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A – Austria

Katholisches Laienrat Österreichs (KLRO)

Katholische Aktion Österreich (KA)

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

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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

Conferência Nacional de Apostolado dos Leigos (CNAL)

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

PL - Poland

Krajowa Rada Katolików Świeckich (KRKS)

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 a apostolské hnutia

Fórum kresťanských inštitúcií



European Forum of National Laity Committees (ELF)

www.europ-forum.org

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' conferences. 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 and other lay organisations within the church. ELF contributes to raise awareness about the mission of the Church in the world and its pastoral work, by providing experiences of synodality in the life of the Church.

To make present the value of transcendancy within our European culture.

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 promote any model of lay Christian vocation but recognises the diversity of lay pastoral work, hence the European motto

“unity in diversity”.

To achieve its aim, the ELF

- organises study meetings every two years in one of the member countries
- Explores pastoral and socio-political topics together with invited experts
- Pursues exchange of experiences and information on matters of European interest between the members of the Forum
- Promotes and develops contacts between national Catholic Lay Committees, councils and organisations 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.
- Promotes communication with 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 give opportunities for exchanges on relevant topics 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, ELFe.V., registered as the civil institution of the Forum.