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# Members

For contacting countries see their website

## A - Austria

Katholischer Laienrat Österreichs (KLRÖ)

## B - Belgium flemish

Interdiocesaan Pastoraal Beraad (IPB)

## B - Belgium french

Conseil Interdiocésain des Laïcs (CIL)

## BY - Belarus

"Pro Christo" Publishing house of the Archdiocese of Minsk and Mogiljow

## CH - Switzerland

Schweizer Komitee Katholischer Laien SKKL

## D - Germany

Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken (ZdK)

## DK - Denmark

Pastoralrådet Danmark

## E - Spain

Foro de Laicos

## GB - England/Wales

National Council of Lay Associations

## I - Italy

Consulta Nazionale delle Aggregazioni Laicali (CNAL)

## IRL - Ireland

Subgroup on Lay People in Commission for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development

## P - Portugal

Secretariado Nacional do Apostolado dos Leigos e da Família (SNALF)

## PL - Poland

Rada ds. Apostolstwa Świeckich

## Polish Communities in Western Europe

Polish Pastoral Council for Western Europe

## RO - Romania

Asociația Generală a Romanilor Uniti Greco-Catolici (AGRU)

## S - Sweden

Pastoralrådet i Stockholms Katolska Stift

## SK - Slovakia

Rada pre laické apostolské hnutia / Fórum kresťanských inštitúcií

## Associated Member

## F - France

Conférence catholique des baptisé-e-s francophones



# European Forum of National Laity Committees (ELF)

[www.europ-forum.org](http://www.europ-forum.org)

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# European Forum of National Lay Committees (ELF)

The European Forum of National Lay Committees (ELF) is a catholic non-for-profit association gathering national lay committees and councils in Europe recognised by their Bishops' conference. The Forum was founded in 1965 encouraged by statements of the Second Vatican Council based on the concept of the laity in the Church.

ELF is a platform dedicated to promote collaboration and exchange between its members. ELF contributes to raising awareness about the mission of the Church in the world and its pastoral work. ELF provides experiences of synodality in the life of church.

The European Forum of National Lay Committees aims to support and help develop the Christian vocation in Europe and is aware of being part of the Universal Church.

The ELF does not defend any one model of lay Christian vocation but recognises the diversity of lay pastoral work incarnating the European motto "unity in diversity".

## To achieve its aim, the ELF

- Organises study meetings biennially in one of the member countries
- Explores pastoral and socio-political topics together with invited experts

- Pursues reciprocal exchange of experiences and information on matters of European interest between the members of the Forum
- Promotes and develop regular contacts between national Catholic Lay Committees and councils in Europe
- Promotes interaction and dialogue with the European structures of Bishops' conferences (CCEE and COMECE)
- Promotes interaction and dialogue between Catholic Church organisations at European level and the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life
- Stimulates exchanges with churches and organisations of other Christian traditions and ecumenical movements

## The ELF's principles include:

- Openness and respect based on Christian values
- A willingness to learn from all members
- the provision of opportunities for expressing various points of view
- the provision of channels for participation, exchange, mutual support and contact

## History

The first European Congress of the lay apostolate took place in 1960 in Copenhagen. The Steering Committee of the Congress was asked to make suggestions of contacts of lay representatives in the European countries with the aim of strengthening the European consciousness about the role of lay people in the Church.

Five years later, in 1965 during the preparation of the 3rd World Lay Congress in St. Pölten, Austria, the idea of a "European Forum of National Lay Committees" was born. The earlier idea of organising study assemblies in different member states to allow exchanges on relevant topics for lay people was developed.

A first Study Assembly took place in 1970 in Innsbruck, Austria, followed by Study Assemblies every two years. A full list of the Study Assemblies can be found on the ELF website.

In 2011 the ELF took a further step in the creation and establishment of a non-profit association, ELF e.V., registered as the civil institution of the Forum.