



F·E·S·T

Europäische Kirchenpartnerschaften für den Klimaschutz

European Partnerships of Churches –

Alliances for Climate Protection

Klimaschutz durch Verbreitung von „twinning-Projekten“ im Bereich Energie- und Umweltmanagement in Europa durch kirchliche Netzwerke

Climate protection by disseminating „Twinning Projects“ to establish energy and environmental management by church networks

Hans Diefenbacher, Heidelberg (compilation)

together with:

Kilian Dörr (ROM), Marek Drapal (CZ), Keld Hansen (DK), Roman Juriga (CZ), Tamás Kodácsy (H), Pawel Košínski (PL), Eugenyi Lobanov (BEL), Dan Melander (S), Anca Popa (ROM), Hans-Jürgen Schorre (N), Adrian Shaw (GB), Jiří Sílný (CZ), Volker Teichert (D)

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Projektkennblatt S. 1

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1. Introduction and first steps

After the Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) that took place in Praha in June 2010, all of the six "twinning partnerships" had been established that work within the framework of the partnership project described in this report. In the months before the ECEN conference in 2010, first contacts have been made, and agreements between the partners have been prepared. The actual work in two of the "Twinning Projects" – the one between Sweden and Poland and the one between Germany and the Czech Republic – already started before the ECEN Conference in Praha took place.

These partnerships aimed at transferring successful ideas to promote climate protection and environmental management within the church context from one church in one country to another church in another country, thereby adapting the projects to the new context and helping the "learning partner" by sharing information and experiences that could lead to a successful transfer of ideas. These partnership projects comprise:

- (1) Etik och Energi/Evangelical Church in Sweden (responsible: Dan Melander) and Societas Jesu, Province of South Poland (responsible: Dr. Pawel Košínski); intention: Transfer of the programme of Etik och Energi to Poland.
- (2) FEST Heidelberg (responsible: Dr. Volker Teichert) / Evangelical Church AB Sibiu, Romania (responsible: Pfr. Kilian Dörr) together with the romanian-orthodox Church in Sibiu and the roman-catholic church in Sibiu; intention: to spread the EMAS scheme to other churches in Sibiu.
- (3) FEST Heidelberg (responsible: Prof. Dr. Hans Diefenbacher) and Ecumenical Academy in Praha (responsible: Dr. Jiří Silný) / Orthodox Academy in Vilémov (responsible: Roman Juriga); intention: promote the establishment of a church environmental network in the czech republic.
- (4) Lutheran Church of Denmark (responsible: Keld Hansen) und Czech Christian Environmental Network (responsible: Marek Drápal); Intention: Transfer of the danish "green church" programme.

- (5) Norwegian Church (responsible: Hans-Jürgen Schorre) und Orthodox Church of Belarus (responsible: Eugenyi Lobanov); Intention: Transfer of the norwegian concept of Green Church.
- (6) Eco-Congregation Scotland (responsible: in the beginning: Margaret Warnock, followed by Adrian Shaw) und Refomed Church of Hungary (responsible: Dr. Tamás Kodacsy); intention: Transfer of the scottish Eco-Congregation Programme.

The cooperation in the Twinning Project had a very first result that must be considered as a “side effect”; it was not included in the funding of the DBU-project: The Swedish Handbook for energy transition of the congregations was translated, adopted to the german situation and published in Germany in collaboration with the Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (FEST) and the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU).¹ Starting from the german versions, most parts of the book have been translated into the polish language. In addition to that, the german version of the book has been used during the project in the Czech Republic and in Hungary.

The twinning partners worked together independently, the exchange between the the different twinning partners was co-ordinated by FEST Heidelberg (responsible: Prof. Dr. Hans Diefenbacher). From time to time, there had been some assistance necessary in four of the Twinning Projects to keep the project going. Due to heavy work overload of some of the project partners, it had not been possible to find a date for a common mid-term evaluation in 2011 that originally had been envisaged; this had to be replaced by telephone conferences, some smaller meetings within the different Twinning Projects and E-Mail-contact.

The project should have been terminated with the 2012 ECEN conference that took place in Elspeet-Mennorode/NL in September 2012. However, some of the twinning partnerships had not been able to round up the work steps that they had originally planned; in two Twinning Projects, even a modification of the first plan, that had been shown as indispensable, could not be conducted until September 2012. Therefore, with permission of DBU, the work

¹ Melander, Dan/Bismark, Antoinette/Diefenbacher, Hans (2010): Klimaschutz in Kirchen – vom christlichen Auftrag zur Praxis. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag, 206 S.; schwedische Ausgabe: Melander, Dan/Broström, Tor (2008): Handbok i hållbar energieanvändning för kyrkan. Stockholm: Verbum.

within the project came to an official end in february 2013 – where some of the Twinning Projects had been terminated way before.

However, work in the Twinning Projects did not end in spring 2013, quite in the contrary: Some of the activities were so successful that they had been – and will be further – continued by own financial means of the partners. In three cases (PL, H and CZ) new institutions have been founded as a result of the project that will carry on the work on its own. In other cases, church institutions have developed new project ideas that originated from the twinning experience (ROM, CZ, BEL, H). And in one case (H) the Twinning Project itself now adopted a third partner that will go through the activities in the next months and years – the twin has become, so to speak, a triplet. The different chapters of this report will inform about past, current and possible future activities of the different twins or, respectively, the participating church institutions.

Right from its beginning, the structure of the project „european partnerships of churches – alliances for climate projection” was designed as part of the activities of the European Christian Environmental Network. As ECEN describes its purpose: “The aim of the ECEN is to share information and experiences in environmental work among widely varied Christian traditions. ECEN, as the main working instrument of the Conference of European Churches for addressing the need for environmental engagement and responding to climate change, works closely with the World Council of Churches and with the European Catholic Bishops' Conference.”² There are about 120 member churches of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) that is hosting ECEN since the year 1998. The project “european partnerships of churches – alliances for climate projection” was presented – as already mentioned – in the ECEN assemblies in Praha 2010 and ins Elspeet-Mennorode 2012;³ the assemblies had been used to host full day working sessions of the participants of the Twinning Projects. There will be another presentation in the forthcoming ECEN assembly, September 2014 in Finland, with a special emphasis on the discussion of further ideas and a possible follow up project to the one that is reported here; this will be presented in the outlook of the present report.

² European Christian Environmental Network (ed.) (2013): About ECEN. URL: www.ecen.org/content/about-ecen

³ The 2010 assembly in Praha had its thematic focus on „Our Daily Bread – Living in a Time of Climate Change“, the 2012 assembly in Elspeet-Mennorode on „Eco-justice, Growth and Hope“; see ECEN (ed.) (2013): The assemblies; URL: www.ecen.org/assemblies/assemblies

2. Twinning Project Sweden - Poland

2.1. The Twinning Project in Sweden

2.1.1. Background in Sweden

The Society for Ethics & Energy (E&E) – Etik och Energi – in Sweden gather parishes, dioceses and communities throughout the country in a program of a theological and ethical dialogue related to practical climate and energy analysis for the shift to sustainable lifestyles and energy use in parishes and local communities. The program also includes cultural preservation issues for churches and historical buildings.

The project administrator and coordinator for the Swedish part of the project was Etik och Energi; there had been a co-funding in Sweden by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Acting partners of the project in Sweden had been – besides E&E – five dioceses and the Swedish Christian Council of Churches.

The overall aims of the Twinning Project between Swedish and Polish partners have been:

- a quantitative expansion of successful projects to achieve an increasing contribution to climate protection;
- the establishment of a sustainable partnership within existing church networks to promote long term cooperation opportunities;
- to promote an „ecumenical” energy and environmental management by a critical evaluation of conditions and possibilities of knowledge transfers, thereby strengthening ecumenical cooperation among churches;
- to evaluate possibilities to enlarge and continue cooperations of churches within Europe, maybe at the EU level.

2.1.2. The Twinning Project in the dioceses Karlstad and Härnösand

In Sweden, the Twinning Project has given inspiration to the Karlstad diocese as the first diocese in the country that implemented a multi-year climate program of training and working

sessions with all of the boards of the congregations, employees and voluntary active in the parishes. The Etik och Energi program has been including energy-climate analysis for all the churches and buildings in the diocese and concrete proposals for action plans. The work with the Action Plans has also been part of a dialogue on ethics and involving questions for the transition to the local community etc.

This programme was adopted by another diocese – the diocese of Härnösand in northern Sweden began the programme, too. By now, 60 % of the dioceses of the parishes are showing considerable activities. The program has then spread throughout the country, and more dioceses are about to enter as members and start the work in the program (see chapter 2.2.).

