

CCME PRESS RELEASE

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## **Presentation of the Study "Mapping Migration in Europe – Mapping Churches' Responses"**

The Europe Study "Mapping Migration in Europe, Mapping Churches' Responses" has been launched and presented today to some 30 participants of the annual meeting of the General Secretaries of the National Council of Churches in Europe taking place in Palermo, Italy from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. The Study has been undertaken by the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe and the Nova Research Center in Gloucester, UK. It has been commissioned to CCME by the World Council of Churches, which considers migration and the changing of ecclesial landscapes as core topics for ecumenical work.

The study "Mapping Migration in Europe – Mapping Churches' Responses" attempts to provide information on actual immigration and emigration figures for 47 European countries, and seeks to identify the diversity of Christian presence.

Alessia Passarelli, Project and Research Assistant with CCME stressed that "despite the fact that migration is a phenomenon as old as humankind, it is still widely perceived as a problem. It is striking that the perception of migration is often not in line with the real migration trends in European countries."

The study provides analytical chapters as well as migration profiles for 47 European countries, as well as experiences and examples of relationship between migrant and indigenous churches and congregations across Europe.

"We hope" concluded Doris Peschke, General Secretary of CCME "that the findings will inspire Churches and related agencies to have a closer look into the migration realities and undertake further research themselves. We also hope that the study will inspire Churches across Europe to exchange and cooperate more on the relevant topics on migration, particularly on the crucial issue of uniting in diversity".

*The study is currently available in English, a print version can be requested at the CCME secretariat, download version will soon be available on the websites of CCME and WCC.*

*For further information, please contact CCME, Tel +32 2 234 68 00, GSM +39 347 9478 878*

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies in presently 18 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.