

Together in Hope and Witness

AIM 1 CEC Promotes peace, justice and reconciliation in Europe				
Background	Europe is facing a number of social and political challenges that threaten the cohesion and stability of the European project. Fear of pluralism, increased dissatisfaction, ongoing migration, climate change, to name but a few, characterise the political debate. The Charta Œcumenica constitutes the ecumenical commitment to a reconciled Europe and engages churches to contribute actively to peace and reconciliation. CEC's mission is to witness to an ecumenical vision of unity in reconciled diversity and to promote churches' participation for justice and peace with a vision of Europe in the global context. The basis for CEC's commitment is the Gospel, and theological discernment permeates all of its work. This includes engaging in dialogue with the world religions and moral convictions, according to the commitments of the Charta Œcumenica. The objective of AIM 1 is to assist the CEC Member Churches to reach an informed understanding of the European processes and to influence a visible impact on the political debate.			
	Promoting peace and reconciliation	Working on diversity, pluralism and education on democracy	Supporting interreligious dialogue	Contributing to the Future of Europe
Objectives (WHAT)	CEC will undertake work on current issues related to peace, security and reconciliation in Europe, and provide relevant resources to its Member Churches. In doing so, it will monitor the European debate regarding security and military policies, strengthen the Christian voice against the increasing militarisation of EU, advocate against further research and production of nuclear weapons, and challenge the use of autonomous weapons. CEC will provide a theologically grounded understanding on how to respond to polarisation and will strengthen competences in the field of conflict mediation and reconciliation by promoting non-violent solutions. CEC will work on the multi-faceted phenomenon of populism, e.g. by examining nationalism in relation to ecclesiology, and the experience of marginalisation and non-participation in civil society in relation to democracy.	CEC will accompany member churches to work on diversity and pluralism, and strengthen the possibility of discussing those concepts. Enable members churches to become bridge builders, as well as to enter into interreligious dialogue. CEC wants to play an active part in the Council of Europe program on education and democracy. With active participation as an observer in the Steering Committee for Education policy and practice of the CoE CEC would contribute to develop education programs when it comes to intercultural and interreligious education policies and practices.	CEC will revisit its work on developing a Theology of Religions to overcome distorted perceptions of interreligious dialogue, and to address fear, and respond to Islamophobia and Antisemitism. CEC will engage in identifying and using theological and spiritual resources that inspire respect for other religious traditions. CEC will accompany Member Churches and NCCs to facilitate learning about other religions and exchange in order to overcome prejudices and fear, and to explore the common task with other faith communities for promoting mutual respect and peace-making an standing for justice in the world.	CEC will continue the process "Future of Europe" and facilitate churches' contribution that discussion in a dialogue with the European political institutions. CEC will offer Member Churches a forum for sharing their regional, confessional and cultural diversity and raising churches' concerns about current social and political challenges.
Main activities (HOW)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CEC Peace Conference on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Paris Peace Conference. The Conference will explore the hard lessons from the European and global past and identify the current threats to peace. 2. CEC Peace Taskforce. Its main goal will be to act as mediators of peace in the wider European and local contexts. It will therefore provide conflict mediation based on Christian principles and training in peacebuilding and peace-making. 3. Strengthen partnerships with Organisations in Partnership and other relevant actors that bring expertise in the field, e.g. intentional partnership with Church and Peace on the question of arms trade and militarisation in Europe. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation on cooperation and fellowship with migrant and minority ethnic churches. 2. Consultation on inclusive ecclesiology. 3. Conference on current developments in intercultural education and dialog policies. (COE) 4. produce a guide for parishes on eradicating Christianophobia, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia 5. participate in the Steering Committee of Education policy and practice with the CDPPE 6. monitor and contribute to current developments in intercultural education and dialogue policies (Council of Europe program Competences for a Democratic Culture) 7. develop intercultural learning on the basis of an ecumenical project to enable Member Churches to become bridge builders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join the network of church officers in Europe working on interfaith matters to exchange experiences, share good practices, and strengthen interfaith work in times of migration. 2. Liaise with other faith communities and networks in Human Rights Advocacy and Human Rights Education. 3. Liaising with the Theology of Religions project of the CPCE and other relevant projects in the Member Churches of CEC. 4. Cooperation with National Councils of Churches, the WCC Programme on Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, and the Christian World Communions. 5. Establish a Committee on Interreligious dialogue in Europe, drawing from existing CEC networks including new partners from other faith communities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work jointly with churches from specific regions in Europe on their specific concerns related to current historical situations (e.g. follow up of Brexit, integration of western Balkan countries to the EU etc.) and developments of the continent. 2. Co-organise regional events and conferences aiming to clarify a churches' contributions to Europe's narrative, with churches from different regions in Europe. 3. Organise a common seminar with CCEE on populism and how churches can deal with feeling of fears and dissatisfaction 4. Organise a Summer school on "Freedom of Expression and Populism"
Description (HOW)		Ad. 1: in cooperation with <i>CCME and CWM/WCC</i> . Ad. 2: in cooperation with <i>Faith and Order/WCC</i> . Ad.3: based on the programme: <i>competences for democratic culture</i> . Ad. 7-8: in cooperation with <i>Intereuropean Commission on Church and School (ICCS) and the Christian International NGOs</i>	Ad. 1: in cooperation with WCC	Regional meeting
Timeplan (WHEN)	10-12 September 2019 at the Institut Protestant de Théologie, in Paris, France.	Ad. 1: Spring 2021 Ad. 2: Autumn 2021 Ad. 3: ? Ad. 4: Autumn 2019		
Staff (WHO)	Ad 1: Alwyn Pettersen Ad 2: Catherine Tsavdaridou (TRG Working group) Ad 3:	Ad 1-2: Katerina Ad. 3 + 5-8: Sören Ad 4: Elizabeta	Katerina	Ad 1-3: Seconded staff Ad 4: Elizabeta

