

Euroteam 2004-2009 moral report *complementary to the powerpoint presentation*

0. Some figures

- 10 meetings as euroteam, normally twice a year for 3 days,
 - including an encounter with the local CLC
 - + meeting with WExCo in February in Rome
- 2 meetings with the eurolinks (Limburg and Rome)
- 2 meetings of forced migration group (Calpe/Alicante and Haumont/Lille)
- 2 oecumenical meetings : Sibiu/Rumania from the European Bishops conference
- Stuttgart from the European communities and movements
- + 2 preparation meetings (Monika)
- 1 holy...days for young professionals in Palermo + 2 preparation meetings (Martina)
- 1 encounter with the ecclesiastical assistants in Drongen/Gent + 1 prep meeting (Agnes)
- + visits to Slovakia, Lourdes, Brussels, Migrationswochenende, Freiburg, Vienna,

1. Euroteam, as it is and was

- 4 of us were elected in Lille; **Leo**, being elected president of CLC-Italy, left us in autumn 2007, after the eurolink meeting in Rome on social justice, for which he was, as expert, in a special leader role.
- After having met him, sent a profile and job description, worked out by the former and actual euroteam, + 3 names, the President of European Provincial sent us **Andrej Benda sj**, the former EA of CLC-Slovenia, to be part of euroteam. A different understanding of his role, with a culturally different background, it was difficult to meet expectations on both sides. I have to confess that my coordination style was not helpful either. After his nomination as Socius by the Slovenian Provincial and after leaving his mandate as EA in Slovenia, Andrej dropt also from euroteam job. In order to avoid future misunderstandings, painful for all, we will make a concrete proposal to include into our Operating Procedures.
- For the last 2 meetings, **Edward Warrington** joined us for the preparation of the Assembly.
- We tried in all to follow the **recommandations** received from the previous assembly in Lille; this was also the reason, why we did not engage in European networks like the European social forum or sign European initiatives from civil society.

2. Support to communities in formation

- In a European meeting in autumn 2000 in **Falenica/Poland**, contacts were established with persons from some 7 countries where CLC was not yet established at that time.
- In 2002, Igor from the euroteam met the Provincial of **Eastern European region**, and in a letter to him, he wrote, regarding starting CLC in new countries, "it seems that the help of Jesuits is necessary to start CLC".
- We had invited to the European assembly in Lille members from **Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine**.
- Martina visited CLC groups in **Slovakia** in 2004;
- We were ready to go to **Scotland**, but we didn't receive an invitation. As Scotland is part of the English Jesuit Province, we look towards CLC-England&Wales and SJ to help scotish Marian congregations to move towards CLC.

- To the **EAs meeting** in Drongen in January 2007, Jesuits from Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania were present.
- Between World Exco, World vice EA, godparent community or preferential links to established NCs, **it was not always clear** for us as euroteam, what to do or not, what to propose or not. Once a **godparent** community was nominated by the World ExCo it was easier for us, because we got regularly reports from Germany regarding Hungary and from France regarding Lithuania. We were always happy when we heard that **Alberto** had contacts with Provincials or visited some of the concerned countries. We are also very grateful to **Polish CLC** you launched a regional initiative for this summer and to which we wish full success.
- We still have to work on a coordinated effort and on a more pro-active presence in pre-godparents-period. Being in contact through CLC members in **Croatia** to young adults in Serbia, who were interested in ignatian spirituality, one of them was invited to a Grundkurs in Germany and here her personal reaction: *"I still don't understand why you don't organize once a year an international meeting with interested people from different parts of Europe for a Grundkurs. It will be much more helpful and it can be a possibility to get fresh ideas"*.

Oecumenical presence

Invited by the **European Bishops conference** through the world secretariat on one hand and by Stuttgart CLC region in Germany on the other, we decided to be present at these Christian, European events, mainly to make CLC visible. Confronted to Focolari movement or Sant Egidio community, we face not only the question of our visibility as CLC but also of our identity.

On a personal level these encounters were moments of grace for all of us who had the chance to participate, especially the one in Sibiu/Transylvania, but regarding our limited means, we have to ask the question of priorities for euroteam and CLC in Europe.

