

# NEWSLETTER no 2/3



April 2018

Dear friends,

We promised to write a newsletter four times a year, but due to the General Assembly last March the first letter for 2018 (Newsletter No 2/3) could not come out until now.

This time again, we have much to tell from the Secretariat.

Still in August 2017 Nicole and I visited sister Lutgardis Craeynest, former President of UCESM who has remained connected with us. It was a very nice afternoon where we really could enrich each other.

*Sr. Lutgardis Craeynest*



During the General Assembly of the (German) DOK, I met the Abbess of the convent of Engelthal, Sr. Elisabeth Kraleman. Together we had completed a course a few years ago and she had invited me "to come and see her". I did this with an interesting consequence: I met the Benedictine monk Notker Hiegl OSB who some time ago had started a project: "Mary, mother of Europe". He experienced that Europe has to deal with great difficulties and thinks it was partly caused by the fact that secularization is increasing. He therefore would put our continent under the special protection of the mother of God.



After (part of) a chapel was consecrated in that sense in Austria, in Reykjavik/Iceland, in Malta, in Rebinina in the farthest northeast of Russia and in Gibraltar, it became visible that a cross over Europe was drawn. Therefore he would like to keep spreading this devotion and create the 12 stars of the European flag over different European countries. I've reported about this and as a result some stars have already been added.

After the meeting of our Executive Committee in Russia (you could read about that in the first newsletter), with joy I flew back to Moscow in September and took part in the General Assembly of CORSUM.

*The Executive Council of CORSUM with the Roman-Catholic Archbishop of Moscow, Paolo Pezzi*



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But before that, there was a very important event: our President, Father Giovanni Peragine, became Monsignor Giovanni Peragine, Apostolic Administrator of Southern Albania, on 7 September 2017 in Lushnjë/Albania. I was able to represent UCESM in an impressive ceremony standing at the beginning of this Office.

In the meantime, Nicole attended the 21st International Congress of Renovabis (on 6-8 September 2017) under the theme of "The crisis as a chance for Europe! The responsibility of the Churches" in Munich.

*Mons. Giovanni Peragine*

Archbishop Heiner Koch of Berlin had invited all religious superiors who are interested in the creation of a "University of religious people in Berlin" for a conference. It took place on November 4 and I was there. A feasibility study was submitted and the concretization of the model is planned in a next step. Religious and spiritual communities consider internally whether they can support the plan, and decide whether they want to participate in this or not. And in fact, some participants have agreed and the project will be continued. You surely will hear more about it later.

*Two professors who support the initiative:*

*Fr. Ägidius Schulte OFM.Cap (r) and Fr. Ulrich Engel OP*



In December I participated at the meeting of the Forum of Catholic inspired Organizations in Rome. This Forum aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences between the various catholic-inspired associations and movements. It consists of representatives of the institutions as well as of permanent representatives of the Holy See in the international organisations and the dicasteries of the Roman Curia. Several people have informed about the situation in their country or their environment. All experiences have been



divided into six themes (human rights, education, family, development and environment, migration and health).

Starting from different questions, we have formed working groups which normally should meet twice a year in the periods between sessions of the Forum. With the theme of our upcoming General Assembly in mind, I became member in the working group "Migration".

*The working group "Migration" with participants from all continents*

Early November we sent an inquiry to the Belgian Conferences: would there be somewhere a more appropriate (and cheaper) place for the Secretariat of UCESM? We had some answers, but none of them would have brought an improvement. Therefore we remain in the Rue De Pascale.

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Also in November the UCESM Board met in Luxembourg; our moderator in de General Assembly, Sr. Denise Boyle, came from Ireland to prepare the meeting with us.

*Sr. Denise Boyle (l.) during our General Assembly  
with UISG-President, Sr. Carmen Sammut*



About the UCESM General Assembly in Snagov itself you can read on our website (by the way: it is worth reading regularly as it is conscientiously updated by Nicole!) ("**[www.ucesm.net/GeneralAssemblies/2018](http://www.ucesm.net/GeneralAssemblies/2018)**"). The words in bold type in the report lead to the related documents with one click!

In addition to the issue of migration, we dealt with the profile of UCESM and its statutes and elected a new President, Fr. Zsolt Labancz (43) from Hungary.

*The Executive Committee and the General Secretary  
with the new President, Fr. Zsolt*

On Friday 20 April, our new President visited us in our office in Brussels and focused about (his role in) UCESM. It was a very beautiful, sunny, busy day where we made several agreements and discussed some initiatives. Now, we have to put them into reality!



*Good mood today, not only in the break...*

As an addendum to the first newsletter I suggested the initiative of the "**Marketplace**", where one side can offer things for church and home, and the other side can respond, or ask by itself. Of course we have to think about how things reach their destination in good shape, but maybe some good ideas will come out. Of course "spiritual areas" (translator, retreats, readings) can be traded, too.

Today I'd like to put this action once again under your attention, in particular because at the General Assembly the desire for more contacts (also between each other) has explicitly been expressed! This is your chance! Let us hear from you!!!

On the next page, you will find the latest news from the various Conferences.

With many warm fraternal greetings,



Sr. Marjolein Bruinen OP  
General Secretary

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# Changes within the UCESM Member conferences

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## URV from Belgium – September 2017

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Election of a new President:

Abbot Frederic TESTAERT o.praem.



## CORSUM from Russia – September 2017

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Election of a new Vice-President:

Sr. Aksana BRYTSIK uskj



...and nomination of a new Secretary General:

Sr. Teresa CHERENKOVA csse



## KShËL from Albania – October 2017

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Election of a new President:

Fr. Artan SELI sds

and of a new Vice-President:

Sr. Edvige CAROCARI fma



## .....and January 2018

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Nomination of a new Secretary General:

Sr. File GESHTENJA asp



## CRS from Scotland – October 2017

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Patricia ORR rsm



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## HRK from Croatia – October 2017

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Ana Marija ANTOLOVIC asc



and of a new Vice-President:

Fr. Slavko SLIŠKOVIC op



## LMVAVK from Lithuania – November 2017

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Silvija Jelena MATACIUNAITE Issc



## CONFER from Spain – November 2017

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Election of a new Vice-President:

Fr. Jesús Antonio DÍAZ SARIEGO op



## CORU from Ukraine – November 2017

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Olena BYS csa



....and nomination of a new Secretary General:

Sr. Anna ZAINCHKOVSKA fma  
(Sr. Anna is also a Councillor)



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## CSB from Bulgaria – December 2017

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Election of a new Vice-President:

Sr. Elka STANEVA fmsc



## MRK from Hungary – March 2018

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Election of a new President:

Sr. Judit LOBMAYER ssnd



## FSZK from Hungary – March 2018

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Election of a new President:

Fr. Benedek DOBSZAY ofm



## KSMR from Malta – April 2018

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Election of a new President:

Fr. Michael BUGEJA sj



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