



Newsletter – November 2023

Spiritually said ...

In his letters, Saint Ignatius liked to speak of "setting the anchor of our hope in God" as a necessary attitude in difficult moments that required a discernment. To cast the anchor, it is to anchor ourselves in the depths of God, it is a call to the radicality of hope in the Christ, to attain the grace of being what He has called us to be. The more radical our hope will be, the more it is anchored in Christ, the better we will find the paths that lead us to live out the plenitude of our call.



Fr. Arturo Sosa, Message to the World Assembly in Amiens, 7th of August 2023.

News from CLC in Europe and Euroteam

The Euroteam at the World Assembly

Chris was the Euroteam delegate at the World Assembly. You can read his daily reports on the CLC in Europe Facebook page. On the last day, he was elected President of the World CLC. You can watch an interview with him on the day of his election here: [\(27\) Deepen / Approfondir/ Profundizar: Interview with the new president of CLC/ CVX - YouTube](#)

As you may know, **Nikolaas** is not only the EA of the Euroteam, but also of the national communities in the Netherlands and Flanders. So he was one of the delegates in Amiens, representing CLC in the Netherlands. Here you can watch an interview with him in which he explains how Ignatius and his companions discovered communal discernment: [\(27\) Deepen / Approfondir/ Profundizar::Communal discernment: Nikolaas Sintobin - YouTube](#)

Jean-Benoît attended the Visitors' Day and met many companions and friends from the CLC in Europe.

Angelika volunteered in the media team and was in charge of organising video and audio materials.

Kasia was not in Amiens in person but she served as a remote volunteer, helping with translations of texts and video subtitles from her home in Poland.



The website of the Assembly offers a variety of documents, videos, photos and audio recordings, as well as a daily diary reporting on the most important events. [The 18th CVX CLC General Assembly | CVX - CLC Amiens 2023 \(cvx-clc-amiens2023.org\)](https://www.cvx-clc-amiens2023.org/)

40th anniversary of CLC in Spain

Angelika represented the Euroteam at the 40th-anniversary meeting of CLC in Spain in Madrid. It was a moving weekend, during which she not only met and talked with many Spanish CLCers, but also got a deep insight into the diverse missions of this very active community. Thank you for the invitation and: Happy Birthday once again!

(-> some more impressions, page 7)

Youth Initiative

The CLC Europe Youth Initiative has already been active for 3 years now.

Through various proposals and activities, its objective has always remained the same:

'Discerning paths to connect and inspire Young CLC members across Europe, helping each other to seek and find the Presence of Christ in our daily lives, and in companionship with Him thereby respond to our mission in this challenging world.'

After a lot of video calls & online meetings, a core team of motivated and passionate enthusiasts, the **"Ignatian Ducks"** as we call ourselves, finally met up for the first time in-person during the last weekend of September! We were hosted by Jean-Benoît and Véronique at their lovely residence in Brussels, who treated us to so much delicious food from their garden.

However, the weekend was not all fun and games! During those few days together, we prayed and discerned the way forward for the group, despite the difficulties and hurdles which present themselves during our daily life. We also reaffirmed our commitment to the group, and the commitment to increasing the connectedness between youth members of CLC Europe. Throughout the weekend, we also held brainstorming sessions and intense discussions between ourselves on how best to connect youths from different countries who struggle with finding other youths of similar ages within their local communities.

After this meet-up, we shall continue gathering regularly to continue the work that we had started during this special weekend. We shall keep you updated with our ideas once details are finalized!

Elena (CVXe Spain) – Natalia (CLC England & Wales) – Jeantide & Bernard (CLC Malta) – Daniela (GCL The Netherlands) – Jean-Benoît (CLC Belgium & CLC EuroTeam)



PS: One of the fruits of our discernment was crystal clear: we need to expand our small team! If you are a young & passionate enthusiastic CLC member, please reach out to: jean-benoit@clc-cvx.eu

Some words from the world ExCo ...