The results in 2010 can be summarized as follows: About 800 buildings can reduce their energy consumption by at least 30 %, its energy bill by at least 40 % and its carbon emissions by at least 50 %. This could be established, while in the year the conservation plans for the cultural buildings began to be realized.

2.2. The Twinning Project in Sweden as a national programme

The programme has now spread throughout the country, and more dioceses are about to enter as members and implement the work. About 10.000 people have been touched by the program in recent years, and in 2009 and 2010, approximately 3.500 people were trained and supervised in the programme. The Twinning Project created support and inspiration in this process. The diocese of Linköping just entered the programme inviting all their congregations in the years to come.

The process led the local churches in south and central Sweden to become a big player of this region in building local biofuel-fired district heating plants in collaboration with local communities. These experiences have been of great interest for the Polish twinning partners that developed out of this contact their plan for a biofuel heating in Stara Wies. On the national level, the dialogue in the Twinning Project had the result that the National Christian

Council inspired the Swedish Council of Churches to recommend the Etik och Energi programme as a climate programme for all Swedish churches. The Swedish Christian Council of Churches has been directly involved in the Twinning Project dialogue by Reverend Per Larsson.

During the years, the programme has been adopted for companies, for apartment buildings as well as for local rural organizations that have joined the program. In cooperation with the Swedish rural university,⁴ Etik och Energi has developed a support tool for designing energy balances for local communities, addressing the transition to a sustainable lifestyle and development, too. This experience also had been important in the dialogue between representatives from the churches in Poland and Sweden.

2.3. The Twinning Project in Poland

2.3.1 The Background in Poland

The work to develop the programme of Etik och Energi had got a major national attention. The Polish Embassy and the Polish people in Sweden became interested. In the beginning of the project, there have been several meetings with Stanislaw Wegrzynowicz, Commercial Counselor at the Polish Embassy in Sweden. Through the Twinning Project, we could follow up this interest in a dialogue trip from Etik och Energi led by Dan Melander and Magnus Andersson. The purpose for this first trip was to meet representatives of the Catholic Church and experts in energy and climate areas in Kraków and Warszawa and to explore opportunities for cooperation. Meetings were held – among others – with the director of Franciszkański Ruch Ekologiczny⁵, Zbigniew Swiercek, the treasurer of the Franciscan monasteries in southern Poland, Bronislaw Staworowski, and Dorota Chilik and Jan Gruszka, responsible for real estate and economic matters in the Jesuit province in southern Poland.

⁴ Lantbruksuniversitet in Uppsala, <http://www.slu.se/>

⁵ The Franciscan Ecological Movement, <http://www.ecen.org/content/ruch-ekologiczny-swi%3Ftego-franciszka-z-asyzu>

2.3.2. Dialogue with polish institutions and study trip to Sweden

This first trip started discussions with a number of Polish organizations. After the trip, it was decided that Etik och Energi should initially focus on a collaboration with the Jesuits of the Province in southern Poland. Etik och Energi organized a study visit to Sweden from 24 to 27 June 2009 – still before the beginning of the Twinning Project – for two representatives of the Jesuits of the Province in southern Poland: Dorota Chilik, financial advisor specializing in the renovation of church buildings, and Pawel Kosinski, Jesuit and financial officer for the southern province of Jesuits in Poland.

The purpose of the study tour was to make contacts and show how the Swedish dioceses and parishes were working on climate and energy issues. In the trip a dialogue with the bishop of Karlstad was initiated. The study visit included the following:

- Visits to the wind farm of the churches in Swedens largest lake ditrict Vänern; the windmills are owned by dioceses and congregations together via the organization “Church Wind” (Kyrkwinden),
- meetings with the diocesan leadership in Karlstad diocese (Bishop, structural engineer, etc.),
- visits to Nor Segerstads Evangelical Churches in the diocese of Karlstad,
- Seminar in St Eugenia Catholic church. From the Swedish side took part including representatives of the Swedish Christian Council of Churches and the National Energy Agency.

E&E and the Jesuit province in southern Poland decided after the study tour to go ahead with the cooperation. Both parties agreed to sign an agreement on this.

Therefore, a conference was held thereafter in the Stara Wies monastery in southern Poland with the signing of such an agreement on cooperation. Participating in the Swedish-Polish energy conference in Jesuit monastry in Stara Wies were from Swedish side: Dan Melander, director for Etik och Energi, project leader Jurek Krzyzowski, Lena Andersson, polish-speaking representative from Högsbo church in Gothenburg, and Thore Andersson, building engineer from Härnösands diocese.

From the Polish side about 30 people participated: representatives of the Jesuits southern province of Poland, representatives of Catholic parishes in the southeast, representatives of the regional environmental fund, the governor of the Podkarpackie Province and the representative of the Swedish Embassy in Warsaw.

Dan Melander, Director for E&E and Wojciech Ziolk, Provincial of the Jesuits of the southern province of Poland signed the joint agreement to develop a partnership to develop jointly educational programmes, training courses and seminars. It was planned to organize courses and seminars around the following themes:

- Energy analysis, energy inventory, and design of action plans;
- energy saving measures in the church facilities and church buildings - cost saving potentials and cultural preservation;
- promoting renewable energy (solar, wind, bio energy, heating, etc.);
- linking the church and the local community - working together for sustainable energy, lifestyle and development.

In addition to that, the following project lines were agreed upon:

- translation of books and training material into Polish;
- basic education in the Etik och Energi educational program for directors and local coordinators;
- in the first phase, target groups for training should be established in the monasteries and churches of the Jesuits southern province of Poland. In a later stage, training will be arranged for other monasteries and churches;
- pilot projects in the monastery Stara Wies in southern Poland.

As a next step, a planning meeting was held in Kraków in January 2010; among the participants was the provincial of the Jesuit province of southern poland, Wojciech Ziólek. The aim of the meeting was clarified as a starting point for carrying out the action plan of the common work, based on the Stara Wies agreement: the national pilot project in Stara Wies, education and training, dialogue on theology and ethics.

One of the main topics of this meeting was the question of a common data base connected to the programme together with DEON, the jesuit web centre in Poland.⁶ A meeting with the manager of DEON was the first step to an agreement to cooperate in developing and E&E programme data base on energy and climate to be use by polish and swedish congregations and dioceses.

2.3.3. Pilot Project for the Jesuit Monastery in Stara Wies

The pilot project at the Jesuit monastery in Stara Wies in southeastern Poland began in early 2010. The project was based on the Etik och Energi guide called the The Pilot⁷

All necessary documentation from the Etik och Energi Pilot was translated into Polish in the beginning of 2010 (the „Pilot” and ten templates as an aid to perform various tasks. A working group was formed at the convent in April 2010; it consists of four people, including one woman. The working group and the project manager have been trained in April 2010. Energy audits of buildings were carried out by the working group at the monastery in Stara Wies in may 2010, and the so called „Response Protocol” was made by Jurek Krzyzowski in may and june 2010. A training workshop in sustainable energy use and lifestyle was arranged for the staff of the monastery in Stara Wies in july 2010; the course was led by Jurek Krzyzowski, Etik och Energi. Fifteen people participated, about half of them women. An energy audit was conducted by the Podkarpacka Energy Agency in August 2010. According to polish law, an energy audit has to be performed by an authorized Polish energy consultant – a condition of access to assistance and concessional loans from the polish regional environmental funds. A report on the pilot project was compiled in October 2010.

The following travels to Poland had been important in connection with the pilot project:

- A planning meeting was held in Kraków in January 2010. From the side of Etik och Energi participating were Dan Melander and project leader Jurek Krzyzowski . From the

⁶ Portal społecznościowo-informacyjny <http://www.deon.pl/>

⁷ In Polish: Nawigator.

Polish side, three representatives of the Jesuits of the Province in southern Poland have been present.

- April 2010: Magnus Andersson and Jurek Krzyzowski travelled to Kraków and Stara Wies to start up the pilot project.
- May 2010: Jurek Krzyzowski travelled to Stara Wies to continue the work on the pilot project for analysis and action plans.
- July 2010: Jurek Krzyzowski travelled to Stara Wies to continue the work on the pilot project and to give the training workshop.

During these visits, dialogue meetings were also arranged with representatives for the Franciscans and for Caritas in southern Poland.

2.3.4. The preliminary study database

A preliminary study on the creation of a database for Polish parishes concerning energy use was conducted by Magnus Andersson, in collaboration with Artur Demkowicz, a Jesuit working at DEON in Kraków. The energy database was presented in action in the end of the year 2011. This database could develop into a tool useful to other European church partners.

