



**CEC ccme**

churches' commission for migrants in europe  
conference of european churches

## **LET'S BE ONE!**

*“ Welcome one another, therefore,  
just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God „  
(Rm. 15,7)*

**MIRACLE PROJECT:**  
Models of Integration  
through Religion, Activation,  
Cultural Learning and Exchange

## Uniting in Diversity

Migration is today a big challenge for the European society as well as for the European Churches. Governments are promoting different policies, but how are Churches responding to migration? What is actually the migrants' situation in local churches?

In the last years many believers coming from other countries have knocked at the European Churches' doors.

They bring different prayers, different music, different habits: let's make the differences become our richness, let's learn together how to sing a new song to God:

*„Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts“ (Ps. 33,3)*

### What does the Bible say about migrants?

The biblical duty of welcoming the strangers is widespread in the Bible:

*„Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers“ (Rm. 12.13),*

and the Love of the Lord goes beyond every distinction:

*„So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God“ (Eph. 2.19),*

reminding that *„You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt“ (Ex. 23,9).*

When we hear someone knocking at our church's door,  
do we open it?

Do we share our faith

with newcomers from other countries?

Do migrants have effective access  
to leading positions in our churches?

## Make MIRACLE happen!

The European project MIRACLE wants to understand if and how churches are a welcoming harbour for migrants.

Is your community actively welcoming migrants?

Do you think that welcoming migrants affects the identity of your community?

Do the migrant members of your church influence the way of being a community?

Do they bring a breath of fresh air in your community, or are they only filling empty benches?

## Tell us good stories!

Is there any example of active migrant members in your church? What did you learn from the migrants in your community?

The community is an important niche of every believer's life, where we share our faith and we glorify God, where we help each other and where we start to build a better world. Sometimes we might even be jealous of our community and we want to keep it unchanged.

**By using the materials of the participation method WinAct-MIRACLE (which stands for Winning Migrants as Active Members), we encourage you to reflect on the activation and participation of immigrants in your community.** The WinAct-MIRACLE method can be easily used in a flexible way, it is structured with exercises, group discussions and role plays, each one lasts between 15 to 45 minutes.

*Rejoice during your festival, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, as well as the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows resident in your towns. (Dt. 16,14)*

The **MIRACLE** project: Models of Integration through Religion, Activation, Cultural Learning and Exchange.

Project coordinated by CCME

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies across Europe. CCME is becoming a commission of the Conference of European Churches and formally cooperates with the World Council of Churches.

If you think that "Churches welcoming migrants" is an important issue and you want to know more about it and to discuss it within your community, please contact:

Finland: Marja Liisa Laihia

[marja-liisa.laihia@evl.fi](mailto:marja-liisa.laihia@evl.fi)

France: Marianne Gueroult

[projet.mosaic@federationprotestante.org](mailto:projet.mosaic@federationprotestante.org)

Germany: Thorsten Leisser

[Thorsten.Leisser@ekd.de](mailto:Thorsten.Leisser@ekd.de)

Italy: Paolo Naso

[eci@fcei.it](mailto:eci@fcei.it)

The Netherlands: June Beckx

[info@skinkerken.nl](mailto:info@skinkerken.nl)

Sweden: Kristina Hellqvist

[Kristina.Hellqvist@svenskakyrkan.se](mailto:Kristina.Hellqvist@svenskakyrkan.se)

CCME—Olivia Bertelli

[olivia.bertelli@ccme.be](mailto:olivia.bertelli@ccme.be)

**Ask for the WinAct-MIRACLE materials!  
They give good inputs  
for reflecting and discussing on  
how your local church is welcoming migrants!**



INTI-CA 2007

The MIRACLE project is co-financed by the Integration Fund—Centralised Actions 2007 of the European Commission (DG JLS).

The views expressed and information provided by the project and the partners involved do not necessarily reflect the point of view of the European Commission and do in no way fall under the responsibility of the European Commission.

CCME— Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe—Rue Joseph II 174—B-1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 (0)2 23.68.00—Fax: +32 (0)2 231.14.13—email: [info@ccme.be](mailto:info@ccme.be)—[www.ccme.be](http://www.ccme.be)