

CCME Work Programme Overview for 2024-2027

1. *CCME's mission for the coming years*

CCME is an ecumenical organization that serves the churches in their commitment to migrants at European 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.

In accordance with that mission, CCME is committed to the following:

- providing a space for churches and Christian agencies to share their experiences in ministry among migrants through its organization of the network in Europe and facilitating provision of information to the churches on the development of migration issues on a European level. CCME is part of a wider ecumenical network of the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches. It participates in a network of NGOs throughout Europe.
- maintaining regular contacts with the European Commission, the European Parliament and Council of the European Union. CCME also holds official observer status with the Council of Europe. This enables CCME to monitor European policymaking in the migration, integration and asylum spheres and to present the concerns of the churches to the relevant institutions.
- promoting the adoption and implementation of international standards of human rights, in cooperation with a wide range of partners.

2. *Fields of interest for CCME*

The focus of CCME's work in 2024-2027 is people in need of international protection divided into fields of interest prioritized by the General Assembly and by ExCom, namely,

- Monitoring and informing the membership about implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum (and related legislation) on European and national level, especially in relation to border and human rights issues, externalization policy and agreements between the EU and third countries;
- Stimulating and supporting safe passage for persons in need of international protection through resettlement and complementary pathways;
- Promoting and developing the vision of an alternative asylum system which protects people more than borders;
- Improving communication with members and others by modernizing the website and strengthening CCME's presence on social media.

For any other field of interest, CCME needs extra funding and extra capacity. Projects or issues which we think are very important but need additional funding are:

- Stimulating and supporting safe passage for people in need of international protection throughout Europe through new initiatives;
- Mapping Migration: making the churches commitment towards migration and refugees visible. This project is funded for 2024. Community sponsorship of asylum seekers and refugees, being an area where local and regional churches are very active and there is a continuing demand to exchange experiences in cooperation with other partners;
- Labour migration, being a prime issue of policy of the EU and concerning many aspects of human rights, labour rights and other regulations. The position of labour migrants coming from within the EU and from outside the EU, despite different legal frameworks, is often in need of diaconal attention. Churches cannot do that without a basic knowledge of the situation and developments in the EU.
- Uniting in diversity, being the field where theology meets migration work. CCME is an ecumenical church organization and stands on a strong theological foundation. Uniting in diversity may be purely research (theology & migration, Mapping Migration) or may entail

meeting for deeper reflection, exchange and encouragement of churches to engage or remain engaged in this area.

- advocacy for the churches in the field of migration and racism. This mandate calls for an intersectional approach to the lived experiences of migrants. Recognising its limitations in terms of capacity, CCME is open to partnering and collaborating with other CSOs in ways which help churches' ministries to and with migrants on intersections of racism, labour, conflict, climate and migration.

All of CCME's work will be rooted in theology, if there are resources, established academic contacts will be utilized, where appropriate, to support this.

CCME has an overarching commitment to facilitating the exchange of information for and between members and the network, dealing with the legal aspects of being an entity under Belgian law as well as organizing the executive committee and General Assemblies, the representation of CCME within ecumenical bodies, maintaining contacts with Christian and secular partners in Brussels and the basic contacts with press and political bodies.

During the 2024-2027 period, following the withdrawal of funding from CEC, it is essential for CCME to work towards a stable funding structure, continuing, where possible, to maintain efficiencies as well as (1) securing membership fees and (2) finding new paying members to strengthen the church's work for people in need of international protection. Additional activities such as renting out office space may provide limited extra income.

CCME's work on core fields of interest shall be executed by its staff with the active support of the Excom and members.

3. Choices

The programme overview outlined above requires tough decisions to be made in relation to the work which can be undertaken annually, particularly in relation to additional fields of interest for which there is no budget yet.

Adopted by the CCME GA on 18th June 2024