2.3.5. The formation of a Polish “Eтик och Energi”

The dialogue between different organizations in Poland and Sweden in the course of the year 2010 had the consequence that a Polish equivalent organisation of Eтик och Energi – Etyka i Energia – was formed. Several meetings were held in Poland on this behalf. Rules of the Association have been adopted by a working group composed of 15 representatives of the Jesuits, the Franciscans and of Caritas. The organization registered in autumn 2010 at the Polish court. It gradually took over more projects that have been initiated by Eтик och Energi Sweden.

In June 2011, representatives from E&E Poland made a visit to Sweden, among them Bogdan Janik and Jan Gruszka, chairman and vice-chairman of E&E Poland. The Polish group was guided to the congregations of Säfte and Steneby that have turned to bioenergy use during their participation in the Swedish E&E programme. There was also a meeting of the Polish and Swedish experts of the database development. In a meeting with bishop Esbjörn Hagberg the Polish delegation informed about the start of the programme at the Polish Jesuit university for an ecumenical dialogue on eco-theology between theologians from different countries. During this dialogue the participants expressed that the question of transition is not only important because of environmental and economic reasons, but it is also an ecumenical challenge.

On May 13, 2012, a common conference was held in Myczkowce in Podkarpackie where the agreement on establishing a long-term cooperation between E&E Sweden and E&E Poland was confirmed. Greeting letters from the Swedish Christian Council of Churches and the bishop of the Karlstad diocese were submitted. Per Larsson gave a lecture on eco-theology as a part of the Swedish-Polish dialogue, concerning the churches' role for national and local transition towards a sustainable society.

2.3.6. Cooperation with the Seminary in Warszawa

In the autumn of 2010, Etic och Energi established a contact with the Rector of the Warsaw Catholic seminary, Piotr Klimek. The seminary wanted to establish a cooperation with Etic och Energi and with the Swedish Church, in order to integrate environmental and energy issues in the pastoral training. On 22-24 of November 2010, Piotr Klimek came to Uppsala in Sweden with a colleague from the Catholic radio in Warszawa, Grzegorz Walkiewicz, to discuss opportunities for cooperation with Etic och Energi, the Catholic seminary in Uppsala, the Swedish Church's national office and the Pastoral Institute at the Swedish Church.

Finally, the Jesuit province in southern Poland has applied for an EU grant to produce a Polish version of the handbook for sustainable energy in the church.

2.4 Conclusion

This Twinning Project between Sweden and Poland has been a success, way beyond what has been expected at the start. The cooperation between Etik & Energi and the Jesuits of the Province in southern Poland is well established since the partners signed a project agreement at a conference in Stara Wies monastery on September 10, 2009. A whole lot of actions has taken place since then: common meetings, conferences, study trips, education programs and sustainable energy programs.

The Polish embassy in Sweden and the Swedish embassy in Poland have shown a great interest and participated actively in meetings; they issued press-releases to national media.

A central national pilot project has been established in the Stara Wies monastery and church by a total implementation and testing of the E&E management program in a Polish context. An action plan was implemented with a lot of concrete measures. A dialogue during 2010 led to the formation of a Polish Ethics & Energy network organisation under the name of Etyka i Energia. The initiative was taken by central representatives for the Jesuits, Franciscans and Caritas of southern Poland. In May 2012 a common conference was held where an agreement was confirmed for long term cooperation between the Swedish and the Polish E&E.

The project has inspired congregations and dioceses in Sweden to establish climate programs for sustainable energy use and lifestyle integrated with a theological and ethical dialogue. The quantities of successful projects are now so many that the churches climate work now is well known all over the country and debated in Swedish media and officially recognized by ministers in the Swedish government. The Swedish Christian Council of Churches have established their national climate cooperation out of this process.

A dialogue was established between Ethics & Energy and the Warsaw Catholic seminary (Piotr Klimek) in order to integrate environmental and energy issues related to theological dialogue and lifestyle in the pastoral training in Sweden and Poland. A working program has been initiated with the Jesuit national web-centre Deon in Krakow with the goal to create a

database related to the Ethics & Energy management program for Polish and Swedish parishes. The hope is to see whether it is possible to establish this as a common European database for such projects.

The project faced several difficulties; one was that funding was limited compared to what could have been done. In other words, the project could have been easily enlarged, but this was not possible during the years the project was running. Another difficulty was the great difference between Swedish Protestant and the Polish Roman-Catholic church structures and church traditions; but these were no determining obstacle for the project. The idea to build new structures that could carry on the cooperation – the Polish E&E – has proven to be very successful.

3. Twinning Project Germany – Romania

3.1. Start of the project and project partners

The Twinning Project between the Protestant institute for interdisciplinary research (FEST) in Germany and the congregation of the evangelical church in Sibiu (Hermannstadt) in Romania has begun in November 2010, after some weeks of preparation and first agreements to continue the cooperation that had been successful in the years before, when EMAS was introduced in the evangelical congregation of Sibiu with the assistance of FEST. In a first step, it was the task to find other project partners in Romania that were willing to participate and to introduce an environmental management system. The evangelical church in Sibiu is part of an ecumenical network; by using the contacts within the network, two partners could be found:

- the evangelical residential school „Ernst Weisenfeld“ and
- the orthodox congregation „Buna Vestire“.

A third focus was the continuation of the EMAS-process of the evangelical church that had to be adapted because of the changes in the european EMAS system, going from EMAS II to EMAS III.

In the course of the Twinning Project, more elements were added to the working programme of the Twinning Project, partly because it was not successful to convince the orthodox congregation to complete the EMAS process. In addition to that, due to a maternal leave of the woman who was the central contact person for the Twinning Project in Romania, there have been delays and changes in the procedure of the other parts of the Twinning Project, too.

3.2 Evangelical residential school „Ernst Weisenfeld“

The residential school is hosting 70 non local students coming from the surrounding villages that go to school in Sibiu. The director and the administration of the residential school is

supporting the environmental work together with the students and the educators. The residential school was chosen also because there was hope to spread the issue of environmental activities by the enthusiasm of the students to the villages where they come from. Through the engagement of young people the message can be spread effectively – an approach that is far from being taken for granted in the romanian context.

FEST prepared the structure and check-lists for an environmental audit that has been conducted diligently and accurately by the „eco team“; the eco-team consists of motivated students, educators, and the director. To be visible for the others, they can wear a specially designed T-shirt. A special focus was on the mobility of the people associated with the residential school. The environmental audit covered – among other items – a description of the environmental situation of the residential school, a discussion of problems and difficulties to change the situation, and an inventory taking of the consumption of electricity, gas and water. FEST did evaluate the information coming from the environmental audit and made suggestions for an environmental programme. Such a programme was established, but not as a part of an official EMAS validation procedure.

Another very valuable part of the cooperation was the preparation of educational material that has been compiled and made available by FEST. This material has been evaluated according to its usability within the romanian context; it was then spread to the students by the members of the eco-team. This material is suited to be used within the class rooms; therefore it was also made available to the two german speaking secondary schools (Gymnasium) and to the german speaking departments of a few primary schools (Grundschulen). There is hope that by this way some more schools can be interested in working with the procedures of EMAS.

3.3 Orthodox congregation „Buna Vestire“

The orthodox congregation „Buna Vestire“ owns one of the oldest and nicest churches in Sibiu; the parochial house was under reconstruction during the time of the Twinning Project. The pastor of the orthodox congregation, Ilie Arsenie, is very open-minded towards envi-

ronmental questions, but there are no other people working as employees for the orthodox congregation. Therefore it was agreed to start an EMAS process in this congregation, too, but only step by step. Again, FEST did prepare environmental checklists, that have been completed in the congregation and analyzed in FEST. Energy consumption was evaluated and documented as the basis to design energetic rehabilitation measures. Other ideas developed by the congregation had been the installation of solar modules on the parochial house and the installation of equipment to use rainwater.

By the intermediation of the Twinning Project, a first measure had been realised: the procurement of energy saving lamps. This proved to be a great financial assistance for the congregation by reducing energy costs. It also turned out, that this measure in the eyes of the orthodox majority in Sibiu this was a striking example of an environmental change, because energy saving lamps are not familiar at all. The analysis of the environmental check lists by FEST gave some recommendations to design an environmental plan, but until now these were not realised, due to work overload of the responsible persons.

3.4 Evangelical congregation

As part of the Twinning Project, FEST assisted the evangelical congregation of Sibiu to continue the EMAS process after the validation. The environmental declaration has been updated – in two languages: romanian and german –, an application to expand the validation period for EMAS from three to four years was placed and, finally, approved. There had been some disagreement between the romanian ministry for environment and the people responsible for the EMAS validation concerning the conversion from EMAS II to EMAS III. Finally, it was agreed upon that – with the help of FEST – the environmental declaration was updated in 2011.

