

<b>Forced migration (FM)</b>	<b>total</b>	Austria	Belgium french	Belgium flemish	Croatia	England & Wales	France	Germany	Italie	Luxembourg	Malta	Portugal	Slovenia	Spain	Spain	Switzerland
<b>Participation -Malta 2001</b>	6	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	++	+++	++	-	++		-
-Schönbrunn 2003	9 + UN	+	+		-	-	++	+	-	++	+	+	-	++		++
<b>FM concern discerned by national team</b>	8	++	+		+	++	-	++	-	++	---	2000	-	+		+/-
by service team	4	0	n/a				-	+++	-	+	---	++	-	+		-
<b>FM apostolic mission</b>	7	--	+		Since 2002		-	-	-	++	+	++	+	+		-
National FM working group exists	4	---	++		+	no	+/-	+	-	+	---	-	-	++		-
Relations with JRS	11	---	+	+	+	++	-	++	+++	+	++	++	+	+		-
<b>FM national events</b>	8	++	+		+	+	Nat Ass.	--	-	+	-	-	+	++		-
<b>FM in publications or newsletter</b>	13	++	++	+	+	++	+	+++	+	++	+	+	+	++		+/-
<b>Public action on FM issues</b>	2	--	-		-	-	-	--	-	+	---	'	-	+		-
<b>Support of Members active in FM</b>	10	+	+		+ volunteers	++	30-50 are active	-	++	+	-	++	+	+		-
<b>Increased Awareness of members about FM</b>	12	++ *)	+		-	++	+/-	+	+	++	+	+	+	++		+

## **Additional responses from the national communities to the table**

### **Austria**

Als Folge vom Welttreffen in Nairobi wurde eine Gruppe gegründet zur Umsetzung der Apostolic Community. In einem halbjährigen Unterscheidungsprozess wurde auch die FM immer wichtiger und konkreter und hat bei einzelnen Gruppenmitgliedern zu einem Umdenken geführt. Ebenso ist seit Anfang 04 eine Russische Flüchtlingsfamilie in unserem Sekretariat mit ihren vielfältigen Problemen ständiges Thema.

### **Slovenia**

Our action was as it is described in our report of Forced Migrants. Nothing very important or new happened since then. This year we also organized (in collaboration with JRS ) the pilgrimage to Pohorje in which some young people from Bosnia also participated.

### **England and Wales**

As stated in a previous report this was an issue which our national team looked at seriously and tried to implement some response, we initially tried to get someone to act as a link but this proved to be impossible, however although, we have not as a national team, been able to give priority to this project we have tried to ensure through various activities that our membership is made aware of the issues.

1. In the regions there have been days or meetings devoted to the issue of forced migration where people involved with working in this area have led input sessions to heighten awareness of the issues.
2. We have used "Focus" our national newsletter to promote such days and to give further information.
3. We have kept in close contact with JRS and have promoted their materials on this issue.
4. We support individual members through the groups who are working in this area.

### **Malta**

Yes. The first one was organised in Malta. Besides the Maltese involved in the organisation, Christine Sammut also attended the seminar as the representative of CLC Malta.

Maris Ciappara attended the second seminar in Schonbrun

It is with regret that we now look back and realise that no discernment took place. We adopted the project automatically

We did not adopt this project formally and therefore can give no date. However each member of CLC Malta is (or should be) aware of the fact that Forced Migration is a priority within CLC Malta. In fact many CLCers have opted to work with Forced Migrants on an individual basis. The Young CLC Team also helped organise a summer school for children of refugee families in Summer 2004, in collaboration with JRS, Malta. Many young CLCers volunteered to help out in this project.

There was a working group made up of 4 people initially. One of the first activities was to send out a letter to all CLCers asking them to tell the team if they are involved with Forced Migrants and if they would like to be involved. This was done in collaboration with JRS by asking them what sort of collaboration they would like – especially since the team felt it would be unwise to start a project ourselves both because we do not have the resources nor do we have the know how. A response was received from about 20 persons. Some were involved with visiting families. The team had passed on the details to JRS. Unfortunately the team died a natural death. Although CLCers are involved with the refugees, it seems that everyone is happy working on an individual level.

CLC Malta has very good contacts with JRS.

The summer school mentioned above was organised primarily by CLC with the support of JRS. CLCers have also participated in various activities organised by JRS.

