



Fund for Mission in Europe Project overview 2023

Keep connected across national borders Solidarity among Methodist churches in Europe

Dear Colleagues in various Offices of the Methodist Churches in Europe

This document gives you an overview of the projects currently supported by the Fund for Mission in Europe.

Please use it as a resource to share information about the important work of Methodist Churches across Europe on your own channels. You may receive detailed project information and pictures from the fund office or directly from the various church offices responsible for the projects. Please see web links at the last page of this document, in some project summaries or next to the country titles.

Please send all contributions to the Fund for Mission in Europe either through the Methodist Church Central Office in your country or to the bank account listed at the end of this document.

Andreas Stämpfli, FMiE Executive Secretary

Cover picture: Summer Camp for Training Church Leaders in Albania (AL-102)

Table of Contents

Ctrl-clicking a topic in the table below will take you directly to that chapter.

Keep conn	ected across national borders	2
Priorities	of the Fund	4
Cooperation with "Otto per Mille"		
Covid-19	pandemic	4
Allocation	of funds	4
Project Summaries		
All of Europe		
EUR-102	Doing Mission Together with the "emk-mobil" € 6'000 (Covid)	5
EUR-211	Roma Consultation € 4'500 (Covid)	5
	Europe and the Baltic States	5
Regional Pr NEB-101		5 5
Estonia EE-231 Lithuania	Children centre Lighthouse € 12'000	5 5 5
LT-212	Children activity school 'Run with God' $\not\in$ 1'700	5
LT-213	Adult ministry development 'Save a soul' € 1'500	5
LT-231	Publication of Catechism project for teaching € 3'500	6
Latvia LV-104	Hana Cantus fau varing mathaus C	6
	Hope Centre for young mothers € 11'000 (OPM)	6
LV-223 LV-233	Senior camp- 'Joy with God!' € 2'000 Mission weekend € 3'000	6
LV-234	Wesley Camp upgrading towards sustainability € 10'000	6
Eurasia		6
Regional Projects		
EA-113	Family Festival € 4′500 (Covid)	6
EA-123 EA-124	Youth Festival "When God Calls" in St. Petersburg € 7'000 (Covid) Men's seminar "Be Strong and of Good	6
CA-124	Courage" € 3'500	6
EA-212	Winter youth evangelical camp € 2'000	7
EA-235	Bethel Ministry - Camps for children with special needs € 12'000	7
	d Southern Europe	7
Regional Pr		7
MSE-101	Salary Support for pastors in Central and Southern Europe € 20'000	7
Albania AL-102	Summer Comp for Training Church	7
AL-102	Summer Camp for Training Church Leaders € 3'500	7
AL-103	Early Intervention Centre in Tirana € 8'500 (OPM)	7

AL-211	Development of New Churches in Durrës and Librazhd € 8'000	7
AL-221	Diaconia Centre in Pogradec € 4'050	,
	(OPM)	8
Hungary	M: : 1 :	8
HU-104 HU-107	Ministries with Roma € 9'200 (OPM) Programs at two Methodist Secondary	8
	Schools € 2'000	8
North Mace		8
MK-103	Diakonia North Macedonia "Miss Stone Centre - Strumica" € 10'000 (OPM)	8
MK-107	Diakonia North Macedonia "Home Care Ministry" € 18'500 (OPM)	8
Poland	The summer state of the state of Advillage	8
PL-120	Therapeutic Camp for Addicted Adults € 3'500 (OPM) Classical music at the Methodists €	8
PL-231	1'000	8
Romania	Church Davidanment in Chrisma	9
RO-101	Church Development in Cluj and Miceşti € 3'500	9
RO-102	Church Planting in Roma Communities € 3'100	9
RO-103	New Church Development in Sibiu € 4'100	9
Serbia		9
RS-104	Kindergarten "KORAB" in Pivnice € 6'000 (OPM)	9
RS-110	Weekend Soup Kitchen in Vrbas € 4'000 (OPM)	9
Italy, Port	ugal and Spain	9
Italy	•	9
IT-101	Salary Support for Pastors in International Ministry € 10'000	9
IT-232	Student Pastors and Lay Preachers Leadership Training € 6'000	9
IT-233	Methodist Church Musical Instruments Development Program € 6'000	
Portugal		10
PT-231	Lordelo Methodist church Solidarity	
Contin	actions € 5'500	10
Spain SP-108		10
SP-106	Diaconal Service for Migrants in Madrid € 3'000 (OPM)	10
SP-231		10
SP-232	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	10
		L1
Members o	of the Committee	11
Addresses	and links	11
FMiE Office address		
FMiF Bank account		