In the course of the EMAS process and with consultation of FEST, an „environmental reading primer“ („Umweltfibel“) had been worked out in german language and translated into ro-

manian; it had been published before the start of the Twinning Project.⁸ But during the time of the Twinning Project, there was an initiative by the pastor of the evangelical congregation, Kilian Dörr, to offer the environmental reading primer to the biggest weekly newspaper in Sibiu, „Sibiu 100 %“.⁹ During several months, the romanian version of the environmental reading primer was printed chapter by chapter under the headline „Environmental ABC“ – by this way, in an edition of 67.000 copies many simple solutions for environmental problems – saving of water, energy efficiency, healthy nutrition and others – were offered in a popularized version to every household in Sibiu.

3.5 The environmental programme „the green house“

„CASA VERDE“ – the green house“ – is a currently active environmental programme funded by romanian state authorities. In the beginning of the time of the Twinning Project, the group of possible recipients of funding was enlarged from private households to institutions. Under certain conditions, up to 90 % of the costs of introduction of renewable energy will be subsidized, with a maximum of about 110.000 Euro. In the course of the Twinning Project, the residential school, the orthodox congregation and the administration of the evangelical church have been advised and convinced to participate in this programme. These institutions were supported to write the applications. An external consultant had to work out a complete feasibility study for solar installations and for heat pumps for all of the four installations that has been selected: Parochial houses of the evangelical church, centre for environmental education und youth ministry Hammersdorf, residential school and orthodox congregation.

3.6 Museum Brukenthal and Kirchenburg Hammersdorf

Two other big projects of the evangelical congregation in Sibiu – the Brukenthal museum and the Kirchenburg („church castle“) Hammersdorf, did continue during the time of the

⁸ See http://hermannstadt.evang.ro/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf_dateien/Umweltfibel-kl.pdf

⁹ See <http://www.sibiu100.ro/>

Twinning Project mostly without the assistance of the Twinning Project; there had been – and still is – considerable financial assistance from other partners. It would mean to adorn the Twinning Project with borrowed plumes if one would make it responsible for the enormous success of these two projects.

However, in a few steps of these two projects the Twinning Project could help. One of those was the assistance and guidance of the twinning project to formulate an application to assist the Brukenthal museum to introduce an EMAS process; the applications were addressed to the Romanian Ministry of Environment and to the DBU. These applications had been successful; the evangelical congregation is continuously reporting on the project.¹⁰

In Hammersdorf, material from the Twinning Project was fed into the development of the concept to establish a centre for environmental information. The project in Hammersdorf is developing fast and had been very successful in the last years. Information on the project can be obtained regularly from the evangelical congregation.¹¹

3.7 Conclusion and outlook

The Twinning Project between FEST and the evangelical congregation in Sibiu can be considered as partially successful. The evangelical congregation can be regarded as one of the forerunners of the transition towards an ecologically sustainable future. It is step by step introducing eco-management and – above all – ecological education programmes into its work, in the meanwhile keeping a very high ecological standard. The Twinning Project could assist this process in an important phase of the work, by helping to introduce and to spread ecological know-how, especially concerning EMAS procedures. This work is now well established and will continue without the Twinning Project on a very high level.

On the other side, during the project it was not succeeded to establish the EMAS procedures within an ecumenical dialogue with the orthodox churches. The pilot project with the one

¹⁰ see <http://hermannstadt.evangel.ro/brukenthalsammlungen/alte-sammler-weiter/#c550>

¹¹ See <http://hermannstadt.evangel.ro/projekt-hammersdorf/>

participating orthodox congregation only reached a first step, and only one measure could be realised in practise – more or less a symbolical action. It turned out that the work capacity of the orthodox partners simply did not allow for the project to continue. There should be another attempt, but this had to be endowed with much more financial and working capacity to get the project going.

Another aspect of the Twinning Project was the assistance to help to use networking procedures. In the meantime, the evangelical congregation in Sibiu is an important part of the environmental network in the civil society, the congregation was a founding member of the network that is currently meeting once a week. From there, the message of the environmental project of the congregation will spread way further than only into churches, congregations and church institutions.

4. Twinning Project Germany – Czech Republic

4.1. Parts of the Twinning Project and start of the project

This Twinning Project comprised a cooperation between the Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (FEST) and two ecumenical partners in the Czech Republic both active in the field of education and transfer of knowledge: the Ecumenical Academy in Praha and the Orthodox Academy in Vilémov. The twinning project contained the transfer of material that can assist the newly founded Czech Christian environmental network, and it can contribute promoting the environmental activities of the Czech churches and its ecumenical cooperation in this field. In this respect, it assists the Twinning Project no. 5, but its different parts also could „stand alone“ and help to continue the environmental work of the churches in the context of the civil society.

Within the Twinning Project, three different elements have been planned and, finally, realized:

- the publication of a brochure on „sustainable consumption“ and the transfer of elements of the German project „Zukunft Einkaufen“,¹² an ecumenical project of German church institutions on ecological procurement funded with the assistance of DBU and other institutions;
- the organisation of a workshop for high-ranking church officials to promote the ecumenical cooperation of churches in respect to environmental activities, and
- the development and organisation of a travelling exhibition of „best practise“-environmental projects of churches.

The project started in June 2010 and ended in February 2013.

¹² see <http://www.zukunft-einkaufen.de/>

4.2. Sustainable consumption

The texts for the brochure „Udržitelná spotřeba a jak ji prosazovat“¹³ – word by word translated: Sustainable consumption, and how it can be promoted – have been written in a common effort of authors from Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland, thereby sharing their different experiences and know-how on the subject. The brochure was then layouted in Praha. The booklet contains a comprehensive collection and description of ecological and fair trade labels in Europe and especially in the czech republic. Another small project grant for this part of the Twinning Project was received from the European Union. The brochure was ready in June 2011 and found a good reception in czech fair trade organizations; some of them are organized and managed with church oriented organisations. There have been some workshops on the results of the „Zukunft Einkaufen“-project that had some effect on the development of the choice of product in the czech fair trade organizations.

4.3 Environmental seminar 2011 „Clean Energy for Churches“

The seminar for high ranking church officials was organised in the Centre of Environmental Education in Slunakov – a politically and ecumenically „neutral“ organization and very environmentally friendly managed¹⁴ – close to Olomouc by the Orthodox Academy Vilémov and the Ecumenical Academy Prague between october, 24 and 26 in the year 2011 with 18 church representatives from various czech and slovak churches; FEST Heidelberg helped to prepare some contributions to the meeting, and a representative from the ecumenical council of churches has been present.

The programme of the workshop included:

- introduction of participants and representatives from various Churches in the Czech Republic and Slovakia;
- introduction of the Slunakov Centre, (concept, technologies);

¹³ A copy of the brochure will accompany this report as annex 1.

¹⁴ see <http://www.archdaily.com/29349/slunakov-center-for-ecological-activities-projekt-il-architekti/>

- introduction of the issue of energy in connection to climate changes; lectures on sustainable energy production, sustainable consumption, scenarios and possible energy savings in the church context (FEST);
- Introduction of EMAS systems and projects of various churches in Europe in the field of energy savings and sustainable energy use;
- excursion – half day „motivation visit” to Vilémov, Protivanov and other places: demonstration of solar thermal, photovoltaic, wind, and biomass;
- information on ECEN and the czech christian environmental network (CECEN, see Twinning Project no. 5), and plans to establish a Czech EMAS for churches (Marek Drápál);
- introduction of the programmes of the Ecumenical Academy in Praha and its projects related to sustainable development – fair trade, and the engagement for sustainable energy for developing countries.
- deepening workshops on needs and opportunities in the area of energy, energy savings and sustainable consumption in churches.
- evaluation and agreements of further steps.

The results of the seminar can be seen in a better knowledge of energy and environmental questions and an improved motivation of church leaders to engage in these matters. There was a broadening of the understanding of the interdependencies between environmental questions and church action. Czech EMAS development, energy savings and environmental consultancy, fair trade, new solar projects, educational programmes with and for the Churches have been thoroughly discussed. Spiritual aspects of these matters were central, for example in the discussion of the so-called „Green Bible project“.

4.4. Travelling exhibition

The collection of material, composing and layouting the different posters for the travelling exhibition on environmental matters and the churches in the czech republic took much longer than it was planned originally; in fact, the exhibition was the last part of all the Twinning

Projects that has been realised. It was first shown in January, 2013.¹⁵ On eight posters, it demonstrates „best practise” ecological projects from churches in Germany and in the Czech Republic, showing and promoting collaboration in ecumenical and international partnerships. The „travel“ of this travelling exhibition has already started, the information boards are shown in parishes and other church institutions willing to exhibit them.

