



CONCLUSIONS

European CLM Assembly

Viseu, 22-27 August 2016

The first European Assembly of the Comboni Lay Missionaries (CLM) in Europe took place in Viseu, Portugal on August 22-27, 2016. This meeting was attended by 65 CLM coming from Austria, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain. It has also participated the Comboni Missionaries assessors of each of the countries, the Provincial responsible for the CLM in Europe, three members of the CLM Central Committee, a representative of the Comboni Missionaries Sisters and one of the Secular Comboni Missionaries.

The objectives for this meeting were:

- Celebrate our common CLM vocation.
- Share our CLM vocation among the members of the different countries, enriching ourselves with the experience of life of others.
- Reflect where we are as CLM in Europe and internationally, where we want to go and what we need to reach it.
- Draw inspiring lines that help us to walk as European CLM and at international level with the participation of all.
- Strengthen ties as European CLM movement and consolidate our belonging to the Comboni Family.

To achieve these objectives, throughout the week, we have worked in six aspects that we consider important in our path as CLM at European level: Identity and Vocation, CLM Organization and Coordination, Economy and Sustainability, Formation, Communication and Comboni Family.

Inspired by the charism of St. Daniel Comboni and aware of the need to strengthen our vocation as CLM in Europe, we feel called to give significant answers to our reality as a Movement, living our vocation with the disposal of going out to the peripheries of our world.

Now begins a time of reflection and work to realize and adapt each of the conclusions reached to the reality of each country, so that everything worked throughout this week becomes LIFE.

We let you here the conclusions of the different thematic areas:

IDENTITY AND CHARISMA

We need to put passionately God and the mission in the center of our lives and actions, not our ego.

The lays, like all the Christians, need to have eyes, heart and mind open to reality. We live our vocation in our families and our works.

Our Comboni charisma impulse us to denounce, to show, to get involved with human peripheries.

Go out from myself and my culture to meet the other, have a Comboni's global thinking, built bridges between the different realities in Europa – Africa – America. Whit out forgetting mission *Ad Gentes*.

We are missionaries in our place through missionary animation in the local church and sensitize the civil society about the nowadays challenges that are: ecology, immigration, refugees, interreligious dialogue, joining evangelization and social action.

COORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION

The organizational structures of the CLM movement have to be as lean as possible. If this is generally true, moreover has to be at the European level that is an intermediate level between the national and international one.

Another guideline of the organizational structures of the CLM movement is the representativeness of each country at the European level.

We recognize the role of the Central Committee to coordinate at worldwide level the activities of the CLM movement.

STATEMENT #1

The European level of the CLM movement is composed by 2 main structures: the *European Assembly* and the *European Committee*.

The European Assembly is open to:

- All Comboni Lay Missionaries and candidates in Europe.
- The MCCJ advisor of the CLM in each country.
- MCCJ provincial following the CLM in Europe.
- Central Committee members.
- 1 representative of the Comboni Sisters for each country.
- 1 representative of the Comboni Secular for each country.
- Up to 5 guests invited by the European Committee.

The European Assembly has to take the strategic decisions on European duties. The European Committee will encourage the local groups to execute continental and international decisions in the following years.

The European Assembly will take place every 3 years.

STATEMENT #2

Decisions should be taken, as a general rule, by consensus. During a vote session, if consensus is not reached each country can have 3 votes.

STATEMENT #3

The European Committee is composed by:

- 1 (one) lay representative for each country belonging to the CLM movement, with voting rights;
- 1 (one) MCCJ representative as a counselor, with no voting rights.

- 1 (one) Comboni sister representative as a counselor, with no voting rights.

The mandate of the European Committee has a duration of 3 years. At the end of the mandate each country will see whether to renew or not its representative member.

STATEMENT #4

Some operational tasks of the European Committee are:

- Organize the European Assembly;
- Promote communication among the different countries;
- Inform the Central Committee on the march of the movement in each European country.

European Committee has to work on the duties of the European level of the CLM movement, starting from the different topics treated by the Assembly itself (identity, organization, formation, communication, economics and Comboni family), in order to define the area of ownership and responsibility among national, European and international level.

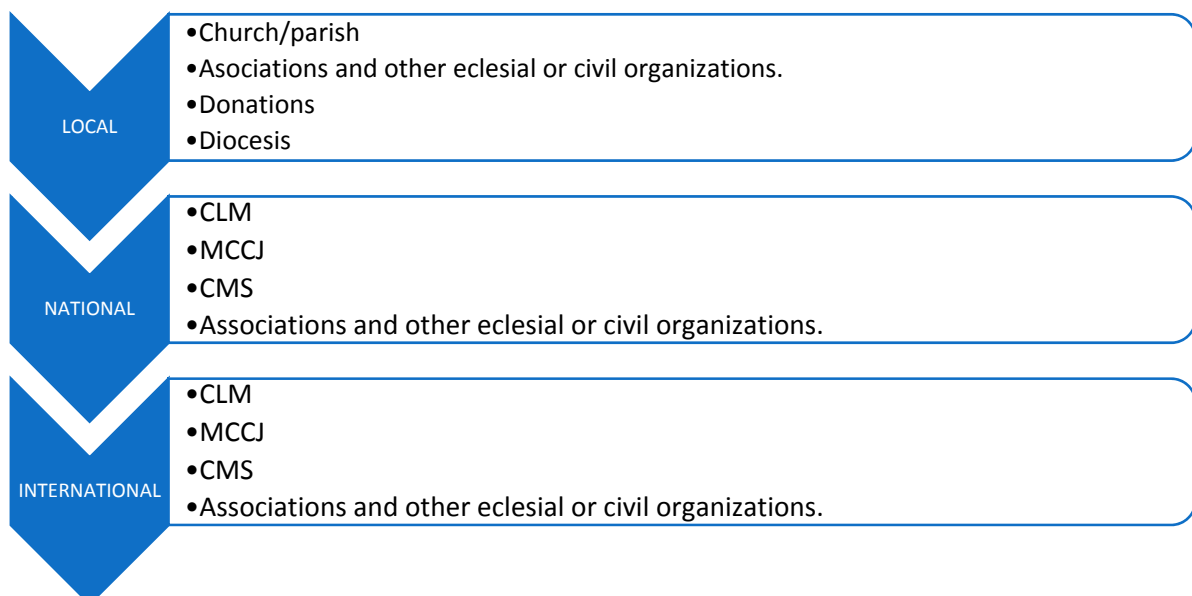
The Committee in the next European Assembly will propose the outcome of this work.