Priorities of the Fund

When Methodist church leaders in various parts of Europe were asked about their priorities, they stated repeatedly the following areas:

Working towards sustainability (WTS)

We would like to increasingly stand on our own feet in terms of personnel and content, as well as financially. Additionally, we would like to bring ourselves, as giving communities, complete with our own identities and the wealth of our faith experiences, into the worldwide Methodist family.

Education and Leadership Training (ELT)

> In a time of tremendous social changes, we would like to engage in our mission tasks in creative, believable ways and be "the Church for others". In order to achieve this aim, we need well educated pastors and lay leaders.

Being a learning church (BLC)

> We are not called to do today, what has always been done, while using those instruments, which have always been used. Rather, we aim to forge a reliable connection to new ideas and experiences, to learn from one another, and to find new activities, which bring the timeless message of God's love to the people of today and tomorrow.

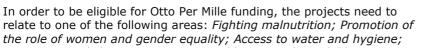
Diaconal work (DW)

We cannot be a credible church without hearing the voices of those who cry out because of their needs. Without seeing those who already suffer silently. Without helping people regardless of their background. Without awakening a new hope for a better future. However, we do not desire to be engaged in ministry for the poor but in ministry with them.

This is why the Fund for Mission in Europe primarily supports programs and projects related to one of these four priorities. In the following list of project summaries you will find indications about the main priority of each project at the end of the corresponding description (**WTS, ELT, BLC, or DW**).

Cooperation with "Otto per Mille"

Italian taxpayers have the possibility to designate 8‰ from their annual income tax to a religious organisation recognised by the Italian State or, alternatively, to a social assistance scheme run by the Italian State itself. Thanks to these designated funds, the Union of the Methodist and Waldensian Churches is able to support more than 1000 projects in Italy and abroad.





Participation, dialogue, governance and human rights; Child protection; Education; Vocational training and income-generating activities; Protecting the environment; Rural development and food safety; Health interventions and health protection; Humanitarian emergency aid.

In 2014 the Fund for Mission in Europe set up an official cooperation with Otto per Mille. As a result, projects selected and approved by the Fund for Mission in Europe receive contributions from Otto Per Mille of total about 50'000 Euro per year.

In the following list of project summaries you will find indications whether a project is co-supported by Otto per Mille next to the respective amount (**OPM**).

Covid-19 pandemic

Projects and ministries have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in very different ways. Therefore, in the following list of projects, contributions that were approved for 2020 or 2021 but were not fully implemented before 2022 due to the pandemic are marked with (**Covid**).

Allocation of funds

The committee of the Fund for Mission in Europe (FMiE) is responsible for the allocation of funds and the review of their use. The committee decides in September / October on the project contributions for the following year based on the funds available at that time.

If FMiE has received more designated donations than are needed for a specific project, the unneeded money will be used for similar purposes or withheld for the following year. **FMiE** is also grateful for undesignated donations, which can be used where the need is greatest.