4.5 Conclusion and outlook

This Twinning Project had two parts designed to help the educational work of the churches in two different aspects – the brochure on „green consumption“ and the „travelling exhibition“ on environmental questions and the churches’ engagement. Both „products“ have been realized and used – and still are used – in the work of the two academies and the organizations affiliated to them – church organisations and fair trade organizations.

A third part of the Twinning Project was the organization of a seminar for church leaders on the relation between environmental questions and the work of the churches. The seminar did take place in a concentrated working atmosphere. A certain impact in form of an improvement towards a more open attitude of church leaders concerning the urgency of environmental questions can be traced as well as an increasing openmindedness towards changing the own practice. The workshop never had the intention to change things dramatically at once; it was an important step on a way that since then has been continued – and will have to be continued in the future.

In addition to the three parts of the Twinning Project that have been agreed upon in the planning stage, other activities have been carried out as joint efforts of FEST and the two academies in the Czech republic:

- A small common effort was the exchange of lectures; Prof. Dr. Diefenbacher gave a lecture in Brno in September 2011 on local economies and globalization, and Dr. Silny gave a lecture in Dezember 2012 in Heidelberg on the „third way“ of the 1968 econo-

¹⁵ Copies of the posters are attached to this report as annex 2.

mic theory in the czech republic. An agreement was made to continue this exchange in the year 2014.

- Another important part of the collaboration between FEST and the Orthodox Academy in Vilémov was continued as well: During the last year of the Twinning Project it was evaluated whether the „solar roof“ project between FEST and Vilémov, funded by DBU until 2008, could be re-opened or extended to other forms of renewable energy installations. However, the funding of the installment of renewable energy installations by the Czech government, that had been a necessary element of co-funding of the first „solar roof“-project, has worsened drastically. For the moment being, possibilities of funding are further observed but an actual re-start of the project without substantial changes does not seem promising.

5. Twinning Project Denmark – Czech Republic

5.1 Start of project and project partners

The goal of this project was a transfer of experiences from the Danish Green Church¹⁶ to the Czech Christian Environmental Network,¹⁷ thereby helping the network in its starting phase, and enabling local churches to work for sustainability. This Twinning Project was run by

- Grøn kirke i Danmark (Green Church in Denmark) of the National Council of Churches in Denmark, responsible Pastor Keld B. Hansen, and
- Česká křesťanská enviromentální síť (Czech Christian Environmental Network), responsible Marek Drápal.

The Twinning Project between the Danish Green Church and the Czech Christian Environmental Network started in September 2010 and was running for two years.

The initial goal of this project was:

- to transfer experiences from the Danish Green Church to the Czech Christian Environmental Network
- to enable local churches to work for sustainability, and
- to start a growing network of Czech churches working as “Green Churches”.

5.2 The inspiration

The Danish Green Church Movement has developed an action list of 48 environmental points.¹⁸ These 48 points help churches to act environmentally responsible, and the points are used for certification of churches so that they can name themselves „green churches“.

¹⁶ see www.gronkirke.dk

¹⁷ see <http://www.ckes.cz/>

¹⁸ see <http://www.gronkirke.dk/index.php?id=707> – an english translation of the 48 points can be found in annex 3 of this report.

Furthermore the Danish Green Church Movement has made studies showing that churches can save a lot of money on energy. Finally, the Green Church Movement is – after existing since 2007 – becoming more and more accepted and widespread in the Danish context. Therefore, the Czech Christian Environmental Network had been confident, that there are many ideas and tools that could be transferred from the Danish to the Czech context.

5.3 Transferring the „green church“ to the czech republic

By March 2011 the Czech Christian Environmental Network has produced a verbatim translation of the list of 48 action points of the Danish Green Church. The list has been published on the webpage of the Czech Christian Environmental Network. Together with different points from the Swiss OeKU „certification“ and points from the national Czech „Green Office“, the list has become a first base for the Czech Green Church certification process.

All these action points went through an intense discussion, mostly in the Czech Brethren Church. The challenge was to create a list of points that, on the one hand, is feasible and, on the other hand, has a real impact on the environment.

Soon after that, a second initiative has started – the translation and modification for the czech context of a swiss environmental handbook for churches, das “Umwelthandbuch für Kirchgemeinden”.¹⁹ The book is from the Swiss OeKU, a swiss association for church and environment, and it was chosen as a supporting tool for czech congregations, who want to become green churches. The copyright of this book was kindly granted from the OeKU to the Czech Christian Environmental Network. The book also includes a set of certification points, which where merged with the original danish set. The last merging set of points was taken from the national environmental office certification. The list of points was categorized, and obligatory points were elected. The final set of certification points covers environmental impacts of a church in the most complex way and is so far quite unique in the European context. Most parts of the swiss handbook have been translated and then deeply rewritten and

¹⁹ Stahel, Samuel/Huber, Anita (2002): Umwelthandbuch für Kirchgemeinden. Bern: OeKu.

extended. All the texts in the handbook were discussed with specialists and were adopted to be ecumenical. The ecumenical dimension was very important in all phases of the project . Thanks to this procedure, the handbook is now holding recommendation of all the bigger churches in the Czech Republic, including one of cardinal Duka from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Czech Christian Environmental Network has the translation work done partly on a voluntary basis, while for instance management of the project and webmastering is done only on a voluntary basis. At the end of 2011, all preparations for launching a Green Church certification in the Czech Republic had been finalized. Thereafter, the Czech Christian Environmental Network started working on the certification of pilot churches. Furthermore, the Green Church concept had been propagated on the highest church levels in the Czech republic.

Nowadays, environmental issues are in the Czech Republic quite unpopular, so there is a lot of work to do in this field also in churches. “Standalone certifications” will be almost impossible. For this reason, a considerable amount of work was put into the adaptation of the german and danish material in the handbook, which now guides the churches step by step to an environmental friendly behaviour. Every category of certification points corresponds to one chapter in the book.²⁰

3000 copies of the brochure have been printed and distributed freely to all churches in the Czech Republic. Almost all of the churches have already obtained the handbook, but there is still discussion with some dioceses of the Roman Catholic church that still have to be convinced to distribute the brochure. All of the materials, instructions and links are public placed on the webpage including a pdf-version of the handbook.²¹

²⁰

A brochure version of the book is included in this report as annex 4.

²¹see <http://ckes.cz/certifikace/>

5.4 Conclusion and outlook

As expected, there was no initial big demand for certification from the churches, but the handbook has gotten very popular in many churches and the Czech Christian Environmental Network got quite a lot of requests for sending more handbooks.

On the other side, there is quite a strong interest in the certification process by some of the “forerunner congregations”: some of them showed their interest already before the launching of the Green Church certificate. Actually there are three churches competing to be the first certificated green church in Czech Republic. At least two churches are also progressing quite quickly. Ilona Mužátková is trained to be a manager of certification. She is semivolunteer and travels during the years around the Czech Republic to check locally, whether the churches applying for certification are really fulfilling all the necessary certification points.

Every church, that sends the initial questionnaire gets a noticeboard with a big banner and the checklists. A few of the first certificated churches will obtain gifts like bird boxes, banners with environmental topics etc. Every certificated church gets a wooden (FSC wood) sign, and discounts at partners of certification like environmental electrics company.

The Czech Christian Environmental Network decided to evaluate the certification process after the first churches got the certification. After the evaluation, the certification of churches shall be further continued all over the Czech Republic.

6. Twinning Project Norway – Belarus

6.1 Goal of the project and start

The goal of the project was to transfer experiences from the Church of Norway (responsible: Hans-Jørgen Schorre, National Church Council) to the Youth Union of the Belarussian Orthodox Church (responsible: Eugenyi Lobanov, Secretary of the Youth Union) to enable local youth orthodox brotherhoods to work for sustainability.

The project started with the ECEN assembly in September 2010 and run two and a half years, sometimes interrupted because of working overload on the Belarussian side. The original plan has been:

- Transfer of knowledge and experiences on environmental activities from the Church of Norway to youth brotherhoods and churches in Belarus.
- Adaptation on norwegian knowledge and experiences on the programme „Green Congregations“ for further use in Belarus.
- Starting the work with „elements of inspiration“ as an incentive for youth orthodox brotherhoods in Belarus to work on environment and sustainability issues.
- Supporting the discussion within the Orthodox Church on the importance of caring for the creation.