Dear friends of CLC in Europe

Greetings on behalf of the new World ExCo. We started our service journey at the end of our last Amiens Assembly. During these first months, we are meeting online monthly, waiting for our presential meeting in Rome after Epiphany. Our main goals are to start building our team as a community service, give continuity to the ongoing projects and networks, and start considering the main topics on which we must make decisions to answer Amiens mandates. We feel small before the challenges and grateful for the support and prayers from the CLC worldwide.

The session of the Synod in Rome in October is the foremost ecclesiastical event we have experienced. I have had the opportunity to share with our companions participating in the synod. Their experience confirmed some of the intuitions we worked on in the last assemblies: The spiritual conversation is a privileged method to promote the union of souls in the Lord, and the relevant role of the regional and local dynamics to gain an enlarged vision of the Church (and the CLC) and their mission. The success of the Synodal process is of particular relevance for the future of the European Church. I invite you to participate in the synodal proposals in our dioceses and to encourage this synodality within our communities and the European region.

Cecilia



Some impressions from the World Assembly

CLC in Italy: Paths of Hope for an Outgoing Community: the XVIII CLC World Assembly

Five years after the CLC World Assembly of Buenos Aires, the XVIII CLC World Assembly took place in Amiens (France). The title was “Discerning paths of hope” [“You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)].

The Assembly was held at “La Providence” high school in Amiens, 140 km north of Paris: there were 209 Delegates, representing 65 countries from 5 continents.

Supported by the accompanying equipe, with the Otto Sharmer’s U-theory, we slowly got into a communitarian discernment, until we truly felt as a World Community, in which the Spirit was there to guide us.

We started from the Contemplation of the Incarnation and we went deep within ourselves, to carefully think about why we were there and what the Lord was asking us. It was a slow work, but it brought its priceless results, both within our groups and in the Assembly meetings.



In this self-knowledge and consciousness of our own community process, we were helped by a whole day of silence and individual prayer, which ended with a very heartfelt Holy Mass.

The Spirit showed us how to respond to God's call, and invited us to step out of our comfort-zones, our boundaries, to concretely implement the conclusions of the 2018 Buenos Aires Assembly (Go forth) and of the 2013 Beirut Assembly. The latter had already pointed the Frontiers on which the whole World Community should focus: Family, Youth, Globalization, Poverty and Ecology.

In the final document, approved by the Assembly and finalized by the new World Executive Committee, all the raised issues are really represented. They lead to further and deeper reflections: about all the wars ongoing around the world, the economic problems due to the globalization, the Integral Ecology, any kind of poverty (not only the economic one, but also as the loss of life value), the affectivity in all its forms, the complex reality of indigenous people, the migration and the migrants' tragedy, woman's role in the Church, domestic violence against women, the issue of youth both in the Church and in our communities, the dramatic reality of abuses within the ecclesial environment.

More specifically, the final document states: «In all our diverse contexts, building an inclusive Church is an essential part of our mission. We affirm the equal dignity and role of women in the life of the Church. We are moved by the cries of people among us who have been discriminated against or abused within the Church. Where discrimination and abuse has been present, we seek to be in solidarity with victims. We can be a community of generous hospitality, where there is no room for discrimination, and where joy abounds. We welcome people at the edge of the Church who are searching for community and spirituality. We echo Pope Francis at the World Youth Day Welcoming Ceremony, Lisbon, Portugal, August 3, 2023, who said: "Everyone, everyone, everyone! In the Church there is room for everyone." We want to work for, belong to and be a Church which welcomes and includes everyone, every person in their diversity of gender, sexuality, marital status, affectivity, and ways of life, and every other marginalised and excluded person. We acknowledge differences in cultural and social realities in different parts of the world. We desire to be a friendly and safe space for all people to explore their faith in the context of daily living. We encourage communities to open paths for dialogue and hope» (Final Document – General Assembly Amiens 2023, p. 9).