One criterion could be **"the most urgent and universal"**; the other is if these events depend on our presence and they certainly do not; a third one is the collaboration with others and our service in and for the Church.

Looking to Europe's reality, we cannot oversee the presence of many Muslims among us and we cannot but feel the Islam phobia of many in Europe. Could this be a common challenge for CLC in Europe?

Youth

Concerned by the aging CLC in some of our NCs, challenged by young professionals from CLC-Italy, having in mind that the last formation course for young adults proposed in 2001 had to be cancelled because of a lack of participants, the idea of holy...days was born. **Combining holyday elements with spiritual life** and some formation was not an easy task for Martina and the preparation team. But the experience as convincing and as euroteam we had the desire to repeat every second year such an event. But a host community is necessary; we have some hope that Palermo participants from England&Wales can do it together with Portuguese young CLCers at a sunny beach in Portugal. They just wait for the GO of the new euroteam !

As euroteam we wanted also to show existing **experiences of some of the NCs**, offering pilgrimages, summer camps, international volunteering, social immersion experiences for students or young adults. We invite all NCs who organize such events to

open their initiatives beyond border, within CLC family but also within ignatian youth network Inygo.

We should not forget either the opportunities given by the **European Youth in action** programme, open to all EU and neighbouring countries.

Formation

Responding to the given mandate in Lille, we asked a **working group**, composed of Annie, Carla and Evelyne, to do the pooling of existing formation material in all European NCs. It was done via email and through a presentation to the eurolinks in Limburg. All NCs were informed about the final outcome, which is visible on our webpage www.clc-europe.org. Did this have any impact on the formation teams in our respective countries? If not, why?

7 NCs declared themselves interested in cross border formation initiatives. Who will take the lead?

Europe is the only region, where the participants to the **leadership formation** course in Rome organized by the WExco did not set up a leadership formation course yet, why? Is it only a problem of language? If so, why not doing it in language regions!

Communication

In the recommendations of the last assembly, a special emphasis was put on a good communication.

- We choose as main topic for the first eurolink meeting after Lille, ignatian communication and invited the expert in this field, **Willy Lambert**, who had written a book on this issue. It is always good to remember the letter of Saint Ignatius to the Fathers at the Council of Trent in the first months of 1546; it's so inspiring for nowadays! This meeting was a great opportunity for all to get close to one another and especially for eurolinks who attended for the first time a European meeting.

- In order to foster face-to-face encounters beyond borders, Leo had the idea of a **CLC Erasmus program**. We thank all who participated to it and sent invitations published on our webpage. We feel sorry that some of the NCs waited in vain for visitors coming from abroad. Probably this was due to a lack of information on the grassroots level.

When we asked to the eurolinks in Rome to tell us about crossborder initiatives we were astonished to hear how many visits, contacts, encounters beyond borders took place.

So we ask ourselves, is Erasmus-Europe program necessary to help you promoting your invitations or not? Should we perhaps try with CLC-Europe on facebook?

- One of the means, beyond face-to-face encounter, were the **bulletin**, which was coordinate by Monika and to which all eurolinks contributed eagerly. You can see the topics of the 10 published bulletins in attachments. We know from some NCs that the bulletin, in English, is translated into the national language, great! Others have a regular European column in their national bulletin. We were not convinced of the need to continue a publication, but the eurolinks in Limburg encouraged us to do so. We rely of course on all of you for the transmission to your interested members.

Good communications remains a ongoing challenge for us all.

A small word on the **use of languages** within CLC-Europe. As in many European foras, the English language is most commonly used; we didn't want to have it as exclusive communication language. Because for those who do not understand or speak this language, it is exclusive. So we decided at the EAs meeting in Gent for the first time to have English as main language with French translation, done by a Jesuit from Luxemburg. For the last meeting of forced migration we proposed French as main language with Spanish translation, done by a religious sister from Lille! A not realized idea of the outgoing euroteam is to organize a CLC English summer course in Malta!

