

JESC
2020

“

VISION AND VALUES

FOR EUROPE.

”

The purpose of JESC

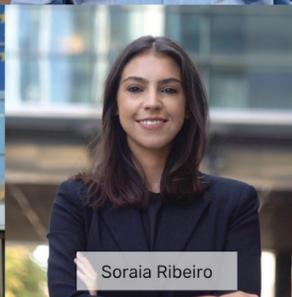
“Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. We witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity” (...) “I invite everyone to renewed hope.”

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti)

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OUR TEAM



THE TEAM *(as of January 2021)*

- Peter Rožič SJ, Director & JCEP Social Apostolate Coordinator
- Botond Feledy, Deputy Director & Secretary for Leadership
- Eleonora Vitale, Development Manager
- Martin Maier SJ, Secretary for European Affairs
- Edmond Grace SJ, Secretary for Ecology
- Wiggert Molenaar SJ, Administration and Spirituality Officer
- Gianmarco Palermo, ELP Officer
- Soraia Ribeiro, Communication Officer
- Telmo Olascoaga, Junior Ecology Officer
- Marco Fornasiero, Brussels Alumni Chapter Coordinator

JESC 2020/former employees and trainees:

- Anders Brøndum Holstborg, IT and Strategy Officer
- Alba Requejo, Content and Social Media Assistant
- Zsofia Voda, ELP Assistant
- Laura Sear, Video and Media Assistant
- Bérénice Lang, Assistant to the Director

JESC former volunteers:

- Julia Sanz, summer intern from Comillas Pontifical University

JCEP Steering Committee for Social Delegates and Social Centres

- P. Rožič, Peter (SVN) - Coordinator
- Mr. Palermo, Gianmarco - Assistant
- Mr. Arancibia, Luis (Spain)
- P. Ares, Alberto (ESP) - GIAN
- Ms. Celia Deane-Drummond (UK) – LSRI
- P. Inama, Markus (ASR)
- Ms. Paiva Couceiro, Teresa (Portugal) – XN

A STORY OF GRACE AND GROWTH AMID CRISIS

The year 2020 challenged us in ways we never could have expected. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted our team and its mission. More importantly, the crisis almost hijacked the world around us and hit the most vulnerable particularly harshly. Yet, despite and at times perhaps because of this global crisis, the 2020 JESC story is a story of grace and growth. Our response to the crisis made JESC and many Jesuit Justice work stronger and more effectively. Countless members of our communities rose to the occasion. Although my words feel insufficient, I am proud of, and grateful for, each and every one.

First, I am thankful for the good example and works of the members of European Justice networks: social apostolate delegates, social centres, the JRS-Europe network and the Xavier Network. Numerous and collaborative projects within these networks witnessed an unprecedented creativity in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable. Second, I am grateful to the many peo-

ple and communities JESC works with and for in Brussels: the Fellows and the Alumni of the European Leadership Programme; our Church partners, especially the members of the European Laudato Si' Alliance; the emerging and beautiful chapter of the Jesuit Alumni of Brussels; and many others.

Finally, the deepest and happiest word of gratitude goes to the great team of JESC. What a year 2020 A.D. was for us. In the face of so many difficult and challenging moments we represented the best of the Jesuit, Christian and European vision and values.

The 2020 crisis offered us an opportunity and a challenge to continue giving our best in carrying out our vision, mission, values and objectives. We redefined these over the past few years and put them in motion as measurable processes and expected results in 2020, while continuing our core projects. With our partners, JESC completed its initial objectives directed towards the implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) and to serve the people on behalf of our programmes and secretariats (Europe, Justice, Ecology, Leadership). Please allow me to tell you how we did so through four interrelated aspects of our 2020 success: Entering vulnerability; spiritual conversion; team strength and creativity in opening up to new projects, campaigns and partnerships.



I. ENTERING VULNERABILITY

The year of 2020 was marked by vulnerability due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We had to step out of our comfort zone in order to adapt to the new situation with measures worthy of a Jesuit response. Like many other enterprises and organisations, we had to learn on the ground without knowing when the pandemic would end. Yet, our response was not the one of rigid structures and processes. Instead, we addressed the crisis by entering it through vulnerability. Vulnerability has this transformative power to move you from an impossible situation to a dynamic one. Using vulnerability we had to accept going through unstable feelings and emotions. We had to use creativity and enormous courage to step into the unknown with trust and great compassion.