Then, the Assembly unanimously decided to form a Commission (representing all the continents) for the next five years to work on the revision of the General Principles and Norms, which will be presented during the next World Assembly in 2028. If approved, this revision will have to be submitted to the Holy See for its final approval.



The Assembly emphasized again that CLC is a lay, apostolic and Ignatian Community. It was founded on the experience of St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises, in the various forms acceptable within a lay state. We also reaffirmed the fundamental role of Virgin Mary in our communities.

The election of the new World Executive Committee was a very meaningful moment, thanks to the mandate and blessing of the Assembly on every elected member and on the whole ExCo. Everyone vividly saw the Spirit's blessing on the work done and the choices made by the Assembly.

Our new World Executive Committee consists of: Chris Micallef (Malta) as World President; Daphne Ho (Hong Kong) as Vice-President; Franklin Ibañez (Peru), Catherine Waiyaki (Kenya), Fayez Inyi (Egypt), Catherine Kelly (Canada) and Cecilia Martinez (Spain) as Consultants.

We should all thank the Lord for what we received, in Light and Grace, during these ten days of Assembly. Now, it's up to each one of us to commit ourselves, to really put into practice the guidelines given in Amiens, adapting them to our national and local realities.

From the Assembly, a strong recommendation emerged to the new ExCo: to take special care of the relationship between the regional and national realities, creating continental and regional teams to interact with the ExCo.

We invite everyone to carefully read the final document, approved by the Assembly and released by the new World ExCo, and to deeply reflect on it, both at a national and local level.

The Italian Delegates: Fr. Carmelo Giuffrida S.I., Annabella Marcello, Antonio Salvio

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE SPANISH DELEGATION AT THE WORLD ASSEMBLY IN AMIENS

The Spanish delegation to the World Assembly in Amiens was formed by Cecilia Martinez, candidate for the new World Executive Committee, Carles Alonso, secretary of the Spanish Exco and Eduardo Escobés, president of the Spanish CLC. During the 10 days of the meeting, they had been sharing the almost non-transferable experience through the [Spanish CVX-CLC blog](#)

Gratitude is the main common feeling of the Spanish delegates. They share that it was a privilege to be there, in Amiens. Moreover, they felt CVX-CLC as ONE worldwide community, they had the experience of contemplating a common and unique apostolic mission for the whole World CVX-CLC. They felt that Spanish CVX is on the same page as the World community, in the way of praying, sharing, celebrating, serving and cooperating for the Kingdom of God. Our delegated underlined three words that were present throughout the assembly: cooperate, connect and collaborate as a World community with others to make the redemption of the humanity



In addition, there were many important conversations – not only “official” but also “informal” in a coffee break or during free time, focused on the importance of the present moment in the Church. In Europe, the future of the Church and, consequently, the future of CVX-CLC in the Church, depends on the recommendation of the ongoing Synodal process. There seems to be a call for a Church that cares for those that had been excluded, a Church that welcomes diversity and a new role for women, a Church that wants to heal the wounds of other times.

On her return, Cecilia started a new service as a consultant at WExco. This is an additional reason to thank her for her generosity and to ask for openness to God's will for CLC. For more information, please visit: <https://cvx-e.es/en/clc-cvx-en/amiens-2023-journal-clc-world-assembly/>

THE PERSPECTIVE OF A VOLUNTEER

Véronique from CLC in France who volunteered in the communication team writes about her service:

Giving some of my time to the World Assembly last summer made a lot of sense. I offered my availability, and as a result, I was enriched by the presence and service of 180 volunteers and the "family" experience we all had with the delegates. Our 13-day adventure became a human and spiritual experience to be listened to and deciphered. In addition to discussions at the tables and during breaks, the COM team sought to encourage each of the delegates to express their experiences, as well as the volunteers in their service experience. The challenge was not only to produce high-quality videos, photos and written material for all the national communities around the world but also to ensure the harmony of our team. So many discoveries! Many thanks to all!

