

Who is calling for change?

Rethinking Economics Italia has existed since the end of 2013, starting with Rome and Bologna and reaching 13 different universities. Through the organization of events addressed to the students, like conferences, roundtables, seminars, interviews, movie screenings, book presentations and workshops, the local groups managed to involve also professors, PhD candidates, other local actors as well as the civil society. The Italian network also coordinated with other Italian realities as STOREP, Associazione Marcello De Cecco, Fondazione Finanza Etica to organize bigger events on a national scale.



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Since about a year, RE exists in **Switzerland** as well. Particularly, there are student societies in each linguistic region: a chapter of Plurale Ökonomik in Zürich and the Rethinking Economics groups in Lugano and Geneva. All of them already succeeded in reforming their economics curricula: notably in Zürich by establishing a course in pluralist economics and in Lugano by introducing a new course in critical history of economic thought. The three groups recently gathered for the first time in Fribourg, where members from multiple Swiss universities joined together in order to create a national network.



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How should this change look like?

Examples of pluralist courses:

- [‘Introduction to Economic Theories’](#), University of Rotterdam: the course presents four theoretical perspectives - Social Economics, Institutional Economics, Post Keynesian economics and Neoclassical Economics - applied to different topics such as firms, money or labour.
- [‘Pluralism in Economics’](#), University of Zurich: the ten lectures cover a broad range of topics: from Austrian- to Marxist- and Complexity Economics, each one presented by a specialist of the field. This course, going back to the initiative of Plurale Ökonomik Zürich, does not cover the same topics in different perspectives, but lets every approach focus on its central issue.
- [‘History of Economic Thought’](#), University of Greenwich: at first, the module explores the theoretical and methodological development of the economic discipline, its major authors and their ideas and theories. Then, it analyzes several contemporary issues from different economic perspectives, and fosters critical thinking by making students defend and question different intellectual positions.
- [‘History and Philosophy of Economics’](#), University of Cambridge: initially, the course presents the most innovative ideas of the economic theory and illustrates the context in which they developed and how they related to and affected the real world. Successively, this class examines different methods in economic investigation (philosophy of economics), and applies all the knowledge to the current debates.

Example of an entire pluralist bachelor’s degree:

- [‘BA in Economics’](#), Goldsmiths University of London: a 3 years Economics degree with a pluralist and interdisciplinary approach, in fact it shows different traditions and schools of thought since the very introductory class, then keeps exploring them through a course of History of economic Ideas and Economic History. At the same time it integrates economic perspectives with other social sciences. The final aim is to guarantee a complete training in economic theory and real world application, essential to understand and operate in the modern economy.

Materials:

- *“Rethinking Economics An Introduction to Pluralist Economics”*: this book, edited by six *rethinkers*, contains a brief description (10 pages ca.) of nine different schools of thought in the economic discipline, each drafted by a leading expert in the field. The idea behind this work is to create the materials needed to enrich the economics courses’ programs; nonetheless, this book is also accessible to people outside the academia who want to know more about economics.
- [Exploring Economics](#) is a public e-learning platform designed for anybody who wants to learn about different economic theories, topics and methods. This project was started by the Netzwerk Plurale Okonomik.
- [Economicseducation.org](#) was born to share the results of the extensive curriculum review of all undergraduate economics courses in the Netherlands conducted by RE students, but today it serves also as a source of materials and ideas for a richer economics education.