

The Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions decided on its annual General Assembly 2006 in Belfast/ Northern Ireland to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Populorum Progressio in a concrete way. All European Justice and Peace Commissions were invited to participate in an EDP in Albania in one of the poorest countries in Europe. The participants should share the life in Albanian families, deal with their poverty and feel the richness of their hearts.

On the background of the papal encyclical letter Populorum Progressio, which gives a fundamental analysis of the understanding of today`s challenges, the Conference wishes to understand better what "poverty and migration" means to the people in Europe and what strategies in regard of poverty reduction and migration would be required.

### **Programme Concept**

The European Conference of Justice and Peace Commissions'  
Albania Exposure and Dialogue Programme (12 – 20 October 2007)

#### **Poverty and Migration in Europe – a Challenge to the Development of Peoples EDP on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Populorum Progressio – „Populorum Progressio“ - a grand document of the Catholic social teaching**

Populorum Progressio has been published on March 28th 1967 by Pope Paul VI. It was a passionate plea, a prophetic word in many ways that unfolded a farsighted perspective of a comprehensive development of humans and humanity. This is true for the main message:

Development, the new name for peace, this is also true for the critical analysis, the demands and the concept of a comprehensive development.

**„Development: The New Name for Peace“** (PP 76), this is the main message: *„When we fight poverty and oppose the unfair conditions of the present..., and hence benefiting the whole human race ... For peace is not simply the absence of warfare ... it is fashioned day after day ...“*. Without development, without a global concept of justice, there will not be any peace. 40 years later this is still amazingly up-to-date, although the awareness has grown over the past years that peace, security and development are entwined, interdependent aims. On the one hand development is the precondition for lasting national and international security, on the other hand development cannot be achieved without security, while internal conflicts and organised crime undermine public order. This interlockage of development and security poses new challenges to security policy as well as to development policy.

PP unfolds a farsighted **perspective**: The **comprehensive development** of the human and humanity (part I, especially 12-42). Populorum Progressio has introduced the idea of „development“ to the ecclesiastical social teaching. It therefore did not only extend the palette of issues the ecclesiastical social teaching deals with, but has also extended the idea of development against a sight of a modernisation theory that is focused on economical growth only and has furthermore linked it indispensably to the claim for justice. PP therefore introduced a comprehensive sight on development that (without corresponding to PP explicitly) has been the initial point of the concept of human development as proposed by the development programme by the United Nations (and is essentially affected by Amartya Sen).

## **Contributions and Objectives of the Exposure and Dialogue Programme (EDP)**

The EDP participants shall be enabled to make a *genuine learning experience* through the personal encounter with people (men and women) and families affected by migration (with family members living abroad, or having migrated within Albania). For this, it is indispensable to get into a very personal contact with the people and, potentially, their problem-solving capacities, or the obstacles they face to make substantial steps out of poverty.

The programme focuses on how families affected by poverty and migration in the Albanian context actually live, how they think and what they aspire for a better future. This is an opportunity to learn more about the capacities of ordinary people who might be in the position (or probably not) to helping themselves attain a better standard of living without neglecting aspects of social development (e.g. community building, abiding to the rule of law) and other aspects of 'social and cultural ethics' with respect to the nature of the State, and the Albanian society at large.

In this context, the programme may contribute in three ways: It helps participants – by way of focussing life examples:

- Understand more deeply and reflect about the *current understanding Justice and Peace agents have about poverty and migration*, by making personal experiences with their hosts in Albania;
- Discover, also by personal experiences, what Justice and Peace (Church, Civil society) agents in Albania *already do* to assist families and groups of people affected by poverty and migration
- Discuss what strategies have to be developed to overcome bottlenecks that determine conditions of poverty and migration in various European countries.

Such would be a prerequisite for appropriately responding to the challenges of globalisation (e.g. 'migrant labour', 'brain drain' vs. 'brain gain') in the European context and the process of European integration, also in the environment of the European Justice and Peace community with a clearly defined strategy for collective action in shared responsibility.

Thus, during the exposure and dialogue programme, the participants shall meet their individual hosts (men and women) personally, and get first-hand information on their positive and negative experiences with migration and poverty (exposure phase). In a phase of reflection and dialogue with local Church agents, and other experts and selected guests (attending the plenary discussions), the participants shall deepen their individual understanding of the issues at hand in the context of their own working environment and spheres of influence at home (in their respective country of origin).

## **Summary – there are four principle objectives:**

The Exposure and Dialogue Programme:

- Helps participants understand (better) the reality of life and work of poor or marginalised host families (families and individuals affected by migration).
- Helps participants recognise the potential self-help capacities, entrepreneurial skills and 'strategies for survival' ('strategies to improve living conditions') of ordinary Albanian men and women and their families, while at the same time the political, legal and socioeconomic conditions of life and work in Albania can be learned about more comprehensively.
- Shows the importance of active part-taking ('equal participation') which opens up opportunities for socio-economic and socio-cultural development – also in the light of the obstacles that have to be overcome, and in light of the chances that ordinary Albanian people probably have at their disposal to find their own way out of poverty.
- Facilitates joined reflection and dialogue on ways to strengthen mutual understanding, and, eventually, co-operation of local and European 'agents of change' in the Justice and Peace community (probably in exchange also with political decision-makers and other development agents who agree on a common agenda of action).

