

Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)

Brussels Office

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Good Practice

„Religions in Conflicts”

attached to the statement for the consultation process on the preparation of the “White Paper on intercultural dialogue” of the Council of Europe

1. **Title:** Religions in Conflicts
2. **Organiser(s):**
 - Evangelisches Missionswerk in Südwestdeutschland (EMS)
(several regional member churches of the EKD are members in EMS)
 - National Evangelical Church of Beirut (NEC), Lebanon
 - Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa (GMIM), Indonesia

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3. **Themes:** inter-religious dialogue and promoting faith based communities to work for peace and reconciliation
4. **Target groups**
church workers, clergy and lay, in churches in Germany, the Netherlands, Ghana, South Africa, Lebanon, India and Indonesia
5. **Intervention level**
local communities in these countries, in areas of conflict also regional and national level (e.g. Lebanon, Sulawesi/Indonesia)
6. **Objectives**
exchange of contextual experiences in inter-faith relations and of best practice examples in resolving conflicts and working for peace and reconciliation, encouraging churches in the EMS fellowship to adopt attitudes and concepts of dialogue with people of other faith, notably in Christian-Muslim relations
7. **Start and end**
2004 – 2007

8. Description of activities

2004: International working group (Germany, Ghana, South Africa, Lebanon, Jordan, Indonesia) on Peace Building, planning of Project “Religions in Conflicts”; two international workshops with participants from Germany, the Netherlands, Ghana, Lebanon, India and Indonesia, 2005 in Lebanon, 2006 in Indonesia, in both cases with encounters with Muslims and with groups involved in inter-faith dialogue; final statements

9. Outcomes

Reports, articles in magazines, PowerPoint Presentations, Documentation “Aufruf zum Dialog” / “Call for Dialogue” (in German) adopted by the international EMS Mission Council

10. Budget and financial resources

total approx. 30.000 EUR (EMS budget)

11. Overall project result, evaluation

Reports in all participating churches, discussions in the international EMS Mission Council, distribution of the documentation in EMS churches

12. Follow-up

Networking with church workers involved in inter-religious relations in all EMS churches, offering opportunities of learning from other contexts

13. Why is this project regarded as an “example of good practice”?

a unique project of sharing experiences in inter-faith conflicts and inter-faith dialogue in different contexts in three continents and making them available for the wider public in the churches, encouraging grass roots to become actively involved in inter-faith relations, working for peace and reconciliation.