

Economics – How to help the poor without patronising them or imposing values?

The General Session on Economics was presented by a **senior specialist from the EU Commission**. This Thursday afternoon we have been looking at the values underpinning fight against poverty generally and in the Christian context. We also learned about the values underpinning the European Commission's work in fight against poverty and development aid outside Europe. Is state-sponsored aid the best way to help the poor? Does this sometimes clash with ethical dilemmas? Can private (non-state) initiatives truly help (e.g. NGOs, churches, migrant individuals)? Our study was very much enriched as it took the form mostly of small group games and a subsequent discussion of the Christian perspective on the methods and principles of helping the poor and what it means for us as citizens to support private and/or public initiatives.

Please note that our speaker, though being a senior specialist working at the European Commission, is not coming to represent the official view.