## **Dialogue Workshop Concept**

The main goal of the workshop is to identify strategies in regard of poverty reduction and migration. Therefore, the papal encyclical letter *Populorum Progressio* provides a fundamental analysis for the understanding of today's challenges. Having in mind that the encyclical letter has been published 1967 and not giving too much attention to the situation in the communist societies, it is up to us to check its perspectives with concrete experiences made in a post communist society – by people being active in the field of poverty reduction, migration and development.

As Justice and Peace, being a church actor, we are especially interested in reflecting on the particular impact of religious communities and churches in the processes of transition. On the background of the spiritual and religious devastations by the communist systems and traditional tensions between the different religious communities, a reflection on our particular challenges and responsibilities is crucial.

The Dialogue Workshop will pick up the key experiences made during the EDP and bring them into a broader discussion with local actors. Therefore, the workshop provides the opportunity to bring into dialogue experiences made in post communist as well as in western societies. We will have the opportunity to compare the inside and outside views of the particular situation in Albania, and to make progress in mutual understanding of the different perceptions as well as misperceptions.

On the background of the shared goal to unify Europe and our intention, to contribute to a process by which Europe becomes more just and reconciled, the workshop will be a humble contribution on this way – by deepening the mutual understanding and sharpening our perception of the reality.

## Programme Schedule

### Poverty and Migration in Europe – a Challenge to the Development of Peoples EDP on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Populorum Progressio –

#### Friday

12/10/07

c. 1:30 pm Arrival at Mother Teresa International Airport Tirana  
Reception of the group at the airport  
– transit to Shkoder –  
Joined accommodation of European guests at Villagio della Pace

#### Part 1: Introduction

5:00 pm *Welcome, Introduction, Philosophy – why do we do this programme?*  
Facts and Figures – Poverty and migration in Shkoder Archdiocese:  
What's important to know? Who is who? What do they do?  
6:30 pm Dinner  
8:30 pm Vesper / evening prayer

#### Saturday

13/10/07

7:30 am Holy Eucharist  
8:00 am Breakfast  
9:00 am *EDP – what does it mean, how does it work?*  
Programme schedule, Exposure methodology (e.g. personal encounter, 'life stories'); organisation and logistics  
10:30 am Tea / Coffee break  
11:00 am The role of exposure facilitators – allocation to exposure-groups  
00:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm Departure to exposure regions

#### Part 2: Exposure

Before sun set Introduction to, and staying with respective host families  
(total of four over-night stays)

#### Sunday

14/10/07

Holy Eucharist in respective parish community  
Sharing Sunday with respective host families

#### Monday

15/10/07

Sharing life and work with respective host families

#### Tuesday

16/10/07

Sharing life and work with respective host families

#### Wednesday

17/10/07

Farewell and departure from respective host families –  
return to Shkoder before 2 pm

### **Part 3: Reflection**

1:00 pm Lunch and/or coffee/ tea break upon arrival from exposure regions

2:00

– 6:00 pm

Individual and Group Reflection on exposure experiences:

*What are the Key Stories and Key Topics?*

7:00 pm Vesper (evening prayer)

7:30 pm Joined dinner or individual recreational activities (Shkoder Downtown)

### **Thursday**

**18/10/07**

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am *Populorum Progressio a key to understand Poverty and Migration today?*

Populorum Progressio in the light of the exposure experiences

(Statements and discussions)

10:30 Coffee / tea break

11:00 am Continue exchange in plenary and / or working groups

### **Part 4: Dialogue Workshop**

1:00 pm Lunch accompanied by guests

3:00 pm Presentations and discussions in plenary

Subject-related working groups

4:30 pm Coffee / tea break

5:00 pm Cont.: Subject-related working groups

6:30 pm Dinner

8:30 pm Vesper (evening prayer)

### **Friday**

**19/10/07**

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Working groups or Plenary: Compile thematic findings and present from the perspective of the different partners and representatives involved?

10:30 Coffee / tea break

11:00 am Continue exchange in plenary and / or working groups

1:00 pm Lunch break (*farewell to invited guests and external dialogue partners*)

### **Part 5: Resumée**

3:00 pm

*What is the relevance of Populorum Progressio and the dialogue to us?*

*What could it mean for our future work?*

(among internal group of European participants and Archdiocesan representatives, JP, facilitators and organisers)

brief EDP process evaluation

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist (Shkoder Cathedral)

7:30 pm Joined Dinner and Farewell Party

### **Saturday**

**20/10/07**

### **Departure to home countries**

7:30 am Breakfast, thereafter: farewell prayer and blessing

Transit to Tirana

Check-in at Mother Therese International Airport (Tirana)