Project Summaries

All of Europe

EUR-102 Doing Mission Together with the "emk-mobil"

€ 6'000 (Covid)

For many local churches who are active in mission work throughout Europe, the "emk-mobil", the "emk-spiel-mobil", the "mobile church", and the tents of the "Tent Mission" are helpful tools. These tools are used when no church space is available and attractive. The "Evangelisationswerk" of the UMC in Germany does not only provide the infrastructure to successfully do outreach but also runs seminars for pastors and lay people in which they can learn the basics of evangelism, church planting, and church growth. FMiE supports this work in East and Central Europe, the Baltics, and the Balkans, where local churches are not able to fully cover the expenses related to mission events and seminars. For more Info click here (BLC)

EUR-211 Roma Consultation

€ 4'500 (Covid)

Pastors and lay leaders in the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe have been working with Roma communities for many years. Regularly held Roma Consultations give them the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices, and to learn from and support each other to constantly improve the work with Roma communities. These Consultations have also been attended by people from beyond the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe. Throughout Europe, the Roma people endure discrimination and suffer from economic and social exclusion. This leads to poverty and poverty-related problems like unemployment, drug abuse, child pregnancies, etc. The project leaders have built strong relationships with Roma communities by listening to their concerns and helping them to improve their livelihoods. (BLC)

Northern Europe and the Baltic States

www.umc-ne.org

Regional Project

NEB-101 Baltic Pastors' Salary and Pension Support Fund

€ 10'000

In 2008, a "Baltic Pastors' Salary and Pension Support Fund" was established. The local churches are working hard on teaching their members what responsibility they have in financial terms – the salary support from the Fund will therefore decline by 10 % every year starting in 2023. However, the Fund still remains a very important instrument of solidarity – to enable the pastors' families to be able to live on their salaries, but also to make sure that ministries can be carried on, which include far more than worship services, pastoral care, and Christian education in the local churches. (WTS)

Estonia www.metodistikirik.ee

EE-231 Children centre Lighthouse

€ 12'000

The Children Center Lighthouse is a day care center for children from families that are unable to give the child the full support that the child needs - there are families with low income, with low parental care, families with parents who have addictions and several other problems. The center offers the children a safe environment, help with school homework, activities and food. The enormous and unexpected increase of electricity and heating costs (150 % in one year) has caused a situation where the finances in the reserve are running out, and the survival of the Children's Center is in serious danger. The FMiE grant is used to cover the utility costs during the time the team looks for a rental space with cheaper utility costs or a steady income to cover the increase of the utility costs. (DW)

Lithuania www.metodistai.lt

LT-212 Children activity school 'Run with God'

€ 1'700

This project, which is at an early stage of development, aims to encourage parents to be involved in their children's education by participating with their children in activities. Every activity has its own theme and tasks where children are taught important life skills and values according to their age. The ministry provides many varied activities so that children with a variety of different needs can find their place in a welcoming environment. Parents are equipped to take materials and knowledge back to their homes. This project and ministry is unique because the involvement of parents in childcare is so important. In addition, this project is an example of ecumenically sharing experience and best educational practices. Two of the teachers are Methodists and two are Roman Catholic.

LT-213 Adult ministry development 'Save a soul'

€ 1'500

In Kaunas Church we strive to serve both those who are in need and those who seek God's presence in their life. We are planning to start work on an adult ministry that will combine strengthening the Christian faith and Wesleyan identity of participants with social commitments in their own life and in their context. This ministry will be a place for Spiritual maturity, growth and relationship development with the aim of encouraging participants to become local missionaries in their own social circles and to bring about change in their context. (ELT)

LT-231 Publication of Catechism project for teaching

€ 3'500

As Lithuania Methodist Church looks in the future and learning from the past with expectations, that the Church future is in living faith inspired by the Holy Spirit and supported by the Scriptures. We believe and desire to have expressed Methodist faith doctrines in simple and native language that finally can to be used in teaching and learning in the local Churches and in people homes. The Lithuania Methodist Church Catechisms will be lay dawn in a clear language our faith, doctrines and standards that we so much strive to achieve with a living faith. This publication will be a treasure for our history now and for the future generations.

