEEKLY MAGAZINES



9

PRESS RELEASES



5

PUBLICATIONS