We started thinking about how to best use this historical challenge and how to continue our mission while it first seemed that the world had stopped. We initiated a project that accompanied our readers throughout the quarantine time called "Closer through Crisis". From the first week on,

we established meetings by Zoom and phone calls and looked for ways to maintain strong links among the members of our team. Showing vulnerability and sharing our strengths between us was key for adapting to the circumstances, and so contributing to the implementation of the UAPs, Universal Apostolic Preferences.

Vulnerability was also key in the launch of new projects such as the emerging networks, including ELSiA, the European Laudato Si' Alliance, and the Brussels-based Jesuit alumni group. Shaping and launching such projects in such



circumstances requires exercising tremendous trust in other people and organizations, and in their energy. Another project we put in place was to encourage ecological and fraternal behaviours in line with the call of Pope Francis in his encyclicals *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*. While the efforts made are imperfect, we are making first steps towards our own ecological and social conversion.

2. THE POWER OF SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Spiritual Conversation is an element of spiritual discernment. It is a wonderful means of a praying heart that helps us to come not only to an optimum decision process but also to focus on active listening and intentional speaking. These processes enable building a group by establishing trust that is based on vulnerability.

JESU was involved in these kinds of processes in a number of ways. I had the privilege to assist in establishing the Jesuit



Alumni Chapter in Brussels. I assisted the development of the Social Apostolate Steering Committee. I witnessed formation of different cohorts of our European Leadership Programme and its Fellows during their retreats. With the ELP as well as with the Passion for Europe group we noticed something important about ourselves: that we are strong in forming others and can provide long-term formation to the people in the EU/Brussels bubble, especially the youth, and to the people and partners of the Jesuit Justice networks around Europe and the Near East. And I witnessed a very important rebirth of the JESC team itself, which leads me to another and crucial JESC quality of 2020.



3. TEAM STRENGTH

The months of 2020 that preceded the outbreak of the pandemic were dedicated to team reflection on our values, mission and strategic goals. Following the meaningful advice of JESC professional coaches and our internal discernment processes, we came to an agreement on our most beautiful team inner workings: Depth and Team as our core values; Good will, Rituals and Openness as our typical values; Clarity, Impact and Focus as our desired values; and Accountability and Commitment as our minimal standards. With that, we took time to stop, step back and look at our experience. We celebrated the successful implementation of our values in our daily experience, and took notes for improvement.

During the deconfinement time, we were very pleased to see how we could adapt to the pandemic situation, and still incarnate the internal values of our organisation.

We defined key performance indicators that would allow us to better measure the impact we have as a non-for-profit organisation. In addition, the JESC group of now four Jesuits worked together to support the JESC efforts in contributing in a distinctly Jesuit way to our implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences.



4. CREATIVE RESPONSE:

NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Enriched by our experience as a team, JESC, in collaboration with other partners, launched new projects, such as the Jesuit Alumni of Brussels (JAB) and the European Laudato Si' Alliance (ELSi'A).

A Jesuit Alumni Brussels Chapter was established, a small group of dedicated and discerning leaders from the alumni of the Jesuit educational world met and expressed their common desire to take care of something we received and treasured. It started as an idea shared among Jesuit alumni friends working and living in Brussels and its international and European institutions bubble. We would like to give back - and further to Europe - from what we received as education in Jesuit schools and formation programmes around the world.

Soon, we will invite all possible members to this future association as well as prepare the bylaws and legal requirements for the beginning of 2021.

2. ELSiA. Following the successful Laudato Si' Reflection Day in May 2020, JESC with other Catholic associations at the European level continued building the platform for promoting the voice of the encyclical Laudato Si' in Europe. Our vision is the fruit of the Creative Spirit as well as common action as well as prayer through a





founding retreat and beyond. Together we aspire to answer the call to slow down, listen and wonder at the beauty of the creation, while living in a rapidly changing world. All of the work done would not be possible without the involvement of numerous partners. As the Director of JESC, I would like to name a few and their role. Mgr Lebeaupin, the Apostolic Nuncio to the EU honoured us by his support and visits to our premises.

My participation in the External Relations and Social Affairs commissions of COMECE enabled us to enter in strong partnership with Catholic institutions on those matters. It was an immense pleasure for me to participate in the Laudato Si Reflection Day webinar organised by ELSiA, a network we created with other partner organisations. In addition, I offered a workshop by Zoom to the teachers of our Lituianian Jesuit high school in Kaunas in Universal Apostolic Preferences. I was happy to participate in ELP paper defenses and graduations as well as other ELP activities. And I am thank-

ful for having received some great training (including the Discerning Leadership Programme), through which I learned a lot and gained many wonderful friends.