(BLC)

Latvia www.umc.lv

LV-104 Hope Centre for young mothers

€ 11'000 (OPM)

The Hope Centre provides a refuge to young single mothers or soon to be mothers - a place, where they can live until their child is born and they have gained enough experience and knowledge to live independently. There are a lot of learning opportunities and the centre provides counselling and mentoring. A particular emphasis is placed on encouraging the women to finish their education or to attend a professional training school, so that they do not only have the self-esteem and knowledge to raise their children independently, but that they also are able to live independently in financial terms. (DW)

LV-223 Senior camp- 'Joy with God!'

€ 2'000

Senior camp in Latvia "Joy with God." Special camp for those who is +70. Camp aim-through camp program to give new power, hope and joy in God. Camp for those who are "outside" of life what most of us enjoining every day. Worship time, Bible lessons, prayer time and some special hobby stations and life music evening can give new life joy. (DW)

LV-233 Mission weekend

€ 3'000

Tāšu UMC has been missional already from the beginning of the church when visiting and sharing the gospel in the village of Tāši for 20 years. Jesus has called us to preach the gospel and we have accepted the invitation and we are ready to go outside our community. We have experienced similar projects elsewhere, but this is the time to organise and do it ourselves. The best place to do it is the town near as, as there is no active church.

LV-234 Wesley Camp upgrading towards sustainability

€ 10'000

These major updates for the Wesley Camp are going to increase self-reliance and are going to contribute towards avoiding more dependency on donors. As we are working towards self-sustainability then improving and updating camp equipment is the main resource of more income by renting the camp site. We want this special place to be a blessing to others and profitable. (WTS)

Eurasia www.umc-eurasia.ru

Regional Projects

EA-113 Family Festival

€ 4′500 (Covid)

The societies in Eurasian countries are faced with a high rate of divorces, many dysfunctional families, addictions, and unhealthy children. There is an urgent need of examples of Christian families who know how to build and develop relationships between wife and husband, how to bring up children, and how to take care of elderly people. The annual Family Festival aims to meet this need by strengthening families. The program of this event, consist of music, sports, games, lectures (e.g. on relations, parenting, conflict resolution), small group discussions, etc. The camp had to be postponed several times due to the Corona crisis.

EA-123 Youth Festival "When God Calls" in St. Petersburg

€ 7'000 (Covid)

In 2005, the first Annual Student Forum "You are the light of the world" was held in St. Petersburg. Since then, more than 500 participants from different countries in the Baltics, Eurasia, and Central Asia were inspired for ministry. The Youth Festival "When God Calls" is a next step. (Potential) young lay leaders get together, pray, and learn how to share and show God's love in this world. They are challenged to find what their call is – and they are encouraged and provided with practical ideas and knowledge so that they can go on mission trips in different parts of Eurasia Area every year. For Youth Festival video click here (ELT)

EA-124 Men's seminar "Be Strong and of Good Courage"

€ 3'500

The UMC in Eurasia aims to educate leaders among men who want to deepen their faith and fulfil their role in their families, in the church and in society. In 2021 due to the pandemic the organizing committee changed the format of the meeting to a 4-day open air event. The forum program is planned in such a way that men of faith can be filled spiritually and experience the spirit of unity and adventure. In 2022 the event will take place in the Far East. The seminar encourages the participants to take responsibility in their faith and in many areas of their lives, including in church ministry. It is important for the participants to be united in common worship and prayer. These times also give them an opportunity to think about how they can serve together in their respective regions. For more info and video click here. (ELT)

