

For better service to migrants and refugees

Dear National Executive Councils,
dear Ecclesiastical Assistants,
dear Eurolinks,

in February 2017 at the European Migration Network-meeting in Barcelona the

EUROPEAN MIGRATION CORE TEAM

was founded. We want to inform you who we are, what we are doing and, if possible, to extend our network. Finally we want to invite you to reflect on Pope Francis' message for the 14th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018.

History:

In 1999, the Euroteam launched a project proposal called [with people on the move](#). A mandate was put in words that included

- promoting justice in favour of marginalized persons, especially forced migrants;
- to do so in close cooperation with the Society of Jesus (JRS);
- to offer young people the possibility to live common experiences with migrants and refugees, and
- to favour networking and acting together in the forced migration field amongst CLC and beyond.

This mandate is still valid and has been put into practice. 7 international encounters so far have formed a migration network and worked out guidelines and instruments to better serve both – the forced migrants and those who have committed themselves to this issue.

(<http://clc-cvx.eu/2016/02/28/migration-project-example/>)

As you know, the cause for this project has not vanished, in the contrary. More than ever people are forced to leave their homes and more than ever we are called to react on that misery.

Next step:

12 out of 22 European national CLC-communities are already committed in the migration network. To raise the effectiveness and to improve our mission the World ExCo had asked CLC-Spain to coordinate the migration network. Quite spontaneously they did so and after 2 years of pioneers work in February this year they handed their commitment over to a team, that should represent 3 or 4 different national communities.

This new team – the **European Migration Core Team** - had it's constitutional meeting in July 2017. It's members are:

- Maria Morales, Spain
- Laura Scaglia, Italy
- Nicole Amrouche, France
- Ulrich Treipl, Austria

The mandate is given until the European Assembly 2019.

Our objectives and lines of action are a result of many years work for and with refugees and migrants and also of the experience of their perception in our nations and CLC communities:

1. Raising awareness of the reality of migration in European national communities.
2. Favours discernment and DSSE (**D**iscern-**S**end-**S**upport-**E**valuate) in national communities to specify their response in this field of mission.
3. Development of projects undertaken by CLC Europe.
4. Advocacy at European level.

1: We think, that migration has become a worldwide challenge. That is why we asked the World ExCo to put this issue on the agenda of the CLC-World Assembly in Buenos Aires. And that is also, why we write to all 22 European CLC-communities to invite them to get aware of the reality of migration, a reality, which we think mustn't be ignored any longer.

2: Once being aware of the many aspects of migration we recommend a process of discernment on the question, where are we called **as a community** to act or support? We know that very many individuals are already in services for refugees. More and more also communities are growing who act as an apostolic body like in France (Atelier étranger), Italy (Centri Astalli), Spain, Luxembourg, Austria,...

3: Since two years there is a common project of CLC-Europe that has been opening possibilities for young people to live common experiences with migrants and refugees: "At the frontiers with asylum seekers". This will continue because the positive effects for the refugees, the young people, the CLC, the Jesuits,... are really convincing!
Another beautiful experience were summer camps for unaccompanied minors which took place this summer in Luxembourg.

4: Particular CLC-communities have already a lot of experience in sending petitions, letters, urgent requests to politicians of their governments in favour of single refugees, families or groups. Also the European CLC has sent an open letter to the EU-responsible 2015 advocating refugees and condemning measures that just prevent them to enter the continent.
By the way, Ann Marie Brennan is consultant in the World ExCo and the representative of World CLC in the NGO "committee on migrations". They are working on UN-level!

Intensified networking

Knowing more about each other forms community. If we as Migration Core Team got in touch with the missing 10 national communities that would already be a success! For all 22 European CLCs the following e-mail address can be used for questions, reports, support:

europeanmigrationscoreteam@gmail.com

- It would be helpful for us to know at least one person per CLC-community as a "spokes(wo)man". It could be the Eurolink, but also anybody else who is interested in issues of refugee and migration. (Language should be English, French, Spanish, German or Italian). Please, tell us also if you want to receive our newsletter!

- If you think it worthy you can also support the project “At the frontiers” – financially, sending money to the CLC Europe account. Please don’t forget to specify that it’s for the project.

CLC Europe Account Details:

- (The CLC Europe Account is held in the name of CLC Flanders who have kindly accepted to provide this service, since the Euroteam does not have the legal status necessary to open a bank account in Flanders, Belgium)

Title of Account: CLC Flanders
 Address: Sint-Jorisstraat 8000 Brugge Belgium
 IBAN BE75 0017 3906 9651 BIC : GEBABEBB
 Bank: BNP Paribas Fortis
 Address of Bank BNP Paribas Fortis Vlamingstraat 8000 Brugge Belgium

- We are interested in reading about any discussion or reflection of related themes; we know that this topic is handled very emotionally by policy, media and people, also within CLC!
- Now we point especially on a document by Pope Francis on the occasion of the 104 th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will take place in January 14th 2018; it is written in 7 languages and a perfect base of reflection and mind forming! The link is:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20170815_world-migrants-day-2018.html

- At last we want to give you some questions that can be reflected on in local meetings or organized encounters

We call for a critical look at questions such as these, both as individuals and as a community:

- How can we best obey the Gospel’s teaching to help my brothers who are migrants from other places?
- In the context of refugees: What are our fears?
- What information do we have about reasons and consequences of flight?
- How can we contribute to living together well with needy people?
- How can we make sure that migrants are seen and treated as human beings, not as objects to be sorted or flows to be channelled
- How can we foster true hospitality, as Jesus calls us to do?

At the end of the year 2017 we look back in gratitude and consciously of so many brothers and sisters who cannot do so. May Lord Jesus be born in their homes and hearts and may we become witnesses of their joy!

Advent 2017

Maria Morales, Laura Scaglia, Nicole Amrouche, Ulrich Treipl

European Migration Core Team