TRIP TO THE OPEN DAY – CLC IN AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, GERMANY AND LUXEMBOURG

About 50 CLC members from Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland met in Amiens, France from the 4th to the 7th of August, the highlight of which was the Open Day at the World Assembly on August 6th. The days were filled with getting to know each other and many different activities such as a boat trip through the Hortillonages or a light show on the cathedral of Amiens, picnics, prayers with Ignatian impulses, reflection and exchange on the following topics: Be amazed, Hear the Cries, Paths for Hope, Let us be joyful witnesses of Christ. On the Visitors Day, we and 1000 other visitors met our delegates, prayed together in the schoolyard, and then, divided into small language groups, walked through Amiens to participate in different workshops that introduced us to the paths for hope of CLC in France, such as intercultural collaboration with the JRS or ecology and the Church. Finally, we all met again in the Cathedral in Amiens for Eucharist with Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ and celebrated our faith with many international elements. One of the largest cathedrals in France was full of people from many different countries. The celebration continued at Providence with dancing, and international drinks and food until the evening. After the Ignatian examen, we said goodbye to the Austrians. And for all of us, the next morning, the beautiful, enriching and inspiring time together in Amiens finished with the impulse to be joyful witnesses of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit!



On the website of the World Assembly, you can find a wealth of different materials: videos, audio recordings, photos, a diary reporting on each day, the information about various aspects of the Assembly: [Amiens 2023 | CVX - CLC Amiens 2023 \(cvx-clc-amiens2023.org\)](https://cvx-clc-amiens2023.org)

And the National communities...

CLC in Poland: May MEETING

From 29 April to 3 May, the first May long weekend with the CLC was held in Warsaw.

The main purpose of the event was to meet, to connect and each day focused on a particular dimension of coming together, expressed in the title:
30 April – Meeting with yourself- stop, look at what you have

1 May – Meeting with the community – look at what we have

2 May – Meeting with others – go and act outside.

Seven workshops, four conferences and numerous attractions involving children took place

Here is a taste of some of the activities that were offered: conference on spiritual versus emotional maturity; workshops with elements of the "Family Clock"; workshops on accompaniment and spiritual conversation; field game with St Ignatius; NVC (Non-Violent Communication) workshop; bibliodrama; ESDAC discernment; workshop on decision-making; *Our passions* - presentation of the talents of CLC members, and many more.

Every evening there was an entertainment programme which included sightseeing, themed dancing, barbequing, contests, etc.



The evaluation of the whole event resulted in the decision to continue May meetings in the future.

Below is the testimony of one of the participants, Magdalena Witkowska: *"Going to Warsaw for the national meeting of the CLC, I simply hoped to meet new people, deepen existing relationships and pray in community. What I got was that and much more.*

The May meeting of the Christian Life Community brought together over a hundred people, and it was a real adventure. Each day we all gathered for the Eucharist and the Examen. We also met in smaller groups to take part in activities of our choice - workshops, sharing groups and conferences. It would be impossible to list them all!

From my perspective, it is important that for the most part the content was delivered by CLCers. I realized what a wealth of talent and passions we have when I was observing some members of the community leading valuable conferences, workshops and all kinds of activities.

Following the principle that it is not the vastness of knowledge that fills and saturates the soul, but rather the inner understanding of things and savouring them, I can see that everything I experienced during that May long weekend will continue to work in me for a long time to come. This meeting of the Christian Life Community was an important stage in my journey to discover how to seek and find God in everything."



CLC in Spain: MEETING IN MADRID TO CELEBRATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLC IN SPAIN

It is difficult to express in words what we felt during the weekend of 1 and 2 July. The meeting was a celebration full of gratitude. Gratitude and admiration for those who have gone before us, for those who embarked on this uncertain CLC adventure when it was only a vague and somewhat far-fetched idea. Admiration and gratitude also for all that God has done in our history, because He gave meaning to our origins and has never abandoned us in these 40 years, in which there have been lights and shadows, but above all, much learning in community.