1GB2019_Doc10
CEC Strategy Plan 2020-2023

Together in Hope and Witness			
AIM 2 CEC strengthens ecumenical fellowship and promotes church renewal			
Background	Communion has been the hermeneutical framework for comprehending the nature and mission of the Church. Despite differences in understanding and applying the concept, and divisions over a number of theological questions, the churches ascribing to it have developed a common theological language and share considerable common ground, as demonstrated in the agreements of more than fifty years of official dialogues. Increased migration in Europe has been changing the ecclesial landscape: European churches with historical longevity have spread into new contexts, vibrant Evangelical and Pentecostal churches are growing, charismatic movements are emerging, and ancient Oriental churches are finding a new home in European societies. In view of the current reality, CEC is called to provide the forum for its Member Churches to examine their understanding of Church unity and witness in dialogue with the 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches in Europe.		
	Working on ecclesiology and mission	Organising a study on Baptism	Strengthening Ecumenical Partnerships in Europe
Objectives (WHAT)	CEC will enhance theological exchange between its Member Churches and facilitate theological dialogue with non-Member Churches. It will explore how ecclesial, political and cultural belonging intersect, and provide resources to overcome divisions with regard to the relationship of church and nation/state. In doing so, CEC will contribute a uniquely informed European perspective on ecclesiology and mission.	CEC will organise a consultation and dialogue process with the objective of reaching an agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism among its Member Churches.	A. CEC will re-establish regular work with the CCEE and COMECE. B. CEC will Clarify and strengthen relations with WCC.
Main Activities (HOW)	1. Annual consultation with the ecumenical officers of the CEC Member Churches and secretaries for theology of the World Christian Communions. 2. Work of the Committee on Ecclesiology & Mission (regular meetings, study group on Church-nation/state relationship, consultations, publications, unity blog). 3. Project on mapping of bilaterals and regional dialogues.	1. Seminar on the anthropology of the baptised Christian. 2. Seminar on baptism in canon law in different church traditions.	1. Regular meetings with COMECE and CCEE. 2. European pre-Assembly in view of the WCC Assembly in 2021, and active participation in the actual Assembly. 3. Participation in the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (Joint WCC-CEC Publication on PJP). 4. Evaluation together with CCEE of the reception of the <i>Charta Ecumenica</i> and further implementation of the guidelines.
(HOW)	1. Identifying priorities and key questions in the areas of ecclesiology and mission, and especially responding to the challenge of secularisation. 2. Taking stock of ecumenical agreements and developments and promoting their reception. 3. Providing a multilateral platform for ecumenical dialogue on the European level.	1. Examining a wide spectrum of topics related to baptism (theological understanding of baptism, baptismal order, baptism in canon law, inter-confessional marriage and baptism, baptism and migration) and their relevance in different local contexts. 2. Inviting research and reflection on these topics from different parts of Europe and feeding it into the CEC Study process.	Strengthening partnerships with the Global Christian Forum, the European Evangelical Alliance, the Pentecostal European Fellowship, the World Christian Communions, the European Christian Convention.
Timeplan (WHEN)	1. Autumn 2019, Autumn 2020, Autumn 2021, Autumn 2022 2. Committee meeting and Consultation on Church unity together with 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches. Cooperation with Faith & Order (Winter 2020); International Conference on Church unity, Summer 2020; Committee meeting and Consultation on Christian witness and secularisation. Cooperation with mission organisations (November 2020); Committee meeting and Consultation on the Church as Communion. Cooperation with EEA & PEF. (Spring 2021); Committee meeting and Consultation on Church and nation/state relationship (Winter 2021); Committee meeting and Consultation on concepts of proselytism and ethical witness. Cooperation with GCF, (Spring 2022); Committee meeting in preparation for the GA (Winter 2022).	1. Winter 2020, 2. February 2021, *The goal of reaching agreement extends beyond 2023.	1. Once a year 2. March 2021 3. September 2021
Staff (WHO)	Katerina	Katerina	Ad 1: General Secretary and Presidency Ad 2: Ad 3: Katerina and Peter Ad 4: Katerina

1GB2019_Doc10
CEC Strategy Plan 2020-2023

Together in Hope and Witness

AIM 3 CEC raises churches' voice in Europe and the European Institutions					
Background	In several European Institutions CEC has got a particular status (TFEU Art. 17, participatory status in the Council of Europe and membership of the UN ECOSOC committee), as well as at the UN and OSCE. CEC uses European institutions in Brussels, Strasbourg, Vienna, Warsaw and Geneva for its advocacy work in various sectoral policies like ecology, economic justice and sustainability, human rights (in particular freedom of religion or belief, migration, bioethics and artificial intelligence), social justice and education. A high level of requests for advocacy are regularly received by CEC's member churches and its organisations in partnership. As art. 17 of TFEU invites churches for open, transparent and regular dialogue there is mutual influence of EU policies vis-à-vis churches. At the same time CEC member churches are invited to bring their own rich experience and initiate concrete actions to the European Institutions. The work of the European Institutions will be agreed soon for the period 2019-2023 and CEC should closely monitor its developments and propose certain actions to its members.				
	Promoting economic and ecological justice and sustainable future	Monitoring and reflecting theologically science, bioethics and technology	Defending the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers	Promoting Human Rights education and advocacy	Promoting social justice
Objectives (WHAT)	A. Networking and churches' engagement in care for creation, ecological justice and sustainable future to increase engagement of CEC Member Churches in the care for creation and sustainable development and to strengthen a joint churches' contribution responding to climate change and sustainable future B. Public theology, eco-theology and liturgy to highlight a particular role for churches in addressing care for creation, sustainable development, economic and ecological justice in word and prayers C. Churches' contribution to a sustainable future to ensure a qualified voice of churches and faith based actors in addressing challenge of climate change and ecological destruction. D. Advocacy and dialogue with the political institutions to raise the voice of churches in a dialogue with relevant political institutions, especially the EU and the UN in expressing churches' concerns related to climate change and sustainable development.	A. Follow-up and communication to our Member Churches on the actual development in science and technology and human rights. CEC should bring different ethical and theological approaches into the discussion to enable member Churches to develop a theological and critical understanding. B. Analyse the current understanding of christian faith and scientific progress. Analysis and formulation of the upcoming ethical questions and problems in regarding the different theological and ethical approach. understand the background and the aims of policy makers in a European context.	A. Continuing its consistent policy, CEC through CCME will advocate and network to enable safe and legal access to EU for those in need of protection and defend international refugee protection in EU. B. CEC will advocate for a clear, transparent and accessible system on immigration based on the human dignity and human rights of the migrants as well as solidarity. C. CEC through CCME will promote the values of human dignity, social equality and inclusivity for all inhabitants of Europe, regardless of their legal status.	A. CEC Human Rights Advocacy program monitors developments in the area of human rights, with particular interest in freedom of religion or belief. High level political and legal expertise is developed for advocacy in different juridical and political contexts within and outside of the EU. B. CEC Human Rights Education program offers an experts' platform dealing with the latest developments of the new international legislative frameworks. This offers legal update for the staff dealing with human rights in the CEC member churches. This programme has also interfaith perspective.	The CEC constitution defines one of the aims of the organization to build "a humane, social and sustainable Europe" (Art.2.1.2), and commits CEC to work in the area of "social responsibility and human rights" (Art.2.1.3). In the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly Message the task to engage on social issues is highlighted several times. With its work on social and employment issues CEC addresses the developments and the corresponding policies on the European level and facilitates the theological and social-ethical exchange and cooperation of CEC Member churches.
Main of Activities (HOW)	1. Conference Churches contribution to a sustainable society. (ECEN) 2. ECEN Assemblies. 3. Listening to the voices from the margins, and hear from those who have first-hand experience of the effects of our over consumption that puts such strain on resources, people, and the environment. 4. Elaborating and deepening theological arguments in eco-theology and environmental ethics. 5. Advocate and be a strong voice at the European level regarding questions related to environmental protection, climate justice and sustainable development. Support of efforts for achievement of SDGs.	1. Cross border consultations on bioethics with an interdisciplinary focus. Developing didactic tools with and for "believers" with the aim to have a broad and profound discussion on actual bioethical questions. An inspiration could be the ongoing discussion on "public debate" in the bioethics Steering Committee of the council of Europe and enter with them in critical debate. 2. Regional meetings on Science, technology and bioethics which focus on a broad grassroots based exchange. CEC could contribute with an purely ecumenical even intercultural "input" for such regional meetings. 3. International and interdisciplinary conference on Christian faith and artificial intelligence mainly focused on the actual most discussed topics (Lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS), Artificial intelligence in Health Care and Automated driving systems).	1. CEC will continue its close cooperation with CCME, in accordance with the agreement between the two organisations. 2. CEC will act together with CCME in implementing programmes on migration. 3. CEC will promote solidarity and networking among its member Churches, NCCs and Organisations in Partnership to address discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, gender or social status. 4. CEC will provide spaces for dialogue where divergent views on migration exist between member.	1. Activities in advocacy are based on the requests coming directly from the CEC Member Churches. CEC provides high level expertise to the member churches in cases where they are involved in defending their own interest vis-a-vis the respective government. This program includes projects on Standing up for Minority Rights which was initiated in 2016 – conferences and publications of video and print. 2. CEC Summer School on Human Rights runs each consecutive year. Every year there are different subjects to be tackled taking into account timely developments and discussions in the area of human rights law. The Sumer School is a gathering of expert level colleagues from CEC Member Churches, NCCs, Organisations in Partnership and other partners in faith based organisations and the civil society.	1. CEC monitors the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its 20 principles, and relates it to the social work and thinking of its Member Churches. 2. CEC facilitates the CALL (Church Action on Labour and Life) network, which networks on economic and employment issues in Europe, and organizes campaigns on them. 3. CEC creates possibilities for exchanging expertise among members and empowers the network on economic and employment issues. 4. CEC participates in the European Sunday Alliance.
Description (HOW)	Offering through ECEN a communication platform and opportunity for networking.	* Developing an exchange platform on Artificial Intelligence and New technologies based on a new communication possibilities (Webinar, social networks etc.) * organising the mentioned meetings above * organize regular meetings with policy makers and experts at the Council of Europe and other European Institutions * encourage research work in this areas and participate in research work on HR and Artificial Intelligence with an ecumenical perspective	In the frame of the agreement with CCME		
Timeplan (WHEN)	1. May 2019 2. 2020 + 2022	1. May 2020 Consultation on Bioethics 2. May 2021 International Conference on Faith, Human dignity and Artificial Intelligence ("Future conference") 3. 2020 - 2022 Regional exchange meetings			
Staff (WHO)	Peter	Sören + seconded staff?	Torsten	Elizabeta	Seconded staff