I hope and pray we will be able to continue serving the European Common Good through all of our activities together with our partners. We aim to form a group of enthusiastic European leaders, whose will and spirit will work towards that same laudable objective.

Peter Rožič SJ
JESC Director

MISSION

PURPOSE

Vision and values for Europe

VISION

Implement the processes
of the Universal Apostolic
Preferences

MISSION

Promote Faith and
Justice by Rediscovering the
European Common Good

STRATEGIC GOALS

We have four vision-based strategic goals that help us to implement the Universal Apostolic Preferences.

Europe

Give a voice to the excluded in the European political process and accompany groups committed to rethink Europe.

Justice

Bring closer through “deeper renewal” the Jesuit social apostolates in Europe through service, advocacy, formation and research.

Ecology

Accompany the European ecological transition towards sustainability, relying on ecological apostolates of Jesuits & partners.

Leadership

Reinforce Jesuit and Christian networks through leadership formation.



VALUES

Our understanding of organizational values follows the scheme proposed by Patrick Lencioni.

Core values

Depth, Team

Accidental values

Good Will, Rituals, Openness

Aspirational values

Clarity, Impact, Focus

Permission-to-Play values

Accountability, Commitment

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Late last year marked the beginning of the Ecojesuit-Europe network (formerly 'Think Big in Europe'), which is made up of people who are part of 'the wider Jesuit story' and who are drawn to care for our common home. The basic aim of Ecojesuit-Europe is to provide opportunities for conversation among its members with a view to being surprised by the Holy Spirit.

Ecojesuit-Europe was launched at an online event on 26 February. The participants introduced themselves to each other. The network members, which at that time numbered eighteen, came from nine countries from around Europe - from Hungary to Portugal, from Ireland to Lebanon. From the very outset they have displayed a very positive attitude both with regard to having access to this network of solidarity and to the possibilities which it opens up for working together across borders and across disciplines. In particular the shared Ignatian heritage is greatly valued.

A second meeting of the network took place on 16 April against the background of the Covid pandemic. The conversation was

primarily about the impact of the pandemic as it overturned so many of our assumptions about so many areas of life. One member - Stefan Einsiedel based in Munich - offered to draw up a short survey for the members to record their reflections in a more structured way. One theme which emerged from this survey was gratitude for being able to slow down and spend time with family and being able to stop and think. The Covid experience also brought the question of travel and its necessity more to the fore.



On 29 June, Pedro Walpole, Coordinator of the global Ecojesuit network, participated in the third Ecojesuit-Europe webinar. He gave a wide ranging account of the work of the Society in the different parts of the world. This was an

important moment for European network in developing its global dimension. It was a moment of recognition.

It was also becoming clear that Ecojesuit-Europe was still in its earliest stages of development. There was a need to develop the network by building up working relationships and for that it was felt that the limitations imposed by the Covid pandemic made this difficult. Not being able to meet face to face was seen as a particular handicap.

The Secretary for Ecology, in his capacity as Coordinator of Ecojesuit-Europe, decided at this point to conduct a series of in depth conversations with every member of the network. It was very clear that each member has a real passion for both companionship and collaboration as part of a network of people with an interest in ignatian spirituality and a commitment to caring for our common home. There was a shared view that only by developing a sense of fellowship would it be possible to develop viable working relationships.

It was also clear that there was much diversity in the group, members were involved in spirituality, practical field work, education, scientific research, philosophical reflection, public policy formation and all were aware of the need for their experience to be complemented by others. Three particular themes emerged where some form of collaboration appeared to be possible.

Firstly, there was an issue internal to the Jesuits, namely, how to make progress in living the Fourth Apostolic Preference in the context of community life. A group of Jesuits from around Europe have been sharing their reflections on



this matter. Secondly, a number of the founding members of Ecojesuit-Europe are also involved in the HEST (Higher Education for Social Transformation) Ecology Cluster which is in the process of researching the issue of Food Waste. The Ecojesuit-Europe network could have a role to play in the dissemination of its findings. The HEST project is ongoing and it is hoped that it will link up with Ecojesuit-Europe when its findings are ready.

A project on story-telling between different parts of the world has been taking shape over the past number of months. It began with an editorial in Eco-Bites entitled 'Faces of Climate Change'. This gave rise to a conversation involving people in JESC, Ecojesuit in Manila, Centre Sèvres Paris and Hekima College Nairobi. The project envisages the setting up of one-on-one encounters between a 'Teller' who has direct experience of environmental devastation and a 'Listener' who is willing to hear that story. "It takes hope to

tell a story of struggle - and courage to become part of that hope." The basic concept is now in place and the next task is to devise a means of putting it into practise.