Based on these principle ideas, the project partners signed an agreement that during the Twinning Project at least the following steps and activities should be taken:

- to develop a list of actions taking into account the norwegian experience, which can be used by brotherhoods in order to start environmental work in their congregations. It was expected that representatives of the Church of Norway will come to share their experience about the participation of churches in the environmental work;
- to hold at least two educational seminars on environmental issues for members of youth brotherhoods and interested priests. During these seminars, different issues related to the care for creation, environmental sustainability and lifestyle should be rai-

- sed. Seminars should be organized in conjunction with the Day of Creation or some other important environmental date. It was expected that representatives of the Church of Norway should be able to be present in at least one of the seminar;
- to prepare at least 12 articles on different environmental topics for the national orthodox church newspaper²² which are relevant for the orthodox church in Belarus. It was expected that some of the articles would be written by representatives of the Church of Norway to highlight and share their experience in the environmental work;
 - to run the educational programme „Springs“ for interested members of youth brotherhoods and other members of the Belarus orthodox church. The programme includes organizing several educational meetings on water protection issues, identifying springs around local churches, which require cleaning up and conservation activities, running summer-camps with practical actions and awareness-rising activities among local population and church members. It was expected to involve about fifty young people from different brotherhoods into this activity;
 - to prepare and disseminate educational materials on environmental issues for brotherhoods and local churches; materials should be available in printed version and on the web-site. These materials should draw upon experience of members of the European Christian Environmental Network.

6.2 Seminars on the Day of Creation

An important part of the Twinning Project activities to increase awareness for environmental questions was the organization of thematic seminars focused on the Day of Creation. During the time of the Twinning Project, two seminars have been organized.

The first seminar took place between November 9 and 11 of the year 2011 in Minsk. The topic of the seminar was consumption as an environmental problem; more than fifty participants from different cities of Belarus took place. The seminar agenda included discussions, practical trainings and presentations, organized by representatives of the youth union of the

²²

Carkounae slova – The word of the Church-

Belarus Orthodox church, the Sacharov' Environmental University and by representatives of several environmental NGO's. Also the Divine Liturgy and other services have been held during the seminar.

The second seminar was organized between September 7 and September 9 in Glubokoe in the region of Vitebsk. The topic of the seminar was „sustainable lifestyles“ About thirty members of different youth groups participated in discussions with church and NGO speakers, took part in a practical excursion in a nature-protected reserve, organized a practical action of waste collection and participated in the Divine Liturgy and evening service.

Organizing these seminars has also initiated a number of publications about environmental topics in church and public mass media, including web-sites, radio and newspapers.²³

6.3 Educational programme „Springs“

The norwegian educational programme „springs“ was initiated within the Twinning Project with the idea to involve interested members of the youth brotherhoods into practical environmental work. Members of brotherhoods took part in educational meetings, activities on cleaning up and conservation of local water springs and practical summer camps.

Specifically, within the project the following activities have been organized and supported:

- A first educational seminar on springs restoration took place in Minsk between April 1 and 3, 2011. About twenty participants from different regions of Belarus took place. They received some general information about water-related environmental problems, on the relationship between water and theology, as well as detailed information about springs and their restoration. This input was given by Dr. Andrei Pahomenko from the Mogilev state university.

²³ Examples of these are: http://www.sobor.by/videonews/Tretiy_ekologicheskij_seminar_Obedineniya_molodyogi_BPTs_zavershilsya_v_Glubokom – <http://westki.info/artykuly/13691/den-molityv-o-bozhem-tvorenii-v-Glubokom> – <http://cerkov.by/page/zavershilsja-tradicionnyj-ekologicheskij-seminar-den-molityv-o-bozhem-tvorenii> – <http://ombpc.blogspot.com/2012/09/blog-post.html>

- An environmental summer camp on Spring restoration was held between August 3 and 5, 2011 in the diocese of Grodno. This camp collected around one hundred people from different regions of Belarus and was co-organized by the Environmental department of the Grodno diocese and the Youth Union of the Belarussian Orthodox Church. There had been presentations for the participants about an environmentally friendly lifestyle. Participants organized practical actions on cleaning up a local water spring and established a small memorial place around it.
- A similar summer camp was organized by the Youth Union of the Belarussian Orthodox Church between July 18 and 24 in Zembin in the district of Borison. Thirty participants from different brotherhoods spent a week in the camp, contributed to the cleaning up of local springs and assisted the local church parish.
- In the summer of 2012, another two summer camps were organized in the Grodno region and the Glubokoe district.

The project „Spring“ found quite a lot of media attention.²⁴

6.4 Discussions and contacts to church leadership

A very important part of the belarussian activities in the frame of the „Twinning Project“ was to support the discussion with the Belarussian orthodox church on the importance of the care for the creation. The Youth Union of the Belarussian Orthodox Church has co-organized a conference on „Perspectives of the Churches activities for environmental protection on Dezember 14, 2011. The conference was attended by representatives of different dioceses, the Moscow Patriarchate, seminaria, environmental NGO's, mass media and representatives of the Orthodox Church from Czech republic and Slovakia – among them representatives of the Twinning Project no. 2.

The conference became an important event to push the environmental topic to the church agenda.²⁵ During the following time, representatives of the Youth Union of the Belarussian

²⁴ See for example <http://www.praca.zelva.by/kultura/32225-zhit-v-garmonii-s-prirodoy.html>

Orthodox Church took part in several meetings and church conferences with presentations on the Twinning Project and about the involvement of youth into environmental work. These events included among others:²⁶

- the international conference St. Cirill and Mefodius Readings, focused on the Care of Creation in Minsk, April 2011;
- the round table „Environmental activity in church social service – experiences and potential“, organized by the external relations department of the Russian Orthodox Church on January 26, 2013.
- The Youth Union of the Belarus Orthodox Church has also contributed to the development of an all-Russian Orthodox Church position on environmental protection which was finally adopted in the beginning of February, 2013 by the Bishops’ Council of the Russian Orthodox Church.²⁷

6.5 Media coverage

Six articles on environmental topics have been prepared, partially with assistance from the norwegian partners of the Twinning Project, which have been published in the church newspaper Carkounae Slova (The word of the Church). A lot of material has been disseminated via the blog of the Youth Association; during the project, several interviews to radio and TV programmes were given.

6.6 Conclusion and outlook

The implementation of the Twinning Project significantly contributed to the raising awareness for environmental topics among the youth brotherhoods of the Belarussian Orthodox Church and within the Belarussian Orthodox Church itself. Since 2011, there is an increase in the level of understanding about the church involvement into sustainability work among the

²⁵ More information on <http://ombpc.blogspot.com/2011/12/14.html>

²⁶ More information on <http://ombpc.blogspot.com/2013/02/blog-post.html#more> - http://ombpc.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post_30.html

²⁷ See <https://mospat.ru/ru/2013/02/04/news80509>

church community in Belarus. The project directly contributed to the inspiration among the members of youth orthodox brotherhoods.

In general, the educational programme „Springs“ became a very successful part of the Twinning Project, as it received significant interest among youth brotherhoods. The idea of the programme „Springs“ was adopted by some other church related organizations, and by this way the programme of the Twinning Project was multiplied.

It became clear during the project that the level of environmental awareness in Norway and Belarus differ greatly. Therefore, the basics of environmental education must be further spread in the Belarus church community before the Orthodox Church in this country will be ready to transfer and adopt the ideau of green congregations from Norway. Therefore, the Youth Organization of the Belarussian Orthodox Church will continue to work on education and awareness building process concerning environmental topis.

7. Twinning Project Scotland – Hungary

7.1 The aim of the Eco-Congregation Program

The Churches of United Kingdom including Scotland have a prospering ecumenical eco-programme called “Eco-congregation”.²⁸ Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community. It based on self-supporting activities, and promotes local congregations to live sustainably their Christian life.

The Reformed Church of Hungary (RCH) is committed to responsibility for the created world, and for this reason, similarly to the environmentally conscious program of the Church of Scotland, developed a voluntary program for environmental consciousness and protection aimed at Hungarian congregations and church institutions to help those willing to act. While numerous ideas and local initiatives have been launched and realized in the RCH relating to this area, the present co-operation aims at strengthening these current initiatives as well as starting new ones. The experience of several years of the Scottish church, along with their national network, is a great help for the RCH in realizing this task in the best possible way.

