

Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)

Brussels Office

Rue Joseph II, 166 ▪ B – 1000 Brüssel

ekd.bruessel@ekd.be

Good Practice

„Advanced Training for Staff in Migrant Church-Communities“

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

Organisation:

Ecumenical Center of the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau (EKHN)
(the EKHN is a regional member church of the EKD)

Praunheimer Landstr. 206 (www.zentrum-oekumene-ekhn.de).
60488 Frankfurt a. M., Germany

Course-leader: Jean-Félix Belinga Belinga, secretary for intercultural education
phone: 069-97651843; Fax. 069-97651819, E-Mail: belinga-belinga@zoe-ekhn.de
Cooperation partner is the Frankfurt deanery “Mitte-Ost.”

Themes:

Raising awareness of religious practices, minorities, social cohesion, fight against stereotypes, integration, fight against exclusion, international solidarity, cultural diversity.

Target group:

Staff of migrant church-communities.

About 100 migrant church-communities of different origins and languages can be found in Frankfurt. They are supported in their work by this project.

Intervention level:

Concerning the local activities of the respective church-community.

Objectives:

- Qualification towards an adapted counseling within migration;
- Awareness of new interpretations of the bible;
- Familiarity with the religious and church-environment abroad.

Frequency of seminars:

The seminars were held between November 2003 and May 2006 in a half-yearly circle.

Description of activities:

Exercises, activities and lectures with the following topics:

- Development of consciousness according to the own cultural and religious identity.
- Differentiated awareness of German religiousness.
- Practice of counseling within migration.
- Interpretation of the bible.

Budget and financial sources:

- fees of participants
- Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau

Overall project results, evaluation:

Each seminar closed with an evaluation by the seminar-participants. Furthermore the leaders have met for a regular dialogue, evaluated the seminars, updated the contents and broadened them.

Follow-up:

This advanced training will get a new concept regarding content, amount and timing.

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

The project is a “good-practice” example, which will hand out a guide to people, who desperately need it to integrate themselves without losing their identity. As paradox as it seems, the more migrants are sure of their own cultural circles the better integration works.