This year also marked the public launch of ELSi'A - the European Laudato Si' Alliance - on 28 May with the Laudato Si' Reflection Day. This took the form of a webinar with more than 400 participants. Another significant moment was on 29 September when ELSi'A hosted an online discussion with eight members of the European Parliament. Both the Director, Peter Rožič SJ, and the Secretary for Ecology, Edmond



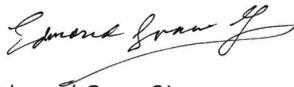
Grace SJ, are members of the Steering Group of ELSi'A. In September JESC took on a full-time Junior Ecology Officer - Telmo Olascoaga, graduate in Law and Business Management from Deusto University and Masters in International Relations and Political Economy from King's College London. This has doubled the capacity of JESC Ecology. Telmo also participates in ELSi'A Working Group meetings. One of his

tasks is the production of Eco-Bites. The recent launch of the "Stories" section brings the personal background of the key people behind faith-based environmental activism. This initiative is designed to draw on the diverse geography of eco-advocacy across regions, and to introduce the reader to what has motivated others to undergo ecological conversion. In conjunction with this, Telmo has participated in the Reimagining Development Forum in which a global youth network has delivered a number of policy proposals on how to relate ecology to international social justice. As a follow-up, he took part at the Economy of Francesco Summit celebrated in Assisi through the production of a video testimony.

In December, JESC office waste reduction measures and carbon footprint were submitted to CIDSE's Ecological Footprint Project and will soon feature on its website. Together with this, JESC Ecology has begun developing an instrument to accurately estimate activity-related carbon emissions for small organisations. This project aims at deepening ecolog-

ical consciousness through real-time monitoring and the dissemination of practices, and it is intended for export to other social centres and ground-level actors. The first prototype is expected to be launched in early 2021 for in-house testing and application at JESC.

Following the Article 17 Dialogue Seminar held in the European Parliament on 25 September 2019, Edmond Grace SJ has developed the paper which he delivered at that event into a book on business and ecology in the light of *Laudato Si'*. This book has a Foreword by former EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik and an Afterword by Cardinal Jean Claude Hollerich SJ and is currently going through the process of publication.



Edmond Grace SJ
Secretary for Ecology



“

WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE NEED TO CARE FOR OUR
COMMON HOME, OUR PLANET,
WE APPEAL TO THAT SPARK OF UNIVERSAL
CONSCIOUSNESS AND MUTUAL CONCERN
THAT MAY STILL BE PRESENT
IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS. ”

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti Encyclical

EUROPE'S CRISIS AND LEADERSHIP EXAMPLE

The year was marked by two phenomena regarding the European Leadership Programme, the flagship project of the Secretariat for Leadership. One was Covid-19 measures while the other was growth. The ELP staff is proud of the fact that they managed to recruit eight Fellows for the Spring Cohort and fourteen Fellows for the Fall Cohort despite the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis.

The Fellows of the Spring Cohort were able to spend two weeks free from the first Covid-19 measures and the consecutive lockdown. They passed the jury session in the old quarters of the former Jesuit University of Antwerp. The Cohort met with the former President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and discussed leadership, politics and policy.

The ELP managed to transform 90% of its planned events to an e-version on the internet. Meeting the speakers via Zoom came relatively easy. We also introduced



new elements, such as the Fligby leadership online simulation game. This was a spin-off software development of the Central European University, where Fellows received game-specific individual coaching by Szilvia Fodor PhD, who analysed their performance.

While the number of traineeship places has shrunk significantly in the European Institutions as well as outside in the EU ecosystem, the Secretariat increased the number of Fellows. This is due to team efforts and the maturation of our

JESC team as well as to the support we received from our partners, such as CIDSE, FAFCE, ELSiA, MCE Europe, Caritas Europa. All these offered paid traineeship placements. Other trainees came from the European Commission Bluebook programme, from the Schuman and other traineeship programs of the European Parliament and from the Committee of the Regions. Besides the public organisations and NGOs, we were glad to host trainees of corporations, advocacy offices and consultancies.

We have strengthened the ELP alumni network. By the end of the current Cohort, it will consist of more than 30 Fellows. They participate in open classes organised by our team in JESC. We closely follow the evolution of their careers and, among other things, we are proud that a Fellow got accepted to the prestigious Young Professional Program of the European Commission.

We are also proud to report that 96 percent of the Fellows keep or find a new job after their graduations. They keep connection with one another (85% engagement rate), while



creating a worldwide network since just one out of two decide to stay in Brussels. The latter is a great indicator for the Secretariat since the ELP is meant to let the fellows find their own path and their own calls.