EA-212 Winter youth evangelical camp

€ 2'000

The Winter youth evangelical camp in Central Asia is an annual event that helps about 30-40 young people to hear about Jesus, learn about faith and church and enjoy Christian fellowship. The camp is held as a follow up event after summer evangelical tent camp where young people meet and get acquainted with young Christian believers for the first time. Every church invites non-believers to the camp. They enjoy entertainment like games, hiking, gifts, and competitions and also have Bible messages, personal faith stories and small group discussions. The winter gathering helps to continue the work with young people, share faith and fellowship with them, help them to get rooted in their decision to follow Christ. (WTS)

EA-235 Bethel Ministry - Camps for children with special needs

€ 12'000

Getting education and communicating with peers is a problem for people with special needs without the inclusive educational system. This creates serious life-long problems with their socialization, employment and family relations. The aim of the Bethel Camps in Voronezh is the social adaptation for over 70 people with special physical or mental needs and their families. The Bethel Program is based on our faith and respect for each personality. We believe, that each one of us regardless physical or mental condition, gender, race and nationality, worldview and financial level is the image of God, a unique personality worthy of respect, possessing an ability of self-development and having a need to experience love of the Creator and care of a neighbour each day. The program usually includes everyday prayer meetings and Bible studies, fairy-tail therapy sessions, creative workshops and crafts, musical events, dancing and sports activities, where people with social needs could participate freely, socialize, study and rest together as well as interact with volunteers and friends. They had chance to enjoy bathing in the river and catch the sun, do arts and communicate both on Biblical topics and their life value. Bethel Camp is held regularly twice during summer. Volunteers from Methodist churches in Voronezh and Eurasia serve to people with special needs and Down syndrome and their families.

Central and Southern Europe

www.umc-cse.org

Regional Project

MSE-101 Salary Support for pastors in Central and Southern Europe

€ 20'000

Approximately 110 active clergy are currently leading the UMC in East Central Europe and the Balkans. In times of serious economic and social problems (poverty, unemployment, migration) they are accepting the challenge to speak of God's love – and to live it. Their committed and creative service includes much more than worship services and pastoral care, and has, in many cases, positive effects far beyond the local churches. Local funding is increasing, but although the pastors' salaries are partially very low, the local churches are not able to fully finance them from their own resources. (WTS)

Albania www.kbm.al

AL-102 Summer Camp for Training Church Leaders

€ 3'500

The annual Summer Camps have proved to be a helpful instrument to identify and equip local leaders who are willing to take on responsibility for churches and for their transformational role in Albanian society. They offer an opportunity to relax, to enjoy fellowship, to grow in faith, and to have times of learning and sharing (e.g. communication, decision-making, how to deal with conflicts, etc.). In addition, they bring people of the five local churches together to create a mutual understanding of belonging to each other and to the Methodist family as a whole. Growing numbers of participants made it necessary to introduce a second annual camp. (ELT)

AL-103 Early Intervention Centre in Tirana

€ 8'500 (OPM)

In 2018, the UMC in Albania started an Early Intervention Centre in the city of Tirana. This Centre aims to develop educational programs for children with special needs, establish parent-child relationships, run parenting courses, and establish partnerships with organisations and public schools for their integration. The ministry, which is led by a multidisciplinary group of specialists, is not solely about caring for children but specifically about encouraging and empowering them and their parents. (DW)

AL-211 Development of New Churches in Durrës and Librazhd

€ 8'000

The two youngest United Methodist congregations in Albania – Durrës and Librazhd – have been established in 2017 and 2019. Now, Buzaishte is added to this list. As growing churches, they do not want to exist for themselves only, but they aim to be socially relevant and to contribute towards a positive transformation of society by their witness and service. Their work includes, for instance, worship services, Bible studies, ministry with children and language and music courses. Since the earthquake in autumn 2019, there have also been regular visits to the village of Romanat (20km from Durrës) in order to provide people living there with help. (WTS)

AL-221 Diaconia Centre in Pogradec

€ 4'050 (OPM)

