

EEA News



'Uniting to serve'

Including EEA's Impact, news from the socio-polical team

From the General Secretary

Here is EEA news, including EEA's Impact - news from the socio-political team. A special newsletter with information about the General Assembly in Bad Liebenzell was sent last week. Did you already subscribe for the GA? Go to <http://www.europeanea.org>



Niek Tramper

Thrilling news about EEA's youth work: EEA 21

- EEA21 site continues to average around 1600 long term visitors per week and is steadily receiving more news, blogs and resources from a wider cross section of folk which is encouraging.
- Folk are accepting invitations to join the Round Table Forum at the EEA General Assembly. Colin Piper, Jim Brown and Vincenza la Porta will lead this, with the promotion and invitations to the younger leaders' stream.
- EEA 21 is organizing a youth leaders consultation in the Balkans. Host will be the Bulgarian EA
- Recently new promising contacts were established with American organizations interested in European youth ministry. The goal is a new paradigm for youth ministry and mission partnership in Europe which utilizes and maximizes American resources as part of a coherent and clear European strategy.
- Very promising visits were made to Austria, Holland, Sweden.
- EEA 21 will also be present at the Mission Net congress in Germany at the end of this year. A good number of youth agencies want to join together under the EEA21 banner to form a youth ministry village at the Mission-net Exhibition.

<http://www.europeanea.org/youth.html>

<http://www.eea21.eu/>

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News from European EA Info and prayer request, items: office@europeanea.org



Uniting to reach young Europeans for Christ



**European Student Forum
EEA - IFES
24 – 29 September 2011**

God changes society by enabling his people to make a difference in their spheres of influence. Students, who often become future leaders in the society, need to reflect on how to be "salt and light" in the public arena across Europe while still at university. They need support, mentoring help and ongoing advice to prepare them for a life of witness in their homes and universities, as well as future workplaces and communities.

Based on these convictions, European Evangelical Alliance (EEA) and IFES are inviting students and young graduates to the European Student Forum (ESF) in Brussels, Belgium.

Please visit the ESF2011 website for more information:

<http://www.forum2011.ifeseurope.org>



The Roma – a prophetic community?

(by Julia Doxat Purser)

“The Roma people hold a prophetic place in God’s world, bearing witness to the possibility of being a discreet ethnic group that does not seek its own land, its own power base, and its own desire to control others. As such the Roma body forth a vision for a stateless world, an earth which belongs to God and can be shared freely by all people.”



(Amnesty International)

This is just one of the remarkable statements made by Christian ministries working with some of Europe’s 10-12 million Roma peoples when EEA contacted them recently. Could the Roma be a blessing to wider society? Many would have their doubts.

According to the European Roma Rights Centre, “Since 2008, the European Roma Rights Centre has registered at least 48 violent attacks against Roma in **Hungary**, at least 19 attacks in the **Czech Republic** and at least 10 attacks in **Slovakia** resulting in a combined total of at least 11 fatalities and involving Molotov cocktails, hand grenades and guns, police violence, arson attacks, mob violence and demonstrations.” (www.errc.org).

Last summer, France was severely condemned for expelling many Romanian & Bulgaria Roma. But this policy is common. In April alone, Amnesty International reports evictions in Italy, Romania & Serbia. Meanwhile, in Hungary, the far right Jobbik party held an anti-Roma march in Gyöngyöspata. Since then, vigilante groups have been patrolling the area harassing Roma residents. Apparently, the police have done nothing.

Why these attacks are happening is complicated. The Roma make up a significant proportion of the population throughout the Balkans and Hungary (7%). Across Europe, centuries of segregation, growing mistrust from both sides and scapegoating, unemployment, poverty and alcoholism and deep cultural differences all feed the problem. Many Roma feel that their survival is threatened.

We all hate the thought of Roma being attacked but most of us would have no idea what we could do to help. EEA has discovered it is not hard to start learning. Of course, we should all be praying and speaking up against extremism. Extremists gain power when good people remain quiet. We should demand the police act fairly and don’t allow Roma to be scapegoated. But we can also be praying for the Roma themselves, learning about their culture, supporting Roma ministries and making friends with Roma people.