Upon launching the program, the following objectives were set:

- connecting people involved in this field with the congregations, providing them with a forum;
- creating a webpage specifically for this purpose;
- publishing ideas and examples for best practise;
- forming a well-prepared body, fit for professional co-ordination: the Eco-Congregation Council;
- founding an “Eco-Congregation prize” to motivate congregations, institutions and Christian communities, who could apply in a competition published by the Eco-Congregation Council

²⁸

see www.ecocongregation.org

7.2 Creation and operation of the program

7.2.1 European Christian Environmental Network

One of the most significant programs of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) is to spread an environmentally conscious way of thinking and approach to leadership, as well as its naturalization in the service of the greatest possible number of church organizations.

Within the framework of the eco-management working group of ECEN, bilateral partnerships have been formed, with the aim that a church organization with more detailed, better-developed environmental program should help another church organization in forming their own eco-program. The hungarian-scottish co-operation was initiated within the ECEN conference in 2010.

7.2.2 Agreement on co-operation with the Church of Scotland – October 2010

The framework of the shared initiative is ensured by an agreement of co-operation between the „Church and Society“-Committee of the Church of Scotland and the RCH, signed in October 2010 and focused on launching an eco-congregation program in the service of the RCH, similar to the Scottish model.

The main goal of this bilateral project is adapting “Eco-congregation” programme to Hungarian church life, and promoting the responsibility of Hungarian churches and church members for care of creation in a self-supporting way. In the frame of this twinning programme, it was planned:

- to exchange information on eco-management facilities and activities of churches in Scotland and Hungary,
- to import and adapt ideas from “Eco-Congregation Scotland” project,

- to form an Advisory Council in Hungary to help congregations to make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith both in spiritual and practical life,
- to organise conferences in Hungary on the Christian eco-management,
- to establish a Hungarian homepage and printing leaflets to disseminate eco-congregation facilities,
- to translate relevant materials from www.ecocongregation.org,
- found an Eco-Congregation Award in Hungary.

The framework agreement between the Church of Scotland and the RCH has been signed October 6, 2010 by Pál Huszár (Lay President of RCH) and Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei (Clergy President of RCH), Ewan Aitken (Secretary to the Council of the Church of Scotland) and Ian Galloway (Convenor of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland).²⁹

The Scottish-Hungarian project is managed by two core groups, one in Scotland and one in Hungary. The Hungarian core group is responsible for the events and project procedures taking place in Hungary, and they also handle the translation of all written materials related to the programme.

7.2.3 Eco-Congregation field-trip, Scotland, March 4 – 6, 2011

A three-member delegation from the RCH – Eszter Karsay, Tamás Kodácsy and László Pál Szalay – visited an good example of a functioning model of environmentally conscious attitude. In the ever more urgent issues of climate change, justice cannot be done merely by theological theories, but achievements of natural, engineering, social and human sciences as well as artistic approaches should also be included in the proposals for solutions. During the annual gathering of eco-congregation in Scotland on March 5, 2011, at which Tamas Kodacsy made a presentation on the progress of eco-congregations in Hungary. The meeting offered an opportunity for informal discussions with a number of congregations and the opportunity

²⁹ A press report can be found under the URL http://www.reformatus.hu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26525:az-mre-is-bekapcsolodott-az-oekogyuelekezet-programba&catid=133:hatter&Itemid=508&lang=hu

to learn about their work at first hand. During the discussions, practical ideas emerged, such as central distribution of recycled paper for office and school purposes in the four church districts, and, moreover, to develop different systems of criteria for urban and rural congregations, who could register on the webpage of the initiative to become members of the network and thus attain necessary tools and supplements.

The Hungarian delegates attended the annual Eco-Congregation Conference in Bridge of Allan, where over 100 people represented 30 congregations. Following the conference in Scotland, Rev. David Arnott, the moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, paid an official visit to Hungary and met the members of the Eco-Congregation Council.

7.2.4 Establishment of the Eco-Congregation Council, January 4, 2012

Established within the framework of ECEN and supervised by the Ecumenical Committee of the Synod, the Presidency of the RCH established the Eco-Congregation Council to coordinate this independent program. The voluntary body, comprising committed and experienced pastors and expert church members, is called to provide the initiative with a thorough professional background, supervise the programs, and suggest propositions for the Synod. Upon the first meeting, held on 4 January, 2012, the members of the Eco-Congregation Council committed themselves to the strengthening of ecological sensitiveness of the church and its congregations.

Members of the Council as an advisory body are:

- Dr Barbara Botos, environment protection expert,
- Géza Gyimóthy Jr, environmental engineer,
- Ágnes Fekete, pastor,
- Eszter Karsay, pastor,
- Dr. Tamás Kodácsy, pastor,
- Mrs Zita Bihari Konkoly, climatologist,
- Mária Szabó, economist,
- László Pál Szalay, pastor,

- Boglárka Szűcs, biology and geography teacher,
- Dr. László Végh, physicist, and
- Dr. András Viktor, teacher of environmental studies.

The role of the body includes harmonizing the initiatives launched so far, such as the ecumenical Festival of Creation and Church Farmers' Market, along with finding and creating ways of co-operation with ecological teams from other churches, e.g. the „Ararat Protection of Creation Team“ of the Lutheran Church; „Hymn to the Sun“ Protection of Creation, an Association of the Roman Catholic Church).

The Eco-Congregation does not simply join the growing number of green non-governmental movements, but seeks to popularize the idea of protecting creation. The specific theological direction and practical advice indispensable for the movement is provided by the Council, whose first significant task was to prepare a professional conference held in Budapest in April 2012.

7.2.5 The Eco-Congregation webpage

The new Eco-Congregation webpage³⁰ was presented at this meeting. Its objective is, firstly, to collect church and secular documents, news and other useful information available in the topic of protecting creation, and secondly, to assist congregations in the form of e-learning to shape an environmentally conscious approach to life. After registration, courses could be downloaded from the webpage. These follow the three-fold division of the Scottish program:

1. Growing in faith and understanding
2. Making the house of God an environmentally friendly place
3. Changing life, changing community

³⁰ see www.okogyulekezet.hu

7.2.6 The Eco-Congregation Conference – April 28, 2012

In the course of the conference organized by the Eco-Congregation Council, the importance of ecumenical collaboration was emphasized: Lutheran and Catholic experts and guests were also present.

„In what condition will the Earth be found when Jesus Christ returns?” – the question was raised by pastor Tamás Kodácsy, head of the Eco-Congregation program, in his devotional at the beginning of the conference. He was followed by Lutheran theologian Eszter Kodácsy-Simon, representative of the Ararat Workteam, presenting the basic principles of protecting creation. Zita Bihari, climatologist and head of the Climate Department at the National Meteorological Service, at the same time elder at the Svábhegy Reformed Congregation, gave an informative presentation on climate change. Beside showing the natural and artificial reasons behind climate change, modelling of climate-forecast and script of modelling processes were explained in a clear way, intelligible also for non-professionals.

In his talk, Adrian Shaw, Climate Change Office expert of the Church of Scotland, presented how eco-congregations operate in Scotland, and explained the lobby-activities the church takes in politics to oppose global climate change. Alison Boyes gave an account of the everyday life and practical solutions of a prominently active Scottish eco-congregation, and at the closing of the plenary session the Hungarian Eco-Congregation title and award was announced.

7.2.7 Employment of an Eco-Congregation co-ordinator

Géza Gyimóthy Jr. was assigned by the RCH's Synod Presidency to carry out the activities relating to the co-ordination of the Eco-Congregation Program. The contract of assignment was for a limited time, between 24 May, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Boglárka Szűcs assumes this position since the beginning of 2013. The co-ordinator is employed part-time, his tasks involve co-ordinating the undertakings of the RCH in the fields of ecology and creation protection. She assists the work of the Eco-Congregation Council, and co-operates with the

head of the Council. She moderates, looks after and updates the homepage of the Eco-Congregation. She takes part in organizing eco-congregation programs. She provides the church organizations, communities and congregations with professional advice and information. In creation protection and ecological issues – with authorization from and continuous discussion with those concerned at Synod Office – she keeps contact with the partner churches, administrative organizations and NGOs. Within the Church Farmers' Market program, he keeps contact with the Hungarian Advertising Association.

7.3 Eco-Congregation Prize

On 30 September, 2012, in the course of the opening service of Creation Week, the first Eco-Congregation title and prize – as announced during the first Eco-Congregation Conference in April 2012 – was awarded. Congregations, church communities and institutions could apply for the prize who take active steps in protecting the created world through their approach and voluntary operation and in their church services.

The decision on the Eco-Congregation prize was made by the RCH Eco-Congregation Council. To win the Eco-Congregation prize, the congregation has to undertake that they will maintain the main objectives of the title, and develop their own program for environmental protection, thus setting a good example in preserving creation.