The Diacona Centre in Pogradec serves the local community, especially the elderly and infirm, and offers a place for daily encounters and spending time together. The UMC in Pogradec runs the small centre in cooperation with the local association for people with special needs. The centre offers advice and help to those in need when needed. Visitors are grateful for the space and company of others in a similar situation. Books and magazines, but also chess and dominoes are favourites. Soft drinks and coffee are offered. Especially in the cold winter months it is an oasis of warmth. Many of the participants do not have sufficient heating at home or cannot afford it. (DW)

Hungary <u>www.metodista.hu</u>

HU-104 Ministries with Roma

€ 9'200 (OPM)

Through the Ministry with Roma, people belonging to the poorest minority group of Hungarian society are provided with social and educational assistance. The aim is to empower them to be more integrated into society and to be better able to earn their own living. The activities include a social wash-ministry, a social kitchen, educational support for students of elementary and secondary schools, a farm program, preparing Roma leaders, and offering material help like firewood, clothes, or groceries. (DW)

HU-107 Programs at two Methodist Secondary Schools

€ 2'000

The United Methodist Church in Hungary has been successfully running the Forrai Secondary School in Budapest with about 450 students since 2013. This opened up many new opportunities for the UMC to work with both youth and adults (teachers) from outside the church. The activities include weekly Bible and religion classes, community and spiritual programs for the students, English camps, spiritual programs/retreats for the teachers, and pastoral care. In 2018, the UMC in Hungary positively responded to the request to take over responsibility for a second school: the Schola Europa High School in Budapest with about 500 students, as well. Over the course of the years, the number of students continuously increased. (BLC)

North Macedonia www.emc.mk

MK-103 Diakonia North Macedonia "Miss Stone Centre - Strumica"

€ 10'000 (OPM)

About 170 elderly or disabled people receive a hot meal (soup, main course, and dessert) delivered to their houses five times a week. In case of urgent need, they also receive practical help (clothes, medicines, firewood). This program improves the living conditions of the beneficiaries and awakens new hope. In addition to this unique ministry, the "Miss Stone" Centre delivers 50 hot meals to people in poverty who live in the town of Radovish. A home care program that responds to the needs of elderly and disabled people has also been successfully launched. (DW)

MK-107 Diakonia North Macedonia "Home Care Ministry"

€ 18'500 (OPM)

The demand for medical or nursing care for elderly people living alone in the city of Strumica is steadily increasing as an enormous number of young relatives migrate to economically better developed countries. The ministry offers such kind of help to lonely people and thereby improves their quality of life and recovers their self-sustainability. The most important activities include wound dressing, physiotherapeutic massages, personal hygiene and room hygiene. This not only improves their physical condition, but also their ability to take care of themselves and live in dignified conditions, despite their age and health situation. (DW)

Poland <u>www.metodysci.pl</u>

PL-120 Therapeutic Camp for Addicted Adults

€ 3'500 (OPM)

Countless people in rural and urban areas of Poland suffer from alcoholism and substance abuse. In a two-week camp organized by the Social Committee of the UMC in Poland, addicted adults learn to analyse their situation, understand addiction and learn about alternatives. They are encouraged and, as far as possible, empowered to lead a transformed life without alcohol and drug abuse. (DW)

PL-231 Classical music at the Methodists

€ 1'000

The Methodists are a total religious minority in Poland. The Church is usually associated only with Sunday worship; people come to church for baptism, wedding or funeral. We learn by ourselves and from others how to convey God's standards of life to people in a new, unconventional way. Warsaw loves classical music. Through our project, we want to show people associated with culture and not only, but all those who are tired of life, that you can relax and talk about God not only in the church building, but also during relaxation, at a concert. Through Internet transmission, we can reach many people who are looking for God.