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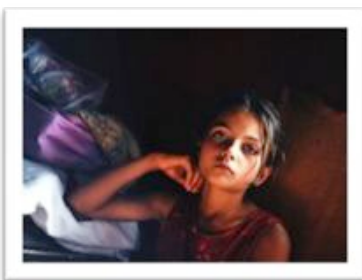
The Roma – a prophetic community?

(by Julia Doxat Purser)

Roma ministry experts gave this advice for those who do not know where to start.

Listen, take time, befriend, be respectful, humble yourself and expect to learn. Don't be scared. Don't emphasise differences, just treat Roma as equals. Only a minority behave badly. Some have a victimhood mentality but this can be overcome. Story telling, music and worship make a deep impact. Make friends and you will discover amazing gifts and wisdom. Many Roma have no self esteem but their culture has so much to offer us, so honour them. There are many practical needs – language and literacy learning, broader education, clothing, help in finding work and housing etc. But the most important need is love and taking time to help Roma people gain hope.

There are strong and growing Roma Christian communities across Europe. Meanwhile, SIL/Wycliffe are busy with Bible translation projects. And there is much to pray for. See the prayer requests.



(Reuters)

For more information:

www.romabible.com
www.lutonromachurch.blogspot.com
http://www.romadestiny.org/eng_index.html
www.romaministry.org

Julia Doxat-Purser would be happy to try to help direct people with specific queries.

We would also welcome your stories and ideas regarding Roma ministry and your prayers, comments and suggestions re how EEA could support the informal network of Roma ministries.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the Roma:

- Christian leadership among the Roma, people with integrity
- Roma children and young people
- For spiritual breakthrough where there is darkness (e.g. alcoholism, sexual abuse, trafficking, hopelessness).
- Bible translation projects.
- Many more Christians to love and reach out to the Roma.
- More links between Roma Christians and ministries across Europe.

And please keep praying about the growing levels of intolerance

News from Lampedusa, Italy

From the Italian EA

As expected, migrants keep on arriving on the shores of Lampedusa island. Just in the beginning of June, more than 1500 people left Libyan ports and made it. Unfortunately, there are more than 500 people missing. They shipwrecked during the sailing. The civil war in Lybia makes it difficult to control what happens on the coast. So refugees willing to cross the Mediterranean are going they are hoping to find a boat for them.



On the Italian side, we keep on assisting local authorities and charities in helping those who come to Lampedusa. NTs distribution is the main thing, because the refugees are immediately taken to other parts of the country.

There is an interesting development in Mineo (Catania, Sicily) where a refugee centre with more than 2000 people is located. Our workers are developing an important relationship with the Mayor of this little village. The small hall of the local Evangelical church is used to show the movie Jesus in different languages to the refugees and to provide internet connections for them to communicate with their families. The Mayor also agreed to show the film Jesus in the town hall as a kind of cinema.

On the 18th of June the Italian Evangelical Alliance hosted a seminar in Rome on the theme "Integration away from Emergency". It was a time for reflection on what has been happening so far in the attempt to overcome the culture of emergency. Since these phenomena will stay with us long term, our responsibility as Christians is to act beyond emergency and towards fair practices and higher standards of justice. Four Italian MPs joined the seminar.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for refugees
in Italy

Pray for
Kazakhstan
"anti-sect"
pressure
increases (p. 8)



MISSION-NET On the move!

It is hard to believe that the Mission-Net Congress will be hosted in Erfurt, Germany in six months time. Unbelievable. Although much progress has been made since March, many major obstacles remain!



National Motivators:

For those National Motivators who have been onboard Mission-Net since 2007, the degree of networking and national branding has greatly improved. A number of countries in Europe, however remain without National Motivator. Please help us identify national leaders to promote Mission-Net locally.

Call to prayer and fasting:

We encourage you to fast and prayer for Europe and the Mission-Net movement every Wednesday. Specific prayers this month include additional accommodation for 1000 people in Erfurt, Germany (expected number: 3500 people) and the registration of 66 more Christian organizations (only 84 of the expected 150 organizations have registered to-date).