ECONOMY

We feel a CLM family and we want that everything that we are going to expose have this spirit.

- We believe that every CLM send abroad should have a very clear contract/document detailing how much money the CLM receives for living expenses.
- It will be necessary to know the needs (and to decide what is necessary to live) to determine what is the value of living expenses in each mission.
- Every CLM in mission must have Social Insurance and Medical Insurance paid by his/her respective country/province.
- Each contract should be sent to the Central and European Committee.

Steps to fundraising the money for living expenses and insurances:



- Every project (and its financing) must be communicated to the original country group of the CLM.
- The money for projects must be clearly separated from living expenses.
- All countries should contribute to the CLM International Common Fund.
- Every country gather information and try to create an association or other type of juridical and/or ecclesial structure to get external financing according to each country reality.

FORMATION

These are general agreements that in each country would concrete according to its own reality.

1. DISCERNMENT AND VOCATION

Discernment should be done during all the moments in our CLM life (discernment stage, becoming CLM, Sending to mission, returning from mission, daily life...). This discernment should be done with the help of an assistant and the CLM community

Methods propose:

- We should have a personal accompaniment and participate in national, European meetings...
- It would be positive to have short experiences in mission during de Discernment period before becoming CLM.

2. ECCLESIOLOGY

We believe it is important to have a common formation in the Church's documents, especially those than Pope Francisco is writing.

Methods propose:

- Make a list of the Church's documents, and share then in the CLM's Moodle, or in other space.
- Also the themes that every country are studying and the reflections that we are doing.

3. SPECIFIC PREPARATION TO LEAVE OVERSEAS.

When possible the formation and community life experience, previous to go to mission it will be done together for European groups (3- 6 months).

In this time, we will study and share: prayers, community dimension, economic issues, personal relationship, Comboni family relationship, common task scheduling, the culture of the country where we are going, languages...

4. CHRISTIANITY AND BIBLE

The CLM community is the place to study and reflect the Word of God, always challenged and provoked by world's realities.

5. LIFE STYLE.

Our missionary vocation has to be reflected in all the areas of our life: family, work...

Challenge: Share our CLM life style, discussing and sharing ideas, reflections and activities, born of our coresponsibility in the globalization (we can work it for the next assembly to get some European commitments).

6. FORMATION IN COMBONI

We need to actualize the charisma (what does mean today Save Africa with Africa, the regeneration, missionary methodology...).

Through the testimony of the persons who are living in mission, making the exchanges of experiences easier (skype, visiting, blog)

Deepen in Comboni's writings in the national formation's plan.

Meet other experiences: missionary insertion communities made as Comboni Family, and show them in the next European assembly.

7. ANTHROPOLOGY

Facilitate the sharing of experiences and testimonies of returned missionaries or mission communities among the different countries (blog, exchanges, visits ...) as a way to open ourselves to other cultures through the experiences of the CLM.

Make easier to have short experiences in other countries/cultures abroad.

Include in the formation plans of each country a specific formation on interculturality.

COMUNICACION

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal".

1 Corinthians, 13:1

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

INVITATION TO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY: **WHAT IS THE USE OF HAVING SO MANY COMMUNICATION TOOLS, IF WE DO NOT COMMUNICATE?**

We propose to have a communication team per each country.

We recommend:

- Implementing blogs on a local, national and international level and empowering the networking with social institutions, families, etc.;
- Filter and spread communication in a more rational way;
- Check-up for available communication tools in every country and provide information uniformity (make sure that everybody receives everything that is published).

- Subscription to the local and international blogs; updating other current communication tools such as Facebook pages, newsletters and so on. Create new tools such as an App (to upload photos and other material), e-cloud, Instagram, Twitter etc.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

1. To create / improve a mailing list of contacts belonging to the fields of journalism, culture, dioceses, NGOs and other associations in order to reach more fields of our contemporary society;
2. Check the Comboni missionary media in each country so that we may let our voice heard and keep in touch with local media beyond the Comboni Family.
3. On extraordinary occasions (international meetings, etc.) to organize press conferences with local key-speakers from the fields of politics, dioceses etc. If this is not possible, at least send press releases to local journalists and bloggers for publication on local media.

COMBONI FAMILY

Our dream as Comboni Family (brothers, priests, sisters, seculars and lay people) revolves around a stronger relationship among all its members, working together and co-responsibly; where we all feel sisters and brothers, living and sharing Comboni's spirit.

To be able to fulfil this dream we intend:

- To organize a Comboni Family meeting in every country, according to its reality.
- To develop a common Project in each country as Comboni Family, where all work in co-responsibility.
- To create a Commission, or to use some organism already in place, to coordinate the work as Comboni Family in every country: to draw proposals, activities together, prayers, retreats, formation...
- To celebrate as Comboni Family Saint Daniel Comboni's Day.

At a long term, our Big Dream is the creation of a common Project as Comboni Family at European level.