

Conference of European Churches
Governing Board

Brussels, 20 – 22 November 2019

<u>Doc N°:</u>	2GB2019_Doc15d
<u>Topic:</u>	Seminar on Baptism
<u>Agenda Item:</u>	15
Staff in charge:	Katerina Pekridou
<u>Recommendation:</u>	For approval
<u>Annex:</u>	Not applicable
<u>Earlier docs:</u>	Not applicable

Conference of European Churches

Project Description

1. Title

Seminar on Baptism
(The anthropology of the baptised Christian: working title)

2. Kind of project

Academic seminar.

3. Responsible staff

Executive Secretary for Theological Dialogue.

4. Introduction

The study on baptism relates to the history of Consultations on baptism between CEC and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, CPCE, held from 2002-2008). Although there is considerable agreement among Christians 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. In 2018 the General Secretaries of CEC and CPCE discussed the possibility for CEC to initiate a study on the question of recognition of baptism in relation to a pastoral approach to marriage. The Governing Board of CEC included the study of baptism in the Strategy Plan for the period 2018-2023.

The study on baptism is a long-term project and the goal of reaching agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism extends beyond 2023, and the CEC Assembly. 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 and the new challenges in Europe. For the period between 2019-2023 CEC will be able to hold two seminars on the topic (Winter 2020, Winter 2021).

The concept for the seminar on baptism will be developed by the CEC Thematic Group on Ecclesiology & Mission.

5. Aim of the project

To study the common ground that CEC Member Churches share concerning the theological understanding of baptism.

6. Objectives

- To examine the relation of baptism to the process of the believer's lifelong growth into Christ.
- To explore the relation of the faith of the baptised person to the faith of the Christian community as a whole.

7. Gender-related issues and youth participation

There should be an equal number of male and female speakers and participants. Attention should be given to including young scholars.

8. Target group

Specialists on the topic and church leaders.

9. Dates and venue

Winter 2020, venue to be decided.

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10. Partners

CPCE, and the Ecumenical Institute in Bensheim, Germany.

11. Press and Communication aspects

To be discussed with CEC Communications.

12. Follow-up

Publication of the papers of the seminar.

13. Budget

See next page

Draft Budget for 20 participants

Board & Lodging	20 x 2 nights x 100 Euro = 4,600 Euro
Self-paying participants	12 x 2 nights x 100 Euro = 2,400 Euro
Subsidies for Board & Lodging for 8 participants	8 x 2 nights x 100 Euro = 1,600 Euro
Travel expenses	20 x 300 Euro = 6,000 Euro
Self-paying participants	12 x 300 Euro = 3,600 Euro
Subsidies for Travel for 8 participants	8 x 300 Euro = 2,400 Euro
Conference Facilities	1,000 Euro
Local Transportation	1,000 Euro
Unforeseen	1,000 Euro
Total	13,600 Euro
Amount to be raised	7,000 Euro