We have launched professional mentoring sessions for the Fellows beside the spiritual coaching that they received since the first cohort. They meet three times with Jesuit alumni in Brussels who are at the peak of their career, supporting our Fellows in the discernment of their vocation.

The June 2020 Spring Cohort graduation was a success: more than 40 participants (maximum number of people allowed in the Brussels Press Club due to Covid-19 measures)



attended, enjoying the keynote address by Shéhérazade Semsar-de Boisséson, a businesswoman and entrepreneur, currently the CEO of Politico Europe. Klaus Welle, Secre-

tary General of the European Parliament, as well as Franck Janin SJ, the president of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials (JCEP), took part at the ceremony, among other distinguished guests. We hope to nurture the partnerships for further fruits.

A cooperation was launched with Maison Josefa, founded by Gilbert Granjon and his wife, Anabelle Roig-Granjon. Five Fellows have been hosted there since October 2020.



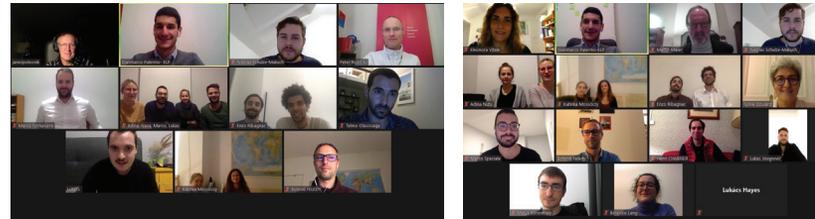
Similarly, another five Fellows are staying in an apartment in Schaarbeek, belonging to the Dutch-speaking region of the Jesuits. The French-speaking Province offered to renovate the house in rue Fauchille for the use of ELP. The works started in August 2020.

We widened further the recruitment efforts of the ELP application campaigns. We reached out to Jesuit networks as well as to COMECE's youth network platform and many local – provincial – level works and youth groups.

The Secretariat hosted Zsofia Voda as assistant to ELP for a year. The position was taken over by Gianmarco Palermo in September 2020.



Pictures from some ELP sessions:



Botond Feledy
Secretary for Leadership

KEEPING EUROPEAN VISION AND HOPE ALIVE

In these times of deep crisis, JESC and its partners intend to keep alive hope and the vision of Europe based on the Gospel, Christian social thinking and the orientations of the last general congregations of the Society of Jesus. Because of Covid the European Affairs Secretariat organized many meetings by video conferences.

On 18 march Martin Maier gave a guest lecture for the Master students of the “Droit des Affaires Internationales et Européennes” of the Institut Catholique in Paris by zoom. On 3 may he participated in the Round Table discussion “La Fraternité à l’épreuve du coronavirus: des modèles de solidarité à repenser? Renouveler la solidarité entre les peuples: une réponse interna-



tionale à la crise du Covid est-elle possible?” This venue was organized by la Fraternité Politique de la Communauté du Chemin Neuf.

On 17 June he was a speaker in the Virtual Coffee of the Chapel for Europe with Herman Van Rompuy and Victoria Martín de la Torre on Corona crisis – a crossroad for the EU? (photo credit: Chapel for Europe)

Martin Maier continued to be spiritual adviser of a number of organizations and initiatives. On 15 May he had a Zoom conference with IXE – Initiative Christians for Europe on the current state of the crisis. In the following meeting in October he collaborated in the drafting of a Declaration on the new asylum and migration pact.

Also the meetings and activities of the group “Passion for Europe” had to be organized virtually.

The September session “Europe as an evolving family of peoples” planned in the Spiritual Centre La Pairelle could not take place. Instead, we organized a Zoom conference on 28 november on “A Europe of fraternity and social friendship” dedicated to Pope Francis’ new encyclical “Fratelli tutti” and his letter on Europe.



As spiritual adviser of the International Christian Union of Business Executives UNIAPAC, Martin Maier participated in several virtual meetings, among them a Zoom conference with Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, and Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank, on consequences of the Coronavirus crisis. He was invited to be a member of the Ethic Commission of the European Technology Chamber



(photo credit: European Technology chamber)

(www.eutec.org) where in november he gave a keynote speech on “Business as a vocation and ethical implications”.

Martin Maier contributed to reflect about the current crisis and the future of Europe with numerous articles and interviews published on the JESC’s website, Stimmen der Zeit, Choisir, Vies consacrées, La Croix, Radio RCF et En Question.

Handwritten signature of Martin Maier SJ.