(BLC)

RO-101 Church Development in Cluj and Micești

€ 3'500

The members of Cluj and Miceşti UMC have a burning heart for God's mission and aim to reach out to people in the neighbourhood. In addition, they have the vision to establish new churches in other places in Romania. Besides worship services, prayer meetings and Bible studies, the activities include women's conferences, events for couples, sports and English camps, literature ministry, etc. Outreach ministries in nearby villages include diaconal activities and provide, together with a ministry with kids from three orphanages, many opportunities to preach the Gospel and to put love into action. (WTS)

RO-102 Church Planting in Roma Communities

€ 3'100

Roma people are often confronted with social exclusion, poverty, and prejudices. What is true for many countries is a reality in Romania, too. By visiting villages around Cluj-Napoca on a weekly basis, committed members of the UMC in Cluj-Napoca have gained the trust of Roma living there. They try to relieve their distress and to help them spiritually by providing pastoral care, organising special programs for children, sharing the Gospel, implementing discipleship programs, and organising home groups. In Comşeşti, the plans to establish a new congregation and to build a community centre have advanced the furthest. (BLC)

RO-103 New Church Development in Sibiu

€ 4'100

In June 2013, a young man from Cluj UMC was sent to the city of Sibiu. Aiming to establish the second urban United Methodist church in Romania, he started a Bible study group, organised evangelistic events, and became involved in one-to-one discipleship. From the very beginning, he also tried to build ecumenical relationships. Today, there is a hopeful church with many different activities including ministries with women, evangelism events, concerts, and ministries with children (including the responsibility for the operation of an orphanage), camps for teens, and the Lighthouse - a place to meet for small groups. (WTS)

Serbia <u>www.emc.org.rs</u>

RS-104 Kindergarten "KORAB" in Pivnice

€ 6'000 (OPM)

The kindergarten KORAB serves children from the village Pivnice and impacts their families as well. KORAB has existed now for more than 15 years and is run by four members of the local UMC congregation. The kindergarten is located in a rural area where there is only one other kindergarten, with a small capacity for children, that is run by the State. Therefore, KORAB, with its additional 20-25 places for children, is still very much needed. It does not only offer a safe place for children to develop but also helps the parents with education and nurtures and support healthy family relationships. (DW)

RS-110 Weekend Soup Kitchen in Vrbas

€ 4'000 (OPM)

In Vrbas, there are many poor people who depend on help for getting food. There is a public soup kitchen in the city, but it is only open from Monday to Friday. On the weekends, people in need cannot get anything there. That is why the local UMC congregation started a weekend kitchen, offering a tasty and warm meal every Saturday from November to April. There is also space where people can warm up. Here, members of the congregation come into contact with the people in need, are there for them and show them God's love by helping them.

Italy, Portugal and Spain

Italy <u>www.metodisti.it</u>

IT-101 Salary Support for Pastors in International Ministry

€ 10'000

Many Methodist congregations in Italy are very multicultural and international. Its members are often poor of material resources but rich in faith, culture, personal gifts, etc. Pastors of these congregations accompany people of all generation on their journey of discipleship, provide assistance in a variety of forms and empower these people so that they can take responsibility both for themselves and for others. (BLC)

IT-232 Student Pastors and Lay Preachers Leadership Training

€ 6'000

It is important to focus on equipping and empowering our student pastors and lay preachers who have responded to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry by supporting and providing them the Spiritual formation, Christian leadership and discipleship. (ELT)

IT-233 Methodist Church Musical Instruments Development Program

€ 6'000

In the Methodist tradition, singing is a fundamental means of communicating our theology; equipping our local Methodist churches with musical instruments to support church activities and to encourage its members, especially young people, to actively participate during Sunday worship can create a variety of musical ministries that can revitalize local congregations to be better encouraged spiritually as the body of Christ in the world and to contextually communicate God's Grace in our contemporary world. (WTS)