Five congregations applied for the Eco-Congregation title and prize, three of them sent the required application along with a plan for creation protection. All of the applicants undertook to realize their outlined plan for creation protection and maintain it for at least three years in the spiritual and practical aspects of the everyday lives of their congregations.

The congregations of Szólád and Torbágy were awarded the Eco-Congregation title, whereas another three, the congregations of Telkibánya, Hajdúnánás and Budapest-Buda were awarded the Eco-Congregation prize.

7.4 Promoting the Eco-congregation Program at church events

7.4.1 Transdanubian Reformed Church District (REND) – 29 June – 1 July, 2012

The Eco-Congregation Program was represented at its own stall during the festival, held in Székesfehérvár, organized for the 5th time this year. The primary aim of the appearance was to promote the prize, announced at the April 2012 Eco-Congregation Conference. The hosts of the stall were Géza Gyimóthy Jr, environmental engineer and László Pál Szalay, pastor, members of the Eco-Congregation Council. During the festival, publications were presented in Hungarian and other languages, offering both theoretical and practical help in starting an environmentally conscious congregational approach.

7.4.2 " Szélrózsa" Lutheran Youth Festival – 18-22 July, 2012, Fonyódliget, Lake Balaton

During the festival the Eco-Congregation Program was represented and promoted at an ecotent, where Tamás Kodácsy and Mária Szabó, members of the Eco-Congregation, talked not only to the Lutheran youth about the Christian responsibility and mission of protecting creation.

7.5 Other activities

Within the Hungarian framework, three projects have been launched recently: Creation Time, Egyháztáji (Church Farmer's Market) and TIÉD (Traditional and Innovational Values in Dialogue).

Creation Time has been established by ECEN; ECEN invites all the churches in Europe to celebrate a "Time for Creation" in the Church calendar each year, from 1 September to the second Sunday in October. It has been announced by the Ecumenical Council of Hungarian Churches (protestant and orthodox churches).

In 2010, the “Feast of Creation” was ecumenically organized, with an ecumenical opening worship. Three bishops of Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed Churches served in this opening.

According to the formal and informal feedbacks, between 40 and 50 congregations joined this initiative. A common website has been launched.³¹ Creation time is an annual programme, remembering God's created world. This special time period now is officially be marked in next year's Reformed church calendar and Bible Reading Guide. In Hungary, the last week of September (Week of Creation) is going to be dedicated to the celebration of God's creation work.

The situation of small farmers became very difficult in 2009. During the global crisis, a variety of social groups was in trouble. In 2009 the Northern-East of Hungary apple producer farmers could not sell their products. Within this project, there is an attempt to link the urban citizens and local farmers to the church for help. In the advent period urban congregations organized church market for farmers. After this successful “apple-project” the church was inspired to continue this line. A homepage was launched in 2010,³² and the project was named Egyháztáji (backyard). The programme „Egyháztáji“ has been designed to serve as a direct link between the rural farmers and urban consumers with the help of the church. It is a nonprofit trade programme with the aim to promote both farmers' and consumers' responsibility for the created world. Registration is free, but a recommendation letter from a pastor is needed to sell products. Egyháztáji does not support export and import: if products are demanded that are not available in Hungary, the use of fair-trade is recommended. Egyháztáji focuses on regional producing. The homepage recognises the county and subregion by zip code, and groups the addresses in order to reducing transport distances. Egyháztáji wants to build personal relationships. In the markets organized by churches, people can meet with each other. They can ask questions about the food for sale, and they can plan to buy and sell products for the future. Producing organic foods is not a requirement, but there should be some information about the process of production. There is a lot of interest from congregations and many positive feedbacks.

³¹ <http://www.teremtesunnepe.hu> (Teremtés Ünnepe means Feast of Creation)

³² see <http://www.egyhaztaji.hu>

TIÉD was started by the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary on February 5, 2011, with the financial support of the European Union. TIÉD is an acronym (Traditional and Innovative Values in Dialogue), but in Hungarian it also means "yours", as the protection of our planet and the responsibility for creation is something every human being must accept personally. TIÉD takes place in the form of a roadshow with the aim to promote environmental thinking in 10 different Hungarian towns. The link between Ökogyülekezet and TIÉD is informal. The contributors of Ökogyülekezet are also contributors of TIÉD.

7.6 Financing the program

Within the framework of ECEN, co-operating with the Church of Scotland, the eco-congregation program so far has been able to rely on resources from the Twinning Project and from other international funding agencies. We are continuing to collaborate and count on further international funding and on the support of the Church of Westphalia.

7.7 Summary and outlook

The Twinning Project was successful to transform the british eco congregation project – with the help of the team from the Church of Scotland – into a hungarian programm that was adopted by the Reformed Church of Hungary. In a second step the Twinning Project was enlarged to spread to the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Hungary too.

In november and december 2012, the display and finalization of e-learning modules for eco-congregations in Hungarian have been completed, and integrated into the website with the RCH homepage.³³ Based on the Scottish experience, contacting NGOs and professional environmental organizations was done during advent time, with weekly recommendations (e.g. cutting down pine trees, recycling, etc.

³³ see www.reformatus.hu

In January 2013, in a meeting of the Eco-Congregation Council the activities of the year 2012 have been assessed and goals for 2013 were determined – for the first year after the end of the Twinning Project. The planned activities comprised a field-trip to Scotland with secondary school students and teachers for a two to three week visit to a scottish eco-congregation, the next eco-congregation conference with the announcement of the Eco-Congregation title and prize, participation in the „Starpoint” Reformed Youth Festival in Mezőtúr with an Eco-tent and promoting of the Eco-Congregation Program, and the organisation of the Creation Week with the Eco-Congregation Awarding ceremony.

8. The Twinning Project: summary and outlook

It is not easy to draw a general summary of the six Twinning Projects, of their links to the central coordination carried out by the Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (FEST) in Heidelberg and of its embedding within the overall structure of the European Christian Environmental Network. First of all, there are many moments of success: in most of the twinning partnerships, good relationships could be built that last beyond the end of the funding period. In all of the receiving churches, activities will continue independently from the funding of the Twinning Project. As was already said in the introductory chapter: In three cases (PL, H and CZ) new institutions have been founded as a result of the project that will carry on the work on its own. In other cases, church institutions have developed new project ideas that originated from the twinning experience (ROM, CZ, BEL, H). And in one case (H) the Twinning Project itself now adopted a third partner that will go through the activities in the next months and years – the twin has become, so to speak, a triplet.

There is a wealth of materials, altogether in ten different languages, that have been used, translated, adapted or produced in the course of the Twinning Project. The report would have gotten far too voluminous if all of these documents would have been integrated. They are mentioned in the description of the different Twinning Projects in the chapters 2 to 7 in this report, and they can be easily obtained from the different resource persons or even from the internet. To access some of the materials, however, it is required to undertake a registration process.

On the other side, it became very clear in the course of the project that many of the people, that are active in the environmental work in the churches in central and eastern Europe, are suffering under an enormous work overload. Therefore, not all of the plans that have been design could be realized in time; some of them took considerably longer to be implemented like the travelling exhibition in the Czech Republic. Other plans – like in Belarus and Romania – had to be modified for various reasons – not only because of the work overload but also because of the fact that the gap between demanding ecological projects and the awareness for ecological matters of the broader public and of church officials sometimes was bigger

that originally assumed. Some parts of the Twinning Projects, therefore, had to be reshaped to address more „basic elements“, to allow more time for information and education, and to allow more time for decision making processes within the churches.

As already mentioned, the Twinning Project will go on – first of all, in the continuation of a lot of projects that have been started out of the twinning partnerships, and, secondly, as a continued international cooperation within the good relationships that emerged during the twinning partnerships. But, as a third point, the Twinning Project will also go on through the international exchange of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). The ECEN conference of 2010 was an important step: Some of the twinning partnerships (N-BEL, DK-CZ, SCOT-H) were effectively formed by using the ECEN conference as a platform. The ECEN 2012 conference was important to share reports of most of the twinning partners; only one of the Twinning Projects was not present. Already in 2012, some other members of churches not yet involved in the Twinning Project showed interest to participate, for example from France, from Italy and from Greece. A first attempt to form an international working group with the aim to elaborate a funding application that could be handed in to EU institutions was not successful. But another attempt will be made between the next meeting of the ECEN leadership team in October 2013 in Bruxelles and the next ECEN conference in Finland in September 2014. There are two ideas that primarily will be discussed: first, to develop more „basic elements“ for those who are still very far away from environmental work in the churches. And, secondly, it might be worth will to further develop local environmental church networks. To the ECEN 2014 conference, a report of actual status of the Twinning Project will be presented, and, hopefully, a suggestion for its continuation will be adopted.