1GB2019_Doc10
CEC Strategy Plan 2020-2023

	2019				2020				2021				2022			
	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
Peter		Conference Churches contribution to a sustainable society. (May). ECEN.	Conference on Eco-theology and environmental ethics ECOTHEE (Sept.)				ECEN 2020 (August-Sept)								ECEN 2022 (August-Sept)	
Elizabeta		Summer School on Human Rights (19-20 June, Portugal)		Publication of Human Rights training manual + Conference Malaga (Oct.)		Summer School on Human Rights (June, Germany)				Summer School on Human Rights (June, Slovenia)						
Katerina				Annual meeting of ecumenical officers	International conference on Church unity		Better understanding of historical background of Annual meeting of ecumenical officers	Seminar on the anthropology of the baptised Christian.	Consultation on cooperation and fellowship		Consultation inclusive ecclesiology	Annual meeting of ecumenical officers	Seminar on baptism and inter-confessional marriage			Annual meeting of ecumenical officers
Sören						Consultation on bioethics (May)			Regional meetings on bioethics					International conference on Christian faith and artificial intelligence		
Charlie			Peace Conference 10-12 Sept.													

WCC GA, Karlsruhe (Sept.)

- Charlie
- Elizabeta
- Katerina
- Peter
- Sören

Economic and ecological justice, and sustainable future

Work programme 2019 -23

1. Background

Challenges of continuing environmental degradation, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and challenges related to overall concerns of sustainable future are increasingly on the agenda of experts, political decision makers, in the media as well as the attention of a broad public. Authoritative scientific reports warn of dramatic impacts. On top of it, most of these challenges impact the world in an unequal way. It is the poorest who suffer the most to adapt, including extreme weather, lack of food, and loss of land. Challenges of climate change and related effects are the issue of justice. It is unjust that those who have contributed the least, poor, those living in developing countries, as well as future generations, are about to suffer the most. Ecological crises and sustainable future is one of the most serious challenge Europe and the globe will need to manage in the near future.

Activities of political institutions in addressing challenges of climate change and sustainable development are intensifying. Paris climate agreement and the follow up process through annual meetings of COPs, as well as UN agreement of Sustainable Development Goals and efforts of the EU in this area are getting momentum, as well as increasing support of the people. From very recent EU proposal should be noted in particular the initiative of the Economic and Social Committee of the EU titled Climate justice (2017), European Commission outline of the EU climate strategy, presented in 2018 and the European Commission reflection paper Towards a sustainable Europe 2030 presented in January 2019.

These developments have been accompanied by a growing interest and growing engagement of churches and ecumenical organisations. CEC has been since several years increasingly contributing to these efforts through a number of programmes and initiatives, as e.g. dialogue with in the European Parliament on divestment from fossil fuels, a dialogue in the European Commission on climate change, the publication addressing European economic governance Beyond Prosperity?, support work of European Christian environmental Network (ECEN), CEC document Sharing of God's earth and its riches justly. CEC has been active in a long year and systematic contribution of WCC climate change programme. CEC engagement has been accompanied by an active work of ECEN which has been offering a broad platform enabling support and encouragement of churches engagement in care for creation, as well as by sharing of experience and mutual support between CEC and ECEN. ECEN as a network closely cooperating with CEC and to which CEC is offering an administrative support, is an instrument of a cooperation reaching beyond CEC member churches and including, notably, through the involvement of CCEE in

participation on ECEN, a cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church. In terms of programmatic activities, work of ECEN is characterized in particular by the focus on sharing of experience between churches and church groups engaged in works on care for creation, the support of theological reflections related to care for creation and support of liturgical initiatives, as it is, notably, churches' engagement in celebrating Time of Creation (1 September – 4 October) and ecumenical cooperation in such celebrations.