Martin Maier SJ
Secretary for European Affairs

“ I DREAM OF A EUROPE
THAT IS A FAMILY AND A COMMUNITY,
A EUROPE THAT IS A FRIEND TO EACH AND ALL,
A EUROPE THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND GENEROUS.
EUROPE, FIND YOURSELF!
BE YOURSELF! ”

Pope Francis, 40th anniversary of COMECE

SOCIAL APOSTOLATE NETWORKS RESPONDING TO COVID

The year 2020 was a tough one for the world, our communities and our mission of justice. The Justice Secretariat adapted quickly in order to keep serving the Justice Networks of the Jesuit Conference (JCEP). While most of the activities planned for the year were transformed into an online format many plans came to fruition. First, we all came “Closer through Crisis”, which was a campaign that we initiated to help us foster hope and creativity during these hard times across Europe. We continued to campaign for the release from unjust imprisonment of Fr. Stan Swamy, a Jesuit in India who has dedicated his entire life serving the most marginalised. In addition, the Secretariat took part in organising major events of the year: the Social Apostolate Delegates Annual Meeting (in Brussels and Leuven), the Jesuit Social Centres Directors Annual Meeting (online) and the Social Apostolate Steering Committee work (online), which will serve as a Task Force for the Social Apostolate Networks Congress, a major event planned for 2022 in Loyola.

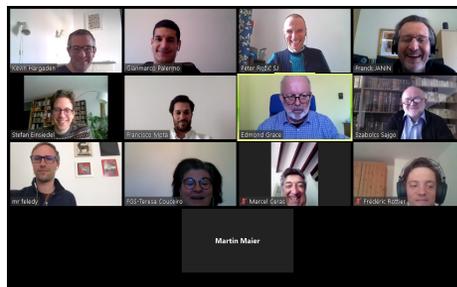
The Social Apostolate Delegates Annual Meeting was the only presential meeting of the year, just before the beginning of the crisis. It took place in the beautiful retreat house Maison Notre Dame du Chant d’Oiseau in Brussels and organized by JESC. The delegates worked on best practices and challenges to strengthen the Social Apostolate and plan a deeper renewal. On the first day, the delegates reflected on the implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences, based on SJES Jubilee Congress recommendations and the feedback from the Provinces. Members of the JESC team joined the session and had the opportunity to show the participants their work in Brussels and beyond. On the second day, the delegates entered the discernment from an on-the-ground perspective visiting KU Leuven and a prison in the city. “A meeting which combines reflection and experience in the field”.



About 30 delegates from all over Europe met in Brussels to discern on a process-based implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences. We talked about the value of our networks and the fruits of our work in the different social realities. We particularly stressed the priority to work with and for vulnerable people on the move and integral ecology.



In early May, after the pandemic outbreak, Jesuit Social Centres Directors Annual Meeting was hosted online. In such a critical moment JESC took the role of coordinating the online meeting which ended in the adoption of a declaration of intent containing two points: Publishing a common article on the Covid crisis with the aim of reinforcing collaboration among centers and, secondly, of applying good ecological practices through joint venues.



Franck Janin SJ, JCEP President, underlined this call: “In such a hard moment in which we live, the Social Apostolate must try to accompany people in need. This is our call”.

Finally JESC and all other European Jesuit organizations involved in the Social Apostolate are getting ready for a major event in 2022. From 28th March to 1st April a Congress of the JCEP Justice Networks will take place in Loyola (Spain) to mark the end of the Ignatian Year 2021-2022. The Congress Task Force is already in full swing as the event “will represent a major milestone in the “deeper renewal” process of

the JCEP social apostolate and will enable the JCEP Justice Networks to fully implement- the Universal Apostolic Preferences by 2029”.

Besides these major events, JESC hosted a number of activities and speakers, with the leading example of Herman Van Rompuy at our Headquarters together with ELP Fellows. As representatives of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials, Alberto Ares and Eleonora Vitale participated in a CCEE-organised meeting on migration in Greece. Moreover, the Jesuit GIAN-migration network issued a statement on promoting a genuine culture of hospitality and solidarity while doing advocacy work in Washington DC. Consolidating our advocacy efforts in Europe, the representatives of the Xavier Network met in Brussels.

This concerns particularly the international COP26 climate meeting at the end of this year. JESC was active elsewhere too. For example, I made a visit to Spain for the meeting of the directors on the work of the Social Sector of the Spanish Jesuit Province.