One of the highlights of the celebration took place on Saturday afternoon, when we listened to the testimony of our companions in community: the dedication in the family, in the profession, the accompaniment of the broken people along the way, those who face difficult moments in life, those who discover in creation the simplest and at the same time most explicit word of God, those who offer their hands for the community mission.

A meeting to celebrate, to give thanks, to recognise ourselves, to feel proud and, from which we left carrying in our hearts the desire to make the world more like the way God dreams it.

For more information, please visit: <https://cvx-e.es/en/uncategorized/celebrating-40-years-of-community-life/>

C) TARIK EMMAUS CONTEMPLATIVE EXPERIENCE. SOUTHERN BORDER ROUTE SUMMER 2023



Last summer, a group of four women travelled along the Tarik Emaus route and their testimony is available on <https://cvx-e.es/en/uncategorized/picking-up-the-tarik-emmaus-route/>

Tarik in Arabic means WAY, ROUTE and this is what we offer: a special opportunity to meet the suffering Jesus, on the path of apparent defeat, like that of the disciples of Emmaus, touching closely the lives of people who abandon everything and risk everything to seek a better life for themselves and their families

CLC in Germany: NATIONAL GATHERING

The General Assembly of CLC in Germany held in Haus Schönblick (Schwäbisch Gmünd) from 29th September to 1st October. The theme of the Assembly was "Drawing from deep sources - daring to set out". Almost 200 CLC members and friends from other Ignatian communities attended the meeting.

We also welcomed guests from CLC in France, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Hungary.

On Saturday, Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck gave a talk on "CLC and the Church", in which he said: "The CLC can thus bring into the Church, for the sake of the communion of Churches, the depth and closeness to life of spirituality of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, to stand up for the breadth of ecumenism based on a living relationship with Jesus Christ."

In the evening of the same day, we celebrated the Eucharist with

Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck. In his homily, Bishop Overbeck referred to the theme "Drawing from deep sources - daring to set out" and emphasised: "Our mission and our way



is to allow a new beginning to emerge in great spiritual and intellectual freedom from the source of trust with the promise of becoming life through God."

Fabian Moos SJ gave a talk entitled "Contemplativus in transformatione - Reflections on an eschatological spirituality in the context of the Great Transformation".

Another highlight was the round table with our international guests and Fr Bernhard Bürgler SJ, Provincial (who joined us digitally).

A series of workshops, prayer times, and a market of opportunities rounded off the meeting.



All information, texts and videos can be found here: <https://gcl.de/gesamttreffen-2023-in-der-rueckschau/>

CLC IN AUSTRIA: THE ADVENTURE OF ENCOUNTER: HOLIDAYS FOR FAMILIES AND SINGLES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

In our holiday week "The Adventure of Encounter" many things were different than usual. An event with Christians, Muslims and agnostics? Holidays with strangers? Voluntarily?

The interreligious concept of this holiday week did not intend to cancel out the specific development of individual religions and general worldviews. On the other hand, it emphasized commonality and unity, as we wanted to promote an understanding of a greater WE.

Therefore, no Christian or Muslim services, as we sometimes practice, were planned. In service to each other, to our environment, in joy and gratitude, however, there were plenty of spiritual elements that could be understood as "worship" or "service to humanity".

The holidays took place in a paradise-like place in the North of Austria from July 24th – 30th 2023.

Some statistics: all together 38 persons from Syria, Iraq, Belarus, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Germany, Italy and Austria, including 5 families, 3 children less than 4 years old, 7 children between 5 and 15, 6 young adults (17a, Unaccompanied minors), 22 adults. Christians, Muslims, Agnostics. Language: German and non-verbal. Participating CLC members: 6 from Austria, 4 from Germany. Financial support by many members of CLC Germany and Austria. Costs of the week total: € 11.000,-

It is only by the encounter that we can perceive each other directly. At the beginning, we entered the first day with curiosity, respect, with ritualized gestures; *"Take off your sandals, because the ground you walk on is sacred!"*



Then: the narrative. "You" got a name, a story. It amazes me and reminds me of my own story. Something like interest can arise when you find yourself in something new. Encounter is like movement, towards each other and away from each other - as in dance, closeness and distance lead playfully and pleasurably to familiarity. The feeling of joy in dancing is related to that of peace, even if both can be exhausting.