### **Switzerland**

We organized the second meeting. Participation of Anni Rickenbacher (NGO), Christoph Albrecht SJ und Anke Jucker

FM is not a national priority, but we are open for signs. We inform about the decisions of the Euroteam.

Laws in Switzerland are more and more “unfriendly” to refugees and asylum seeking persons. Hostility of swiss people is increasing. I think that there are a lot of CLCers aware of the problem and who try to participate in discussions and to say “No” to those who speak negatively about FM. But there is no political engagement on a higher level.

### **Croatia**

FM national events: summer holidays with forced migrants on the Zman last summer.

Interest in European initiatives: we are interested in clc cross-border exchange regarding FM, but have no possibilities to organize one.

### **French Belgium**

Belgium French CLC is lucky to have a very active FM group. The starting impulsion of this group has been the discernment of the Celje European Assembly, but the activities would not have been possible without the personal involvement of the members of the FM Group. National Team is recognizing the work of this FM group. The FM group organised a retreat (second one in preparation) on the theme “Welcome the stranger and live with him”, in cooperation with JRS, the “Centre AVEC”, and with the financial support of the national CLC.

The FM group has written several papers in the “CVX Gazette”, our local information journal. Hopefully, this helped to raise the awareness of the CLC members about the FM problem.

### **Luxemburg**

CLC Luxembourg certainly recognises Forced Migration as part of its apostolic mission. However, it is impossible to put an exact date to a “formal” recognition. Our awareness of the importance of this issue grew step by step and this process was largely prompted by European and world CLC assemblies or meetings:

-after Itaiçi: our National Team became aware that forced migration would be an issue of priority as far as our social engagement is concerned

-after Celje, the National Team decided to send a letter to all CLC groups, drawing their attention to the problems of forced migrants, encouraging their members to stay or become attentive to these problems, and informing them that among other social engagements CLC had chosen this one as a priority

- 2001:Malta gave our national efforts a new impetus

In January 2002, CLC Luxembourg decided to create, among others, a working group on Forced Migration, with the aim of putting into practice the reflections of the Eurolinks in Malta. In reality, this group is rather a loose affiliation of various people, who have been dedicated in a modest but reliable and effective way over years to the concrete integration of forced migrants (education, accommodation). Our Ecclesiastical Assistant, Pierre Meyers SJ, is part of the Luxembourgish Refugee Council . Two retired teachers have been giving repetitional classes to refugee pupils and helping with homework. Most prominently, Agnes

Rausch, professional social worker for the Caritas refugee service, has been the most inspiring stimulator of this group.

In Luxembourg, JRS is not a big organisation, but its concern for the refugees is embedded in the work of the National Refugee Council, an umbrella organisation grouping 10 NGOs, among them AI, Caritas, and CLC. Our Ecclesiastical Assistant is a member of this council. The reflections of the Refugee Council always complement our CLC spirituality. In general, CLC is aligned with the demands and political statements of the National Refugee Council.

- Before our national political elections in June 2004, the National Team of CLC had addressed an official letter to all political parties, asking them to explain their positions concerning specific aspects of the issue of forced migration. Some time later, we organised a meeting, open to the general public, during which we discussed the answers we had received.

CLC Luxembourg tries to raise the awareness and sensitivity of its members by encouraging them to take part in formation sessions, such as “Accueillir l'étranger et vivre avec” (Belgium, 2004 and 2005) and to further the integration of refugees by honorary work.

On the whole, the members who are engaged are certainly supported by their groups (in which they share, at least partly, their discernments) well as by the national community. However, the issue of forced migration and of refugees was felt as particularly pressing 3 to 4 years ago, in the aftermath of the wars in former Yugoslavia. At that time, the government decided to have recourse to a rather harsh repatriation scheme which concerned many refugees. Many demands and claims of the Refugee Council, f. example concerning the living conditions in the detention centres, met with no understanding at all by our government and were simply ignored. Often, people feel we achieved so little. Today, especially as since the last elections we have a more open-minded Government on this issue, it is not perceived as so pressing any more.

### **Italy**

Even if CLC-Italy has not discerned FM as being a common mission, it does promote JRS activities as a field of action for CLCers, so that many CLCers involved deeply in this field. In some regions common CLC projects for forced migrants do exist. Language difficulties limited cross border contacts so far.