Gianmarco Palermo
and Peter Rožič SJ



January 2020
Xavier Network Advocacy group meeting on Social Justice

JESC Director, Peter Rožič SJ, and JESC Secretary for Ecology, Edmond Grace, SJ, met the advocacy committee of Xavier Network in Brussels. They discussed the Social Apostolate in Europe, the COP26 and more opportunities to contribute to the social work on international cooperation & development.



January 2020
Xavier Network Advocacy group meeting on Social Justice

Shéhérazade Semsar-de Boisséson, Georgetown Alumna and CEO of Politico, visited JESC office to provide her insights about Public Affairs in the European sphere.



20 January 2020
Herman Van Rompuy meets JESC and ELP

Herman Van Rompuy, Former President of the European Council, attended a friendly gathering with the JESC team and the European Leadership Programme (ELP) Fellows in the Chapel of the Foyer Catholique. Based on his lifelong experience as a politician, Mr. Van Rompuy covered topics like Brexit, populism and the evolution of the European Union.



29 January 2020

Seminar on Sustainability at the European Parliament

JESC Secretary for Ecology, Edmond Grace SJ, JESC's Director, Peter Rožič SJ, and JESC Secretary for European Affairs, Martin Maier SJ, attended a Seminar on Sustainability at the European Parliament (EP) engaging in the debate about ecology and sustainability.



February 2020

Team Retreat

JESC team members went on a day retreat to spend quality time together. They discussed the structural fundamentals of the Jesuit European Social Centre: Purpose, Mission, Values, and Vision.



25 June 2020

Graduation of the 3rd cohort of the European Leadership Programme (ELP)

The European Leadership Programme (ELP) hosted its' third graduation ceremony in the Press Club Brussels Europe. The graduation consisted of a COVID-safe reunion with the required hygienic measures such as the supply of masks, disinfectant hand-wash and spaced-out seats. The keynote speaker of the ceremony, Shéhérazade Semsar-de Boissésou, Georgetown Alumna and CEO of Politico in Europe, congratulated the Fellows for completing the 'self-reflective', Ignatian-inspired ELP.



4 October 2020

ELP 2020 Fall Cohort Inauguration

The European Leadership Programme (ELP) inaugurated its 4th Edition. The long-awaited opening session was held at Josefa Foundation. The event, hosted by Gilber Granjon and Annabelle Roig, Fouders of Josefa Foundation, was followed by a cycle of presentations from speakers.



October 2020

Discerning Leadership Program

JESC's Director, Peter Rožič SJ and JESC's Development Officer, Eleonora Vitale, participated in the Discerning Leadership course that took place in Rome in October. The purpose of the Program for Discerning Leadership is to build the capacity of senior Church leaders, including officials in Vatican Dicasteries, General Superiors of religious orders, bishops, and lay leaders, for this mission of discernment, reform, and renewal.

20 November 2020

Janez Potočnik's Lecture at the ELP

The European Leadership Programme (ELP) had the privilege to receive Janez Potočnik, Co-chair of the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and former European Commissioner for Environment, to discuss the European Green Deal with the ELP Fellows.

28 November 2020

Europe – an evolving family of peoples. Pope Francis' vision of fraternity and social friendship"

The conference "Europe – an evolving family of peoples. Pope Francis' vision of fraternity and social friendship", received high-profile speakers from the worlds of politics, business and the Church. The event, organized by the group "Passion for Europe" together with Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC) had two sessions dedicated to the new Encyclical "Fratelli tutti" and to the recent letter of Pope Francis on Europe.

9 December 2020

Jesuit Conference of European Provincials (JCEP) workshop on Discernment

Jesuit Conference of European Provincials (JCEP) workshop was hosted by Nikolaas Sintobin SJ, specialised in Ignatian spirituality and pedagogy and coordinator of the Dutch language websites and social media of the Society of Jesus. Nikolaas talked about discernment and its importance for the modus operandi of the Society of Jesus.



11 December 2020

John Dardis Lecture at the ELP

The fellows of the European Leadership Programme (ELP) spoke with John Dardis SJ, General Counsellor for Discernment and Apostolic Planning of the General Curia of the Society of Jesus, on the subject of authenticity and their own personal vocations. John Dardis SJ encouraged every each of our Fellows to practice spiritual exercises and meditate on how to find fulfilment and authenticity in their own lives.



8 January 2021

Humanitarian perspectives: An intimate conversation with Marguerite Barankitse

The European Leadership Programme (ELP) together with the Centre for Youth and International Studies (CYIS) organized a conversation with the humanitarian activist Marguerite Barankitse, who saved thousands of children and refugees from Burundi's civil war.