CEC work in period 2019-23 will, along with support of already existing initiatives of ECEN on growing churches' engagement, theology and liturgy, put an emphasis on enhancing CEC capacity for a dialogue with the political decision makers, in particular with the EU. In order to achieve that, CEC will establish a working group of experts from CEC member churches. The group will strengthen CEC capacity for a political dialogue and work on those aspects of climate change and sustainable development that are of particular concerns for churches, as notably: the awareness that technological progress will not be sufficient for efficient reaction neither to climate change, nor to achieving SDGs, relationship of sustainable production and consumption to questions of lifestyle and the need of lifestyle transition, ecological justice, link of ecological concerns to economic justice, economic models and its social consequences.

Effective addressing concerns of ecology, care for creation and sustainable future offers a platform for successful ecumenical cooperation while underlying the fact that addressing these concerns is not obstructed by dogmatic theological differences, as well as a space for a productive exchange and cooperation with other faiths and with partners from academia and secular world.

2. Working group

Economic and ecological challenges are linked to our ethical choices. The role of churches and faith based organisation is increasingly needed. Challenges of economic and ecological justice have been addressed in the CEC Assembly 2018, especially in the Assembly decisions incorporated into the public issue document.

In order to face these challenges and in following up commitments of the General Assembly 2018 CEC will create the working group on Economic and ecological justice and sustainable future. Working group will draw on expertise and experience offered to CEC for addressing challenges and concerns related to economic and ecological justice and sustainable future from CEC member churches. This will include concerns related to limits of the earth's capacity, lifestyle change, reduction of fossil fuels and ecological footprint, model of economic growth and criteria of sustainable development. Accents in the work of the group will be given to preparation of the dialogue of CEC related to above mentioned concerns with the EU and in cooperation with other ecumenical bodies, in particular the WCC for a churches' contribution to global addressing of concerns related to climate change and sustainable development, as they are in the agenda

of the UN. Work in the group will require ability to participate on the dialogue of churches with politics, communication with experts from different fields engaged in work on climate change, ecological and economic justice and sustainable development.

Aims of the CEC working group:

- Share and enhance expertise assembled in CEC member churches in addressing concerns related to climate change, ecological and economic justice and sustainable development
- Prepare and facilitate a dialogue of CEC with the EU on these and related themes and using opportunities for such a dialogue with EU
- Strengthen theological and ethical arguments related churches' concerns on climate change, ecological and economic justice and sustainable future; contribute to CEC becoming an actor shaping public theology and churches' contribution to a public space.

3. Work programme

CEC work programme for 2019-23 draws on the joint work and complementarity of CEC working group on economic and ecological justice and sustainable future and activities of European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). The work programme will focus on the following: *(see page 4)*

Program cluster: Networking and churches' engagement in care for creation, ecological justice and sustainable future

Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description	When
Increase engagement of CEC Member Churches in the care for creation and sustainable development [30%]	A: Offering a space for sharing, exchange of experience and support of common projects related to churches' work on care for creation, encouraging and motivation churches' work on care for creation.	Facilitating the networking, providing leadership and secretariat for European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) and ensuring vitality of the network. (Assembly public issue document)	Offering through ECEN a communication platform and opportunities for networking, incl. concrete opportunities for sharing and working together as e.g. ECEN twinning project, the support of exemplary projects through Roman Juriga Award, visiting and encouraging church initiatives, and others.	Continually 2019 - 23
	B: To undertake and support initiatives aiming at reducing ecological footprint. Support churches in the fight against climate change and ecological destruction.	Conference: Churches contribution to a sustainable society	Conference co-organised in cooperation of ECEN with the Church of Norway on sharing of experience and churches' concerns related to sustainable development	May 2019
	C: Listening to the voices from the margins, and hear from those who have first-hand experience of the effects of our over consumption that puts such strain on resources, people, and the environment. (Assembly public issue document)	Finalising the Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in the Ecumenical Centre in Brussels		2019
		ECEN Assembly 2020	Organisation and leadership in preparing biannual ECEN assemblies, and also workshops and seminars.	August - September 2020
		ECEN Assembly 2022		2022

Strengthen a joint churches' contribution responding to climate change and sustainable future. [15%]	Work together and strengthen effective cooperation with other ecumenical actors , in particular the World Council of Churches, CEC Organisations in Partnership, faith based actors and other partners from civil society. (Assembly public issue document)	Strengthening the cooperation with the WCC, contributing to an ecumenical team under the leadership of the World Council of Churches in works on climate change and sustainable development	Participating on the activities of the WCC climate change group, contributing to the WCC programmes on economic and ecological justice	2019-23
		Enhancing cooperation with partners	Strengthening a cooperation with CCEE and CEC Organisations in Partnership, other ecumenical partners, faith based actors and other partners from civil society.	2019-23
		Conference: Churches contribution to a sustainable society	Conference co-organised in cooperation of ECEN with the Church of Norway on sharing of experience and churches' concerns related to sustainable development	May 2019

Program cluster: Public theology, eco-theology and liturgy

Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description	When
<p>Highlight a particular role for churches in addressing care for creation, sustainable development, economic and ecological justice in word and prayers. [15%]</p>	<p>Elaborating and deepening theological arguments in eco-theology and environmental ethics.</p>	<p>Conference on Eco-theology and environmental ethics ECOTHEE</p>	<p>Cooperation with the Orthodox Academy in Crete and other partners in preparing the conference and contributing to the conference</p>	<p>September 2019</p>
		<p>Season of Creation / Time for Creation: supporting churches in Europe in the follow up of the recommendation of the Second European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu that the period from 1 September to 4 October be dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles</p>	<p>Support of initiatives related to celebration of season of creation, incl. sharing of liturgical resources and supporting ecumenical dimensions of season of creation, through cooperation with partners incl. Global Catholic Climate Movement, WCC, LWB and others</p>	<p>2019- 23 with focus each year on the period 1 September - 4 October</p>
		<p>Sharing and joint reflection on eco-theology</p>	<p>Organising and conducting workshops under the auspices of ECEN working group on Eco-theology and liturgy</p>	<p>2019 - 23</p>
		<p>Publication of articles on eco-theology</p>	<p>Publication of articles and contributions to conferences and events organised by partners focused on theological and ethical aspects of environmental crisis, ecological justice, sustainable future and related concerns</p>	<p>2019 - 23</p>