Portugal <u>www.igrejametodista.pt</u>

PT-231 Lordelo Methodist church Solidarity actions

€ 5'500

The Lordelo Methodist Church celebrates its 115th anniversary. The few members are very committed and it is important to them to live the gospel through words and deeds. The church is located in a residential area where underprivileged families live in need. There are young people who study at universities, although they can hardly finance their studies, as well as Africans who live in great need. There was a time in Church history when there was a daily elementary school where people could learn to read and write. After school, numerous other solidarity initiatives were organized, e.g. supporting families in helping children with learning difficulties or organizing meals for people in need. The aim of FMiE's support is the renewal of a multipurpose room and a new kitchen to enable the solidarity initiatives that are already taking place and need to be improved. (DW)

Spain www.iee-protestante.org

SP-108 Diaconal Service for Migrants in Madrid

€ 3'000 (OPM)

The Protestant Social Action is a branch of the Spanish Evangelical Church that focuses on diaconal work. A team of about 40 volunteers help around 450 beneficiaries per month – mostly migrants, women and LGTB people. During this pandemic there are many job-related needs and that is why this project was launched. It should help people to find work alternatives. To do this, two different work areas are combined: First, the skills of each person are identified and then we work individually on each profile in order to find appropriate market niches. The aim of the project is to help people find a job according to their abilities and that suits the various active markets of today. (DW)

SP-231 Timothy Project

€ 3'000

There are three lines of work: 1) training in the Gospel narrative, 2) working on an updated reading of the Apostles' Creed, where new generations can make their own the words that have been proclaimed in the church for centuries, and 3) more specific training (through the pastors of our communities) in the field of philosophy, psychology and sociology. (ELT)

SP-232 Youth Synod

€ 4'000

With the general theme of the Synod, expert collaborators will be sought on the subject, and in work with young people, to offer the subject from their perspective. The work will be complemented with leisure spaces that will also be educational, in faith, in human rights and in healthy and fraternal relational areas.

Fund for Mission in Europe

Members of the Committee

UMC in Germany

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Addresses and links

You may request detailed project information and pictures from the FMiE office or directly from the following church offices, which are responsible for the implementation of the various projects.

The United Methodist Church in Germany

www.emk.de

Bishop Harald Rückert Dielmannstraße 26 DE-60599 Frankfurt am Main, Germany +49 69 242 52 10 bischof@emk.de

EmK-Weltmission Rev. Olav Schmidt Holländische Heide 13 DE-42113 Wuppertal, Germany +49 202 767 01 90 weltmission@emk.de

The United Methodist Church in Central and Southern Europe

www.umc-cse.org

Bishop Stefan Zürcher Badenerstrasse 69 P.O. Box 2111 CH-8021 Zurich 1, Switzerland +41 44 299 30 60 bischof@umc-cse.org

The United Methodist Church in Northern Europe and the Baltics

www.umc-ne.org

Bishop Christian Alsted Rigensgade 21A DK-1316 Copenhagen K, Denmark +45 51 33 14 77 bishop@umc-ne.org

The United Methodist Church in Eurasia

www.umc-eurasia.ru/en/

Bishop Eduard Khegay Khamovnicheskiy Val 24, Stroenie 2 Moscow 119048, Russia +7 495 961 3458 bishop.eduard@umc-eurasia.ru

Igreja Metodista in Portugal

www.igrejametodista.pt

Bispo Sifredo Teixeira Praça do Coronel Pacheco 23 4050-453 Porto, Portugal +351 222 007 410 bispo@igrejametodista.pt

Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia (OPCEMI)

www.metodisti.it

Rev. Mirella Manocchio, President OPCEMI Via Firenze, 38 IT-00184 Roma, Italy +39 064743695 metodismo@chiesavaldese.org

FMiE Office address

Fund for Mission in Europe c/o Andreas Stämpfli Allmendstrasse 7 CH-4410 Liestal, Switzerland +41 61 641 60 21 andreas.staempfli@umc-cse.org

FMiE Bank account

Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche Weltmission - Fund for Mission in Europe IBAN: DE56 5206 0410 0200 4017 73 BIC: GENODEF1EK1

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