Social justice

In order to help moving from a community of apostles to an apostolic community, we organized the **second eurolinks meeting** with the topic of social justice initiatives; we had 4 inputs, a bit too much for those amongst us who are not working every day in this field, but nevertheless unforgettable.

Regarding new economical ways, like fair-trade, one-world-shops, ethical banking, alternative tourism, new consumer behaviour, we were wondering if CLC could not initiate a european network for those active in this field. In one of our annual letters to the presidents, we raised this question.

In the field of **forced migration**, project launched at the end of 2000, we have realized a kind of network, or better a net of friends meeting every second year. The evaluation done in 2005 showed that 90% of the NCs are involved in this area, even if only a few have a specific structure for the forced migration concern. Social evening in a refugee home for Christmas in Slovenia, awareness raising program for youngsters in Malta, migration weekend in Germany, 3-days-seminar on welcoming the foreigner in Belgium, Ignatian migration group in Luxemburg, a joined venture of JRS and CLC-WG, participation to social forum in Spain, co-initiator of *cercles de silence* in France, managing a center for refugees in Palermo based entirely on volunteers are concrete signs of a same friendship.

In this field the good **collaboration with Jesuits** was obvious through the presence of 5 Jesuits and 3 JRS national delegations at our last meeting.

As nearly all of us participate to **national networks** beyond CLC, regular European information on the question of migration seems not so necessary. Meeting other CLCers and Jesuits from Europe fighting for a human asylum and migration policy is always a real consolation.

At the beginning of the project, we had proposed to include also emigration or internal migration (from villages to cities); unfortunately this dimension was not reflected by concerned NCs up to now.

We propose to continue with the forced migration encounters, in close collaboration with JRS.

Link with the SJ

We are very grateful to Alberto for whom euroteam is a partner in organizing the meeting with national EAs.

Our major events are published on the website of Jesuits in Europe; a good collaboration existed with the former webmaster Rik de Gent sj.

For an even improved relation to the European provincials, we propose a change of operating procedures, in order to include a Jesuit in the euroteam, with the help of the world vice-EA.

We see the need for a greater collaboration with the Provincials and the involved Jesuits in the European countries where CLC is pregnant. Unfortunately we had not time and energy enough to do this. perhaps the coming euroteam could outsource this mission and entrust it to committed CLCers of partner countries.

Link with the World Exco

- The easiest way for euroteam to be in good connection with the World Exco was to meet in February in Rome in the **same house**, unfortunately this was not always possible. Celebrate mass together, sitting at the same table with WExco members from all over the world, to eat and chat, is a great opportunity to live the world dimension of CLC.

Regular contact with **Daniela**, our president, made communication flowing, also in moments when we had the impression that we were in a one-way-communication with Ncs or other members of WExCo.

As Euroteam is the only regional structure within WCLC until now, we are sometimes presented as good practice and sometimes ignored or silenced in order to avoid a too much Europeanized CLC. ☹ Having not only one but more persons from WExco being the link with European NCs did not always contribute to a good exchange of information or concerted action either.

Also as regional service team, it seems to us crucial to be more involved in the preparation and participation of the world assembly.

We try, in a constructive way to address these questions, which we recognize as structural ones, in a discussion on our operating procedures.

Conclusions

For all of us it has been a great experience of what it means concretely to discern together, to sent and to be sent, to support and to be supported and to evaluate in community. A journey of team working, with time for highlights and darkness.

We felt sometimes lonesome in our mission, especially when no replies came to our emails, no answers to our requests. Our respective local CLC groups encouraged and supported us a lot. In Luxemburg, I was even privileged to be supported by a specific discerning group and the elderly CLCers were eager to get news after every meeting, for which they prayed and are praying constantly.

For some NCs our activities might have been of no relevance, for others there seem to be less need for regional structures in a world community: these attitudes were the best remedy in order to keep us humble followers of Christ, rooted in reality.

If within CLC family we met sometimes the "we are the best" attitude (we have the biggest numbers, best formation courses, most committed members, largest events, youngest groups), we can just say to you today: *we did our best*.

Agnes, euroteam coordinator, Wavreumont 13 mai 2009