Programme cluster: Churches' contribution to a sustainable future

Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description	When
Ensure a qualified voice of churches and faith based actors in addressing challenge of climate change and ecological destruction. [25%]	A: Strengthening churches' capacity in addressing challenges of climate change and sustainable development through pooling of expertise of CEC member churches	CEC working group on economic and ecological justice and sustainable future	Working group analysing documents and initiatives of the EU, the UN and other political institutions related to climate change and sustainable development incl. SDGs and preparing a dialogue with the EU on churches' concerns related to economic and ecological justice and sustainable future.	2019-23
		Publication: Churches' contribution to a sustainable future	Publication developed as a result of the working group discussion	2022
	B: Ensure a qualified churches' contribution to a challenge of sustainable future through a cooperation with partners	Project: Sustainable governance/trust in governance	Contribution to the project developed in cooperation with partners from academic institutions and civil society organisation and applying for the EU funds	2020-23

Programme cluster: Advocacy and dialogue with the political institutions

Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description	When
<p>Raise the voice of churches in a dialogue with relevant political institutions, especially the EU and the UN in expressing churches' concerns related to climate change and sustainable development. [15%] (Assembly public issue document)</p>	<p>Advocate and be a strong voice at the European level regarding questions related to environmental protection, climate justice and sustainable development. Support of efforts for achievement of SDGs.</p>	<p>Facilitating, organising and engaging CEC Member Churches in dialogue on themes related to economic, ecological and intergenerational justice with the European Union.</p>	<p>Active search for opportunities for a dialogue with the EU in relation to EU initiatives addressing climate change and sustainable development, incl. opportunities of High level religious meeting, Dialogue seminars with the European Commission and European Parliament, etc. In cooperation with partners to organise events enabling such a dialogue and contributing to such a dialogue organised by partners.</p>	<p>2019-23</p>
	<p>(Assembly public issue document)</p>	<p>Raising a voice of churches at the United Nations level, incl. presence in United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs).</p>	<p>Contributions to annual COPs in cooperation with WCC, ActAlliance and other partners. A particular focus on COPs taking place in Europe and in cooperation with churches in European hosting countries support in organisation of a spiritual life (e.g.prayers) and ecumenical worships</p>	<p>2019-23</p>

Program Human Rights 2019-2023

Background

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” *Galatians 3.28*. The world-wide celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights shows that human rights are distinctively universal and belongs to every human being. Christianity, with its long heritage, speaks about protection of human dignity of every person who are created in the image of God (Gen. 1.27). The concept of justice and dignity is deeply rooted in the Christian faith. Even if there exist different views over the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights (East-West debate), the duties and responsibilities of every human being for promoting a just society and good-neighboring relations remains. A priority for the European churches is the issue of freedom of religion or belief. Freedom of religion or belief is essential for the work not the least since a majority of the CEC member churches are in a numerical minority situation. During the time of raising populism creating “we” and “others”, the European churches are facing with several challenges in this area:

- a) Populist governments are changing the legislation in issues related to religion which mostly limits the religious freedom (recently Bulgaria, Austria, Denmark, France etc.)
- b) Persecuted people, among them Christians, from the Middle East, Africa and Asia are coming to Europe on a daily basis. Carrying for the newcomers becomes an urgent issue for the CEC member churches as well as for European states and International Organizations (EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, UN)
- c) Racist and xenophobic remarks and hate speeches in the public sphere leads to incitement to violence. Increased Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and hate crimes against individuals as well as against churches, mosques, and synagogues are increasing in Europe. It is essential for the CEC member churches to be part of creating a good society for all.
- d) In Europe, there is a tension between a universal approach to human rights and freedom of religion or belief and national interests in the different states. It is important for CEC to be involved in the debate on the universality of human rights in relation to national interests.
- e) International Organizations continue to develop human rights legislation on various levels. CEC is member of various platforms in organizations like EU, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN. Due to very strong ties and good expertise that churches bring from the ground, CEC is very often invited to give contribution in various debates and also uses these contacts for



regular reports of human rights violations faced by their members. This is especially linked to the work of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, Council of Europe' CDDH and Committee on Bioethics, INGO conference and Venice Commission in Strasbourg.

f) As churches are distinctive part of the civil society, CEC is member of Human Rights and Democracy Network in Brussels, European Platform against Religious Intolerance and Discrimination in Brussels EU Fundamental Rights Platform in Vienna.

In order to respond to the above challenges, some European churches invested their recourses developing a human rights approach and/or a human rights education for their youth and leadership. CEC will work with the following priorities.

Working Group

For this purpose, CEC would need devoted mix group of legal experts, political scientists and theologians coming from majority as well as from the minority CEC member churches and organizations in partnership. Previous expertise on the issues of human rights and freedom of religion or belief needs to be proven. The aim of the group is:

- To share the developments in the area of international human rights law with the emphasis on freedom of religion or belief and to be aware of human rights issues in their respective member church and region
- To assist working on the legal cases coming out as a request from the CEC member churches and its partners
- To participate in editing process of the CEC publications, statements on Human Rights
- To organize Summer School on Human Rights (2019-2023), Seminars at the EU institutions, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN
- To assist in the fundraising for the human rights work

Work Program 2019-2023

Internal				
Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description	When
CEC's Member Churches deepen their understanding of human rights and advance their implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Churches increases and advance their participation in CEC's human rights programmes and activities and identify with them (50%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using all communication possibilities to approach all Member Churches about CEC Human Rights documentation and the way how they can use them and monitor the implementation of human rights decisions endorsed by the Governing Board. 	<p>Every year CEC will organize Summer School on Human Rights for theologians and church staff. The themes are selected from the Human Rights Manuel (Vol II) and its transformed into the week program hosted by the member churches. The Summer School in 2019, will discuss Freedom of Expression and Populism in and in 2020 will discuss the Clash of Fundamental Human Rights (Germany), 2021 (Slovenia).</p> <p>CEC will organize in Malaga consultation and produce the guide for the parishes to combat christianophobia, anti-semitism and islamophobia (FoRB and Populism).</p>	2019-2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the second volume of the Human Rights Training Manual and organize yearly Summer School on Human Rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEC continues and further develops its publications programme on human rights and freedom of religion or belief. 		<p>(17-20 of June Portugal)</p> <p>7-10 July 2020 Berlin <u>Schwanenwerder</u> - Germany</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEC continues providing the training of Member Churches in the particular areas (Religious Freedom or Belief, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year, a European Churches Forum on Human Rights is held, rotating through CEC's 		<p>(17-19 of October 2019)</p> <p>2020</p>