15-17 February 2021

Social Apostolate Delegates Annual meeting

The Social Apostolate Delegates visited the KU Leuven during their 2020 annual meeting to learn about the University's social engagement pilot project & discuss the implementation of the UAPs in education and justice. The delegates worked on best practices and challenges in order to strengthen the Social Apostolate and plan a deeper renewal. The meeting was organized by JESC.



ECOLOGY

11.12.2020; Grace, Edmond; Democracy, Liberty and Conscience; <https://www.sjesjesuits.global/>; Promotio Justitiae 130, 2021/2

LEADERSHIP

23.03.2020; Palermo, Gianmarco; In the time of crisis, Leadership is the guiding light: The Italian case; JESC Website

15.04.2020; Feledy, Botond; An emerging 'Leadership for change'-Spirit; JESC Website

24.04.2020; Feledy, Botond; Humility, the missing glue; JESC Website

27.07.2020; Sanz, Julia; Reaching More People Through Inclusive Communication; JESC Website

22.10.2020; Kuslits, Bela; All forecasts are wrong, but some are useful; JESC Website

23.10.2020; Feledy, Botond; Start of ELP 4th Edition brings hope despite Covid; JESC Website

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

2019; Maier, Martin; El martirio de San Oscar Romero; Revista Latinoamericana de Teología; Article

2020; Maier, Martin; Pistas para la esperanza en Europa en Sal Terrae; Dialnet; Article

08.03.2020; Maier, Martin; Ernesto Cardenal; Bayern 5; Interview

18.03.2020; Maier, Martin; Ce que veulent les jésuites pour l'Europe; RCF; Interview

26.03.2020; Maier, Martin; Don't give up hope! Insights from Laudato Si in times of crisis; JESC Website; Article

09.04.2020; Maier, Martin; Einsichten aus Laudato Si in Krisenzeiten; Jesuiten.org; Article

May 2020; Maier, Martin; Für eine Welt der Geschwisterlichkeit und der sozialen Freundschaft. Kommentar zur Enzyklika "Fratelli tutti"; Ypsilon; Article

22.05.2020; Maier, Martin; The EU between a deadly risk and an innovating vision; JESC Website; Article

September 2020; Maier, Martin; Jedes Land für sich selbst? Europa zwischen tödlicher Bedrohung und Neuaufbruch; Stimmen der Zeit; Article

October 2020; Maier, Martin; L'Europe entre danger mortel et nouveau départ; Choisir; Article

October 2020; Maier, Martin; Saint Oscar Romero; Vie consacré; Interview

04.10.2020; Maier, Martin; Towards another world of fraternity and social friendship; JESC Website; Article

12.10.2020; Maier, Martin; Für eine Welt der Geschwisterlichkeit und sozialen Freundschaft; Kontrapunkte; Article

01.12.2020; Maier, Martin; Dreaming and preparing the future of Europe; JESC Website; Article

December 2020; Maier, Martin; Wir sitzen im selben Boot; Jesuiten; Article

December 2020; Maier, Martin; Vers un monde de fraternité et d'amitié sociale; En question; Interview

December 2020; Maier, Martin; Encyclique Fratelli Tutti; Centre Avec; Interview

JUSTICE

24.01.2020; Rožič, Peter; Pri umetni inteligenci smo daleč od kakršne koli zavesti; RTV SLO MMC Jan; Article; 24

18.08.2020; Rožič, Peter; UAP Implementation Roadmap: Society's Priorities, Challenges and Calls - A Synthesis of Conference Reports Promotio Justitiae; Article; 129, 2020/1

25.08.2020; Rožič, Peter; Accompanying young people in the creation of a hope-filled future Teaching Training Day, Kaunas Jesuit High School, Lithuania; Presentation

12.10.2020; Rožič, Peter; Managing uncertainty with hope and kindness; JESC Website; Article

10.11.2020; Rožič, Peter; The Power of Spiritual Conversation for our Broken World; JESC Website; Article

FINANCIAL REPORT

Major donors to JESC (by decreasing order of income):

- Jesuit Conference (JCEP)
- German Bishops Conference
- Porticus
- Leopold Bachmann Stiftung
- French Bishops Conference

Expenditures (annual costs of appr. 350.000 euros):

- Re-energizing JESC and Justice Networks (Project) – 25%
- European Leadership Programme/ELP (Project) – 35%
- Justice Secretariat (Activities within JCEP Justice Networks) – 3%
- Ecology Secretariat (Activities and collaboration in Caring for the common home) – 7%
- European Affairs Secretariat (Activities, publications and workshops given) – 1%

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JESUIT EUROPEAN SOCIAL CENTRE

Brussels, February 2021