If I want, I will discover something familiar and new in the other. I can also take time to meet myself (assuming I'm "at home"). What will I discover? Perhaps I will find that I am very rich, wealthy in experience and gratitude.

On the fifth day, we were more familiar with each other than we were at first. We got to know each other better, and the desire to share arose. We wanted to share time, joy, even difficult things. Funny: Sharing creates connections; even friendship.



We have encountered ourselves, the others, the Creator and the environment with all our senses – this needs to be processed first! When we look back and remember, we can say "Behold, it was very good!"

Finally, the question remains whether the adventure (literally: what comes your way) of the encounter will continue. Or rather, whether I want to open up to it. Then boundaries can be expanded and overcome.

We wish everyone an adventurous, enriching togetherness!

Elisabeth, Karl, Kornelia, Marianne, Petra and Ulrich (Preparatory team)

If you wish further information please write to Ulrich.treipl@gmx.at



You are invited (sessions, international retreats, gatherings)

ONLINE SHARING GROUPS

We are going to launch a new shift of online sharing groups soon. If you still haven't had the experience of international sharing, we invite you to join one of the new groups in a language of your choice. Please register on <https://bit.ly/3s51GPY> by the 15th of December, 2023.

WEBINARS

Discernment

As you might remember, we organise a series of webinars about discernment with Fr. Nikolaas Sintobin SJ.

The session of November 18th has to be postponed, so the next session: *Magis: discernment and excellence in your personal life and in education* will be on January 6th.

You can register at: registrations@clc-cvx.eu



Ecology

The ecology network is planning a new webinar for 11th of December. It's going to be about Casa Velha - an Ignatian inspired spirituality and ecology association. The association, founded in 2012, owns centre located in Ourém (close to Fátima) in Portugal. The work lead by lay people (including CLC members) aims at contributing towards integral human development in its different verticals: personal, community and local, in close connection with all the Earth and Humanity. Join us to learn more about what kind of activities they run in the centre and how they affect people engaged in this association in their daily lives!

You can register at: webinar@clc-cvx.eu



COP28@HOME

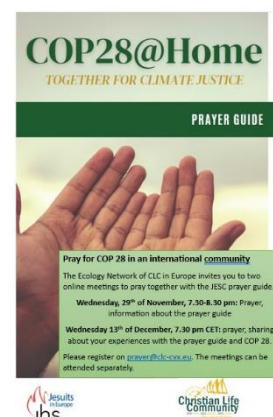
The Jesuits in Europe, through the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC) in coordination with Jesuit Missions UK and the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice and in collaboration with Ecojesuit, launched the [COP28@Home 'Together for Climate Justice'](#) campaign to inform and advocate on important climate issues up to and during the upcoming COP28.



You find more information on: [Conference Of Parties \(COP28\) - Jesuit European Social Centre \(jesc.eu\)](#)

The Ecology network invites you to **two online prayers to accompany your prayers during COP 28** on Wednesday, 29th of November, 7.30-8.30 pm CET (Prayer, information about the prayer guide), Wednesday 13th of December, 7.30 pm CET (Prayer, sharing about your experiences with the prayer guide and COP 28)

Please register at prayer@clc-cvx.eu. The meetings can be attended separately.