	<p>Freedom of Expression, Migration, Disability ect) of human rights together with its partner organizations like CCME, Ecumenical Councils, Theological and Law Faculties, and internally cooperation with EU Legislation TRG and CEC Strasbourg office.</p>	<p>regions and conferences when relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC continues and further develops its 'Standing up for Minority Rights' programme via video method when necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This forum would tackle senior church staff and church leadership. This program is in line also in the implementation of the UN Action Plan for Religious Leaders on Prevention of Genocide and UN Program faith for Rights. • The next activity will focus on Minority Rights in Northern Macedonia, Kosovo (1244) and visit in 2019 of the churches. Visit of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to the EU in 2019. 	<p>2019-2020</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC supports its Members in cases of human rights conflicts or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Reference Group will assist to CEC in examining all possible human rights 	<p>CEC Human Rights Desk and the members of the Human Rights WG are very often directly approached for</p>	<p>2-4 of May, Montenegro</p>

	<p>violations, especially concerning freedom of religion or belief (25%) via Brussels and Strasbourg office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The human rights dimension is relevant also for other work-areas of CEC like Environment , Social Affairs ect. 	<p>violations brought to its attention by affected Member Churches in an appropriate way and suggest the respond to each church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A procedure is introduced to examine human rights links and impacts of CEC's work. 	<p>assistance by the member churches as well as GS and GB members. (The next consultation will be carried in Montenegro in 2019)</p>	
External				
Aims	Objectives	Methods		
<p>CEC is perceived as an indispensable human rights advocacy actor by the European Institutions (European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN) (25%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEC actively addresses relevant human rights and freedom of religion or belief violations coming from the Member Churches and its partners vis-à-vis the International organisations and, as appropriate, the public (15%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEC will regularly produce résumés of its human rights conferences and bring them to the attention of international organizations and CEC Member Churches 	<p>The aim is to produce CEC position papers for the advocacy work vis-à-vis the EU institutions and the national governments (Syria, Iraq).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC is asked to provide expertise on human rights issues, in particular freedom of religion or belief, by institutional and political actors (10%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC is represented at various human rights hearings and conferences of third parties. • CEC is liaising with the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the EU institutions. • CEC contributes to the human rights and freedom of religion or belief dimension of other international fora, such as the World Council of Churches, G20 Interfaith Forum, European Platform Against Religious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the meetings and preparing in input for the participation in the work of the International Organizations (EU, OSCE, CoE, UN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
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		<p>Intolerance and Discrimination (EPRID), Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), European Union Fundamental Rights Platform (EU FRP), and International Non-Governmental Organisation Conference at the Council of Europe (INGO).</p>		
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Programme on Ecclesiology & Mission, 2019-2023

1. Concept

Since the last century, communion has been the hermeneutical framework for comprehending the nature and mission of the Church. Despite differences in understanding and applying the concept, and divisions over a number of questions, (succinctly captured in the ecumenical debates on baptism, the Eucharist, ministry, and more recently on moral and ethical questions), churches ascribing to the hermeneutical framework of communion have developed a common theological language and share considerable common ground, as testified in the agreement and convergence documents of more than fifty years of official dialogues.

Over the past decades, increased migration in Europe has been admittedly changing the ecclesial landscape: churches with historical longevity have spread into new contexts, vibrant Evangelical and Pentecostal churches have been growing, charismatic movements have been emerging, and ancient Oriental churches are finding a new home in European societies. Not all Christians and churches have the same understanding of ecclesiology and mission. Not all churches share the same theological vocabulary to address matters related to the nature of Church, unity, witness, and evangelism. The joint CEC-CCME Consultation of 2016 on Migration and Ecclesiology reaffirmed a diverse picture of the local context:

Established churches, or churches that have historical longevity, and churches which are new or relatively recent, share the same geographical space and are challenged to relate to one another, especially when they hold different views with regard to worship, theology and ethical issues. At the same time, churches that have existed for decades in Europe are sometimes labelled as 'migrant' because the origins of their members are traced back to other continents. Churches labelled as 'migrant' can include members who are citizens of the society where they are located, and may be fully involved in the ecumenical movement including participation in formal structures. Using the terminology of 'mainline' for some churches may imply that there is something ordinary, proper and regular about those churches, and therefore that other churches are deficient or regarded even as some kind of sect.

Against this background, churches with historical longevity in Europe are called to include the recently arrived Christians, re-examining their flexibility and barriers to integration built into their respective contextual ecclesiologies. This situation challenges their theological reflection of what it means to be Church and calls them to reconsider questions of gospel, culture, and

evangelisation; it challenges churches to revisit the meaning of unity and catholicity of the Body of Christ, and rethink plurality in Christianity and also in society.¹

Although in recent times churches and academic scholarship have been acknowledging that migration has always been part of the Church's history and identity, there are exclusivist tendencies, as well as significant theological differences between and within churches that hinder the full ecclesial recognition of 'migrant' churches. In view of the current reality, CEC is called to provide the forum for its Member Churches – both in 'minority' and 'majority' situations – to examine their understanding of unity and witness in dialogue with the 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches in Europe.

In developing such a programme, CEC will take stock of the global developments in the ecumenical movement harvesting existing agreements and promoting their reception regionally and locally. It will build on the agreements of the bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral dialogues taking place in the different regions of Europe. The relevant working group that will focus on Ecclesiology & Mission will function as a workshop offering focused European perspectives on questions of ecclesiology and mission. In doing so, it will demonstrate CEC's unique position to offer a multilateral approach with a precise European focus, and its ability to engage with the realities of concrete contexts in Europe. The programme will enhance exchange and strengthen relationships among CEC Member Churches, as well as facilitate dialogue with non-Member Churches active in Europe. This is a decisive step towards the visible unity of the Church and a unique contribution to the global multilateral dialogue.

2. Proposal for a Working Group serving the programme on Ecclesiology & Mission

The programme will be carried out by the CEC Committee on Ecclesiology & Mission that will be formed by the Governing Board. The composition of the group is crucial for the realisation of the Strategy Plan and the success of the programme. The group should be representative of the variety of Christian traditions constituting the CEC membership, but also the variety of Christian traditions existing on the European continent. The Committee will include a moderator and a steering group of five persons. There should be equal representation of male and female members and a balance of church traditions and European regions. There should be 25% Orthodox participation, and 20% youth participation.

In addition to members nominated by the CEC Member Churches, the programme would benefit from the participation in the work of the Committee of Consultants bringing particular expertise and insights: the CCME Executive Secretary, the Secretary

¹ See full report on <http://www.ceceurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MigrationEcclesiologylayout.pdf>, lastly accessed on 24/4/2019/.

for Theology of the CPCE, a Consultant from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, a Consultant from the Pentecostal European Fellowship, a Consultant from the European Evangelical Alliance. The Governing Board may consider whether a representative from the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women, and a representative from the European youth organisations would enrich the work of the Committee, and reflect on ways to encourage Member Churches to nominate young researchers, and theologians living with disabilities.