### **Portugal**

FORCED MIGRATION – 3 projects: one led by CLC in partnership with a parish in Coimbra, and two as volunteer partners of Caritas (Évora) and JRS (Lisbon). We also welcomed the appointment of our former National Ecclesiastical Assistant, António Vaz Pinto sj, as the Government's *High Commissioner for Migration and Ethnic Minorities* and the decision of a CLC regional leader to become a member of his staff.

November 2004: we sent and supported the participation of 2 members at the CLC Spain Meeting on Forced Migration

### **Spain**

*our national team, who decided to create the service team. Yes it was created on 2001.*

*The working group is coordinated by Elisa García and it has four members. Moreover, the National Team has designated one of its members to be a link with the working group. The link attends the working group meetings and participates of the electronic informations and discussions.*

*The tasks of the working group include the following: to organize the annual FM national meeting, to be in contact with the Euroteam and to participate in its activities, to facilitate*

*the communication among the CLC members related with FM area, to write articles and information to be published (mainly for CLC publications), etc.*

*In Spain the JRS do not have a great activity. We have the intention to contact with a recent jesuit FM network. We have a fruitful relation with the Jesuit Migrant Service in South America and the Caribbean region.*

*Two FM meetings for CLC members have been hold on Oct-2003 and Nov-2004.*

*In the national CLC newsletters, the FM issues are usual and very appreciate (as far as we 'think').*

*We act as a network where several activities promoted by other associations are informed and, in some cases, we join and promoted them in our local assosations. Two of these activities may be detailed by their importance:*

- *We directly promote the arise of a no-constitutional recourse against the current immigration law*
- *We send information of the "Here we life, here I vote" actions, that reivincate the political rights for the no EU foreign citizens who have been register in Spain councils for long time.*

*We think that there exists several signs of greater awareness by our members:*

- *In the national CLC assembly, the FM issue was treated, inviting the work team to present their activities as a national CLC activity of special interest.*
- *A CLC region (Aragon) has ask the working team to attendance a future meeting.*
- *The new CLC national team has evaluated the past working team activities and they have decided to continue and with their support*

*Nevertheless, the national assembly creates great expectations about the FM issues that were not covered in the CLC national meeting on nov-2004. Only 23 persons attendance this meeting. It was fruitful for them, but the answered to the call for participation induces the idea that FM is not yet a main activity in Spanish CLC.*

***We answer YES to ET proposal to open the next annual migration meeting for CLCers of other countries. And we are lovely to celebrate the next european migration meeting...***

### **Germany**

Until about 3 years ago only a few members were involved in FM

The commission service and mission got involved in FM

We started publishing articles in our newsletter

We participated in JRS meetings and worked out a way with JRS how to get more people involved in FM

End 2004 the national ExCo formally allowed the commission to develop steps of a national strategy to promote FM

FM is a demanding topic and our aim at the moment is to reduce anxiety

### **Poland**

we re-formulate this area and see large areas of poverty

Many people from Polish CLC have more individual or small group apostolic activities, e.g. in social clubs for poor children and from pathological families, retreats for people ill with SM, voluntary work in orphanages and in prisons, retreats in daily life, retreats in daily life via local radio-station, some CLCs are involved in some other Catholic Associations

### **Coordination (Agnes)**

Unfortunately we did not receive any reaction from Ireland.

From Flemish Belgium we had no reaction either to our questionnaire, but we know from earlier contacts that they promote awareness about FM through the bulletin, mainly by informing about JRS activities

**I want to underline**

1. The 2 meetings in Malta and Schönbrunn/Switzerland were real highlights, the wish was expressed to continue these meetings every second year
2. So far little cross-border relations or networking by involved people in FM took place
3. The good relations with JRS in nearly all national communities are an example of good relations between CLC' and Society of Jesus' mission

**Conclusions**

The Euroteam, in its meeting in Rome, in line with Lille recommendations, proposes to continue the common project in the field of forced migration through:

- Creating a common european list of CLC persons involved as volunteers or professionals
- Awareness raising activities (by sending relevant European information to those registered on this list; by encouraging members to make friends with migrants/refugees and to tell the truth about their situation)
- Organizing a third European FM in beginning 2006 in Spain (thanks to CLC-Spain fore being ready to co-organize it)
- Inviting national communities to open national FM encounters to others (retreat/session in French-speaking Belgium; annual meeting in Spain . . . . .)
- Getting in contact with the European migration network of Christian organizations, based in Brussels and in case of European wide campaigns, informing national communities about possibilities to join.

Luxemburg, 27 February 2005  
Agnes Rausch