

Churches helping Churches Special Initiative: Refugees in Europe – Raising Awareness and Promoting Integration

Churches helping Churches is a program of German Protestant churches to support Christian churches and their institutions across the globe. Apart from pastoral work, the program supports social-diaconal activities reflecting practiced faith and charity. Churches helping Churches is implemented by Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service as an independent program line. For more information on Churches helping Churches please visit <http://www.kirchen-helfen-kirchen.de/english.html>

About the initiative

The number of people seeking refuge in Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea and traveling via the so-called Balkan route through Southeast Europe increased significantly in 2015.

Churches and church organizations have been important actors in humanitarian relief as well as in promoting integration and active participation of newly arriving people in the different European societies and local communities.



Acknowledging the crucial role of churches in this context, Churches helping Churches puts a special focus on the financial support of churches and church organizations in Europe in their work with refugees and other migrants. The initiative ***Refugees in Europe – Raising Awareness and Promoting Integration*** offers financial assistance to local partners in setting up projects to improve the current situation of refugees and other migrants at local, national and international levels.

Project areas eligible for funding may include:

- Assisting migrants and refugees by offering language classes, job trainings, accommodation or social and legal consultancy
- Supporting integration by organizing cultural/social/sports activities that bring together people with and without experiences of displacement
- Promoting contacts and dialogue between church members and newcomers, Christians and Muslims, local Christians and Christian migrants/refugees by organizing joint encounters, excursions, worship

- Raising awareness on the situation of migrants and refugees to counteract prejudices and discrimination
- Promoting open dialogue on the topic of migration in church and society by organizing conferences or discussions
- Advocating for the rights of refugees and migrants at local, national or international levels
- Organizational development, capacity building,
- Equipment and material for related activities

Social projects aimed at assisting people who are particularly affected by the economic crisis in Greece and other countries that host high numbers of refugees can also be considered for funding.

While projects should constitute a practical expression of Christian faith, they should not aim at the conversion of people of different faiths, but rather encourage inter-faith dialogue based on mutual acceptance and respect.



Priority will be given to applications from the following countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine.

Types of Funding

In correspondence with the general Churches helping Churches guidelines:

Projects up to 7.500 €

Project period: max. 12 months

Application: any time, no application form required

Projects over 7.500 €

Project period: up to three years

Application: if possible 6 to 8 months before the planned project starts. Application form required.

Please note: Retrospective financing of ongoing or completed projects is not possible.

Please contact us if you would like to apply for funding or if you have any questions concerning the initiative

Sabine Schwirner

Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service

Ecumenical Partnership, Inter-Church Aid and Europe Desk; Program Churches Helping Churches

Caroline-Michaelis-Str. 1

10115 Berlin, Germany

E-mail: sabine.schwirner@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

Tel: +49 30 65211 1606