As the focus of the new programme is specific, it would be important to engage theologians with background in ecclesiology, missiology, and/or experience with migrant churches. The work of the Committee will be strengthened through an annual consultation with ecumenical officers of the CEC Member Churches and secretaries for theology of the World Christian Communion (European desks), as well as consultation with mission organisations active in Europe. The programme is being developed and will be carried out in cooperation with CCME.

3. Methods

- Annual meeting of ecumenical officers of the CEC Member Churches for consultation and exchange.
- Unity blog featuring a theological reflection of 1000 words monthly on a topic of common concern for the Member Churches, or theological commentary on urgent matters of the continent. Church leaders, ecumenically engaged academics, emerging scholars addressing cutting-edge questions will be invited to contribute.
- Regional and local consultations, seminars, and study groups.
- Taking stock of global developments in the ecumenical movement, harvesting existing agreements and promoting their reception regionally and locally.
- Cooperation with the World Council of Churches, the Global Christian Forum, Seminaries, Institutions of Higher Ecumenical Theological Education, and theologians and church officers engaged in bilateral and other dialogues.

Work Programme

Part A			
Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description
<p>To enhance exchange and strengthen relationships among CEC Member Churches, and facilitate dialogue with non-Member Churches active in Europe.</p> <p>To contribute a uniquely informed European perspective on ecclesiology and mission.</p> <p>To develop a common theological language and understanding on questions of ecclesiology and mission.</p>	<p>To examine ecclesiologies of churches with historical longevity in Europe in conversation with ecclesiologies of 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches.</p> <p>To examine various perspectives on mission and perceptions of proselytism.</p>	<p>Annual meeting of ecumenical officers of the CEC Member Churches and Secretaries for theology of the World Christian Communion (Autumn 2019, Autumn 2020, Autumn 2021, Autumn 2022).</p>	<p>The meeting will identify priorities and key questions in the areas of ecclesiology and mission and take stock of ecumenical agreements and developments. It will set the ground for the work of the Committee on Ecclesiology & Mission.</p>
		<p>Committee meeting and Consultation on Church unity together with 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches. In cooperation with the Commission on Faith & Order/WCC (Winter 2020).</p>	<p>The Consultation will hear from representatives from 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches on visions of unity and common witness. The Committee will start planning the volume on unity with contributions from 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches that will summarise the findings of the consultation process. It will discuss the possibility to organise a joint CEC-WCC workshop at the 2021 WCC GA.</p>
		<p>The Hope of Communion: International Conference on Church unity commemorating the 1920 Patriarchal Encyclical addressed to the 'Churches of Christ everywhere,'</p>	<p>The Conference will increase awareness of one another's history in seeking unity, and animate hopes for communion today that are grounded in theology, ecumenical dialogue and a realistic</p>

		and the Lambeth Appeal to all Christian People (Summer 2020)	analysis of the current socio-political context. It will make relevant resources within the Member Churches known.
		Committee meeting and Consultation on Christian witness and evangelisation in a secularised society. In cooperation with mission organisations (November 2020).	The Consultation will foster perspectives by the CEC Member Churches and mission organisations active in Europe, and link with relevant study processes.
		Committee meeting and Consultation on the Church as Communion (Autumn 2021).	The Consultation will examine different models of being Church and their relation to the Church as communion. It will explore biblical models of church (eg. Body of Christ, People of God, Pilgrim Church, Discipleship), and common ground between ecclesiologies of churches with historical longevity in Europe and Evangelical and Pentecostal ecclesiologies.
To explore how ecclesial, political and cultural belonging intersect, and provide resources to overcome divisions with regard to the relationship of church and nation/state. To study theologies that may enhance exclusivist tendencies,	To analyse the past and how it shaped the understanding of being Church and engaging in mission, e.g. the impact of the 30 Years' War, the communist rule, and	Study group within the Committee on Ecclesiology & Mission on existing materials on church, nation/state dynamics (2019-2013). Committee meeting and Consultation on Church and nation/state relations and ecclesial self-understanding (Winter 2021).	The group will harvest existing studies and invite fresh reflection on church and nation/state relationships. The findings of the study will feed into the CEC Consultation Process. The Consultation will study different cultural and ethnic contexts, the dynamics of church and nation/state relations, and their influence on the different ecclesiologies and the

<p>e.g. theologies of election (nation/ethnicity in our scriptural and doctrinal tradition).</p>	<p>Ottoman legacies.</p> <p>To revisit the concepts of nationalism, patriotism, populism, ethnicity, race, tribe in relation to ecclesiology.</p> <p>To identify theological arguments and spiritual resources that help overcome divisions.</p>	<p>Committee meeting and Consultation on concepts of proselytism and ethical witness. In cooperation with the Global Christian Forum (Spring 2022).</p>	<p>understanding of Church as communion.</p> <p>The Committee will engage with the relevant study of the GCF and examine questions of proselytism and ethical witness in Europe.</p>
		<p>Committee meeting. Preparation for the General Assembly of CEC (Winter 2022)</p>	<p>The meeting will draw conclusions, identify resources and plan future activities. It will finalise the volume on unity and prepare its contribution to the General Assembly.</p>

Part B of the Programme on Ecclesiology & Mission relates to the history of Consultations on baptism between CEC and CPCE (2002-2008). Although there is considerable agreement on the nature of baptism, there are remaining differences among churches that prevent the mutual recognition of baptism, and there are still cases when Christians living in minority situations, are re-baptised in order to enter an inter-confessional marriage. The General Secretaries of CEC and CPCE decided that CEC will initiate a Study on the question of recognition of baptism in relation to a pastoral approach to marriage. The Study on Baptism constitutes a long-term project and the goal of reaching agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism goes beyond the programmatic work of the period 2019-2023. There is a wide spectrum of topics that will be examined in the process: The anthropology of the baptised Christian; Theological understandings of baptism; The baptismal order in different traditions; Baptism in canon law; Inter-confessional marriage and baptism; Baptism in bilateral and multilateral agreements; the mutual recognition of baptism; Baptism and migration. The following index indicates two activities which will inaugurate the Study and will be organised as part of the programmatic work of 2019-2023. In consultation with CPCE, a small working group of four persons with expertise on the topic will be asked to plan the project.

Part B Study on Baptism			
Aims	Objectives	Activities	Description
To reach an agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism among CEC Member Churches.	To study the theological understanding of baptism in relation to a pastoral approach to marriage between Christians of different traditions.	Seminar on the anthropology of the baptised Christian (Winter 2020) Seminar on baptism in canon law in different church traditions (February 2021)	The seminar will explore theological understandings of baptism and study the baptismal order in different traditions. The seminar will examine the requirements for the validity of baptism. It will review cases of receiving Christians to the Body of Christ from the early church to modern times.