Financial situation/ EU funding:

Our initial application for EU funding has been rejected, and plans to submit a second application are underway. Our financial situation remains dire. Pray that we would know whether God expects "just confidence" or "hard work" (or both J) to make Mission-Net 2011/12 happen this year.

Key positions to fill:

We are still in need of someone to co-ordinate Registration/Visa Applications, as well as a Seminar&Workshop Co-coordinator, Mission Advice Centre Co-coordinator and Counseling Co-coordinator. Please help us identify people to fill these key positions soon!

PR/Marketing resources available:

We encourage you to read the Mission-Net magazine <<http://goo.gl/vRKxp>> and/or make use of our great PR material online: <http://mission-net.org/mission-net/spread-the-word>. Effort is being put into translating the Mission-Net website into numerous European languages, but resources are limited.

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European Leadership Forum (ELF)

ELF had its congress in Eger at the end of May. It was very well organized and a major source of teaching, materials, tracks. Julia Doxat-Purser was one of the speakers, teaching on "Thinking & Acting Strategically on Freedom of Conscience". Strategic ELF speakers are very eager to serve you in a local situation. ELF can help with setting up a national forum using best of ELF resources on a national basis. See more at ELF website: www.euroleadership.org and look at the different networks

New leadership program in Europe

Dr. Harold Kallemeyn, former professor of the Faculté Libre in Aix en Provence, has organized an extended leadership training programme that is used widely in Africa. Now they start programs in Europe. I can recommend this program as it concentrates on Bible study-in-dept related to today's challenges. Read more: www.timothyleadershiptraining.org.



4/14 Global Summit being held in Singapore in September from 6th – 9th

In order to facilitate the process of candidate selection, please read the attached invitation and pay attention to the following:

1. Please sign up as a candidate immediately at www.4-14movement.com
2. This invitation is personal. Therefore, it is not transferable.
3. The Steering Committee will confirm the delegates by May 15th.
4. Once a candidate becomes a delegate, he/she will receive the official registration information.
5. We have a limited number of scholarships that will cover hotel, meals, and transportation within Singapore. Airfare will be the responsibility of the candidate himself/herself. Our context in Europe presents many challenges but we want to serve God among the children of our nations and to be advocates for them both inside and outside the Church. An important step in this is to identify those in our country who are also champions for children and to have a national 4/14 Forum.

During this 3rd 4/14 Global Summit there will be a National Facilitating Team (NFT) FORUM as well as tracks regrouping those with a particular gifting or interest in the following Tracks:

1. Pastors
2. Media
3. Generation 'Y' (18-29 yrs)
4. Children in Transformational Ministry (12-17 yrs)
5. Academic and Theology Transformation
6. Government & Politics
7. Holistic Children's Ministry through the local church
8. Missiology
9. Mission Agencies
10. Education

For further information download the 4/14 Window Booklet and strategy documents from www.4to14window.com



Kazakhstan

“Anti-sect” pressure increases

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbaev and the Mayor of Almaty have started speaking strongly against so called “sects”, which seems to be any faith community other than approved Muslims and the Orthodox Church. “Anti-sect” centres are given regular access to TV and the media where they can denounce minorities, including Evangelical Christians. Surveillance and raids are increasing. Some suspect that these actions are preparing the way for a more restrictive law on religion. In the past, international advocacy has prevented previous laws from being implemented.

Please pray and be ready to campaign if needed.

News from HOPE.II



Recently Hope II, that had its congress in Budapest in May launched a new site, www.hopetalks.eu, where the plenary sessions can be followed again. This is excellent material, a great source for use in small groups, classes and simply for personal study.

Vista research papers

One talk that was not shared in Budapest was Darrell Jackson's 'Facing the facts'. This is now on line on *HOPEtalks* site, a very helpful oversight of challenges facing us in Europe today. Darrell heads up **The Nova Research Centre**, which publishes a quarterly bulletin called VISTA. This is sent via a free subscription service. You can subscribe by sending an email to rb@novaresearch.eu.

Go to: Vista: communicating research and innovation

Darrell and his team have produced really excellent material on migration, Islam in Europe, faith in European politics, secularism in Europe, and new spirituality among Europeans.

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(for more information contact the EEA Office)