Some inspirations from the National Communities

SPANISH MIGRATION MISSION

The main objective of the Apostolic Team for Migration of CLC Spain is to accompany the communities in the application of the DSSE (Discern, Send, Support, Evaluate) in the field of migration. Moreover, the team gathers information on what is being done at the local level and articulates our activities, actions and positions, seeking new and better responses to help migrants. Spain is part of the European southern border, challenging our awareness of the needs and suffering of so many people who try to live among us and integrate into our society. <https://cvx-e.es/hacemos/migraciones/>

There are 4 major project lines:

- *Fraternity network*: In this field of action we offer a concrete, structured, networked and collaborative response (inside and outside CLC) of welcome, accompaniment and service. (See more <https://cvx-e.es/hacemos/migraciones/red-de-fraternidad/>)

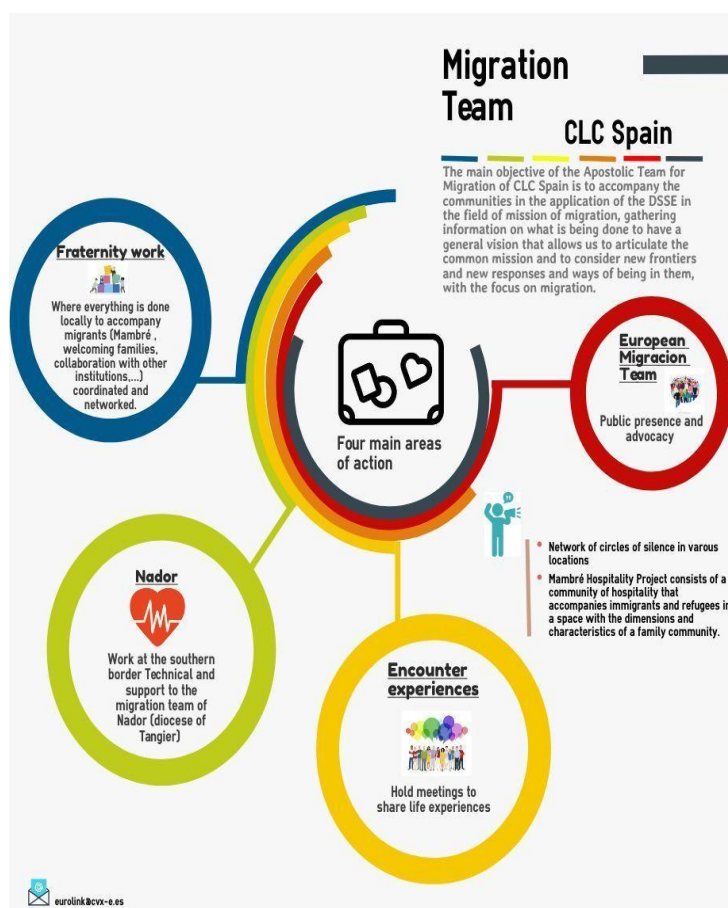
- *Work at the southern border.* In this field of action, we support the Diocesan Delegation for Migration (DDM) of Tanger in its work of promoting and respecting the rights of migrants. In order to achieve this objective, the DDM articulates its intervention around the following areas: medical, psychosocial, social and training. (See more <https://cvx-e.es/hacemos/migraciones/frontera-sur/>)

- *Experiences of encounter:* In this area of action we promote spaces aimed at young people, adults and families who want to come into contact with this reality. Change views, to change hearts and thus contribute to change our environment. The Tarik Emmaus contemplation experience and the accompaniment of Afghan families are two examples of those experiences. (see more <https://cvx-e.es/hacemos/migraciones/experiencias-de-encuentro/>)

-- *Awareness raising and advocacy.* Many of the realities in which we work and with which we are closely acquainted, demand our public positioning. As a community, we want to have a voice on migration, born out of our commitment and our closeness to migrants. This word sometimes has an informative, awareness-raising or advocacy purpose, with the aim of building a more fraternal society. (See more <https://cvx-e.es/hacemos/migraciones/incidencia/>)

In addition, we actively participate in CLC's European Network on Migration.

contact person: migraciones@cvx-e.es and eurolink@cvx-e.es



The Euroteam

Jean-Benoît

Chris

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Kasia

Nikolaas