The Churches Contribution to the Future of Europe

Background

The CEC Governing Board issued in June 2016 an open letter on 'Future of Europe'. The letter emphasized that global problems and specific challenges Europe has to face need coordinated solutions. The document highlighted that along with reacting to current challenges, CEC has been over years consistently arguing that Europe is a project of reconciliation and trust building among the peoples and nations, and first of all an initiative based on values that go beyond economic cooperation. The letter raised a considerable interest among CEC member churches across the whole continent.

In following up the letter have been organised 4 regional consultations, which were accompanied by additional events organised at national levels and by written responses to the letter received from churches, national councils of churches, as well as CEC partner organisations. The outcomes of the consultation shaped the discussion of Europe in the CEC Assembly 2018.

Expected developments in Europe in coming years will pose a number of challenges for future of the continent. It is important for CEC to outline flexible and cooperative mechanisms that allow effective reactions to upcoming challenges. More specific elements of the CEC action under this heading will be shaped in the discussion with the Governing Board in reaction to actual socio-political challenges in Europe and in EU institutions, as well as on CEC available capacities.

Aims	Objectives	Activities	When
<p>Offer CEC Member Churches a forum for sharing regional, confessional and cultural diversity for raising churches' concerns about facing current social and political challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and highlight churches' contributions in facing current challenges related to particular European policies as well as to broader concerns related to the whole continent. Cooperation with ecumenical partners and with other stakeholders from civil society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In cooperation with churches from specific regions in Europe, as for example churches from the United Kingdom and Ireland, central Europe, western Balkans and other regions, to work jointly on their specific concerns related to current historical situations (e.g. follow up of Brexit, integration of western Balkan countries to the EU etc.) and developments of the continent. in cooperation with churches from different regions in Europe co-organise regional events and conferences aiming to clarify a churches' contributions to Europe's narrative 	<p>2019 - 23</p>
<p>Facilitating churches' contribution to Future of Europe discussion in a dialogue with the European political institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate churches' concerns through appropriate means as, dialogue, high level meetings, expert consultations, events, and so on, with European political institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions to different formats of a dialogue with the institutions of the European Union, e.g. meeting of religious leaders with the leaders of the European institutions, dialogue seminars in the European Parliament and European Commission, expert's meetings, seminars, workshops etc. 	<p>continually 2019 - 23</p>

Future Working Structure - Strasbourg Office

Title of Working area: *Education, democracy, diversity*

Content (according to CEC Strategy plan):
Educating on diversity and plurality

Leitmotiv: Diversity and Expertise, adult education, forum of debate

Tasks:

- monitor and contribute to current developments in intercultural education and dialogue policies (Council of Europe program *Competences for a Democratic Culture*)
- develop intercultural learning on the basis of an ecumenical project to enable Member Churches to become bridge builders
- discuss the issue of religious education in school (in cooperation with ICCS)
- participate actively in the discussion about diversity and pluralism in our societies

Working Structure:

The two most important elements for creating a working group are diversity and experience in the field of education and intercultural dialogue. Following the practice of the Intergovernmental working groups of the CoE¹ the Member churches are invited to design one representative of the highest possible rank in the field of education and intercultural dialogue. This larger working group prepares a work plan and timetable for the next few years. Included is the appointment of a Bureau and one or more subgroups or task forces when needed. A member should be appointed *ex officio* by ICCS (Inter-European Commission on Church and School).

Working group:

- about 10 members
- including ExSec
- ICCS representative

¹ Cf Annexe 1, page 5

- one or two **youth representatives** appointed by CEC
- meeting once a year

Bureau:

- 3-4 members and the Executive Secretary, exchange via Video conferencing / mail
- prepares the meetings of the Working group, informs about development, decides on execution of the plan, looks for transversal working groups

Transversal issues:

- Populism and Human Rights (Human Rights)
- diversity, discrimination and gender questions (Bioethics)
- Intercultural issues (interreligious dialogue)
-

Budget (approx.): 5000,-

(subsidies for travel costs, travel costs Youth representatives , edition of material, réceptions etc.)

Title of Working area: Science, New Technologies and Christian Ethics

Content (according to CEC Strategic plan):

- *Analysing and reflecting on the issue of digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and human dignity*
- *Monitoring and engaging with science policy concerning bioethics and new technologies (AI)*

Leitmotiv: Being informed and involved in the ongoing discussion, enabling Member Churches to participate in the European debate, creating an efficient network, keeping member Churches informed about scientific and technical progress

Tasks:

a) Digitalisation and AI

- Provide an inventory of the questions linked to digitalisation and AI
- Organise conferences on the subject
- Collect the churches' positions regarding this issue
- Produce a theological reflection document and orientation guide

b) New Technologies and Bioethics

- Create a network to enable Member Churches to participate in the ethical, social and theological debate relating to science, bioethics, and technology
- Include youth experience and expertise in this programmatic area

Working Structure:

Following the practice of the Intergovernmental working groups of the CoE the Member churches are invited to design one representative of the highest possible rank in the field of Science, New Technologies and Christian Ethics. Expertise can as well be provided by lay people with a special commitment in diaconical work or with technical

experience. The advantage of CEC working groups is their diversity which allows to discuss actual issues in a controversial manner but in a spirit of brother- and sisterhood. This larger working group prepares a work plan and timetable for the next few years. Included is the appointment two separate working groups on Digitalisation/AI and Bioethics, which reports regularly from their work.

Working group:

- about 10 members,
- ExSec
- One representative of CCPE
- **one or two Youth representatives appointed by CEC,**
- meeting once a year

Two specialists' groups: Bioethics and Digitalisation
Specialists' groups should be appointed by working group

Bureau:

- 3-4 members and the ExSec, exchange via Video conferencing / mail
- prepares the meetings of the Working group, informs about development, decides on execution of the plan

Transversal issues:

- Diversity, discrimination and gender issues (Education, Democracy, Diversity...)
- Social Affaires
- Economic and ecological justice

Budget (approx.): 5000,- (subsidies travel costs for meetings, edition of material, réceptions etc.)

ANNEXE 1

Extract of a convocation of a Council of Europe Intergovernmental steering committee

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Participants

A. Members

Governments of the 50 States Party to the European Cultural Convention are invited to designate two representatives of the highest possible rank representing the (1) general education and (2) higher education sectors¹, with responsibility at national level for the planning, development and implementation of policies relevant to the work of the Committee and appointed by their governments and by the competent body or bodies representing universities or other institutions of higher education. Committee members will co-ordinate at national level all elements of government policy relevant to the work of the Committee.

....