

CCME aims at promoting an inclusive policy at European and national level for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

beyond borders

since 1964

Projects:

Recently, CCME implemented the following projects:

- **Safe Passage:** The "Safe passage" project is an initiative by churches across Europe, coordinated by CCME, which aims at making safe passage a reality for migrants and refugees trying to reach the EU through its Southern borders. In addition and in a longer term, the project aims at changing European asylum and migration policy so that refugee and migrants no longer have to resort to perilous journeys across the EU borders.
- **Mapping Migration Study:** The study "Mapping Migration in Europe – Mapping Churches' Responses" attempts to provide information on actual immigration and emigration figures for 47 European countries, and seeks to identify the diversity of Christian presence. It is an update of the 2008 publication.
- **Migration and development:** Migration and development are interlinked and there is a need to constructively engage diaspora, sending and receiving countries in the development with adequate programs and policies. Expanding expertise and ownership from church partners in dialogue with the global South is a partnered project with Bread for the World, Germany
- **Labour Trafficking:** Fighting New Trends, Understanding New Elements, developing new responses and partnerships (Labour trafficking: FINE TUNE responses). Nationally the project aims at building partnerships against labour trafficking between NGOs, trade unions and faith-based organisations in 7 countries, with national partners. The project was developed in partnership with Anti-Slavery International and the International Trade Union Confederation ITUC, which is the coordinator. The project is cofinanced by EU.

CCME Secretariat (from left)

Mr Emmanuel Kabalisa Office Manager

Ms Doris Peschke

General Secretary

Dr. Torsten Moritz

Executive Secretary



Centre Oecuménique

CCME

174, rue Joseph II

B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. +32 (0)2 234.68.00

Fax +32 (0)2 231.14.13

E-mail: info@ccme.be / info@ccme.eu

Web: <http://www.ccme.be>

<http://www.ccme.eu>

Bank Account:

BNP Paribas Fortis Bank

IBAN: BE76 0010 7929 9495

CCME's Mission is to

serve the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives.

CCME

- works on issues of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination, undertakes research, initiates, develops and implements projects in these fields;
- represents the common voice of the churches in Europe on the above issues vis-à-vis the European institutions.

«For I was a stranger and you welcomed me» (Mt. 25:35)

Who we are

Founded in 1964, the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is an organisation of churches, ecumenical councils and church-related agencies from currently nineteen European countries. The Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) formally and closely cooperate with CCME.

Since the General Assembly of CCME in October 1999 in Järvenpää/Finland the mandate of CCME has been expanded to cover the whole area of migration and integration, refugees and asylum, and anti-racism and anti-discrimination.

CCME provides a space for churches and Christian agencies to share their experiences in the ministry among migrants, refugees, and ethnic minority persons. CCME is part of a wider ecumenical network of the World Council of Churches with its Global Ecumenical Network on Migration. CCME participates in the European Platform of NGOs on Asylum and Migration (EPAM), the European Council on Refugees and Exiles ECRE and the European Network Against Racism ENAR.

CCME maintains regular contacts with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. CCME also holds official observer status with the Council of Europe (Strasbourg/France). This enables CCME to monitor European policy-making in the migration, integration and asylum spheres and to present the concerns of the churches to the relevant institutions.

CCME cooperates with the Middle East Council of Churches on migration and refugee resettlement in the Mediterranean region, and with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), particularly on removals of migrants as well as development and migration issues in the context of the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration of the World Council of Churches. CCME also enjoys close cooperation with the Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program USA.



General Assembly Sigtuna (Sweden), June 2014

CCME Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly to administer the Commission's affairs. The last assembly took place in Sigtuna (Sweden) in June 2014 and elected as:

Moderator

Dr. Victoria Kamondji Johnston, France

Vice-Moderators

Rev. Alfredo Abad, Spain

Ms Elena Timofticiuc, Romania

Treasurer

Rev. Thorsten Leisser, Germany

Members

Mr Lemma Desta, Norway

Rev. Dr Jeri Jehu-Appiah, United Kingdom

Ms Efthalia Pappa, Greece

Ms Semegnish Asfaw Grosjean (Representative of the World Council of Churches)

Mr Andreas Henriksen Aarflot (Representative of the Conference of European Churches)

Substitute Members:

Rev Nektarios Ioannou, Cyprus

Ms Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy, Hungary

Work Priorities

Adopted by the CCME General Assembly, Sigtuna, Sweden, June 2014 :

- Europe's role in refugee protection in the 21st century
Defending asylum—including complementary protection; additional forms of refugee protection; including resettlement of refugees to Europe; revising the tools for protection—e.g. for environmental refugees, internal displacement.
- Human dignity in the process of labour migration
A uniform set of rights for all migrants; ratification of all binding legal instruments Europe-wide and globally; advocating for the right to family life as sine qua non of integration, monitoring expulsion, detention and removal of migrants, particularly in cases involving children.
- Countering contemporary forms of slavery, in particular trafficking in human beings
Trafficking in women; trafficking for forced labour; promoting a right-based approach to trafficking.
- Uniting in Diversity: migration as an opportunity and challenge for the unity of the church
Being Church Together; integration and the role of religion; theological reflection on migration.
- Churches as witness to inclusive communities in Europe
Anti-discrimination legislation: monitoring and promotion in churches; inclusion of ethnically discriminated groups within church and society; Churches addressing racism.
- Migration and development
Monitoring policy development at European level; cooperation with other regions; networking with churches' development agencies and identifying relevant projects.
- (Beyond) Borders: *Monitoring Southern Border; Promote policies of safe access; Continue to hold an annual Day of Remembrance for those who have died at Europe's borders.*