



What we heard in Vilnius **Guidelines for CLC in Europe**

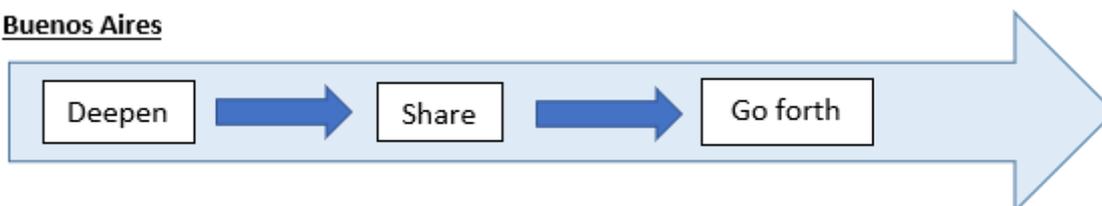
1. Vilnius – a Pentecost experience

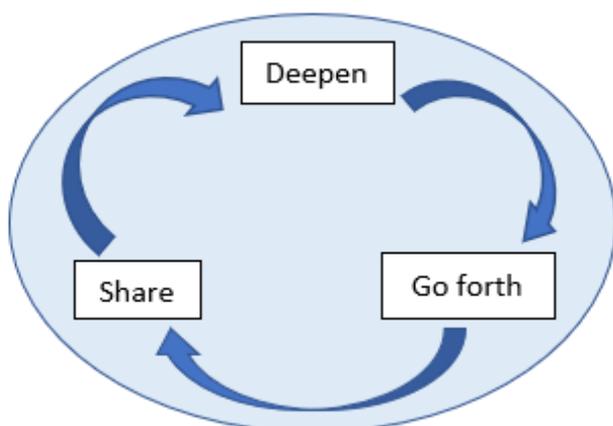
- a. The Assembly in Vilnius (7th to 10th 10th June 2019) lived a real Pentecost experience. According to GP 5 “we hold the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as the specific source and the characteristic instrument of our spirituality*” (GP 5), we lived the Assembly as a spiritual journey with a process of discernment – open to the Spirit.
- b. This common spiritual experience let us grow in confidence that we became more and more united as one community which is part of the CLC World Community. We experienced CLC as a symbol of unity and peace in the world that is torn apart by crisis and conflicts. The CLC polyhedron (as we experienced in Lille 2018) continues to form and take shape.

2. Vilnius took the wave of Buenos Aires – in the way of proceeding and in its contents

- a. The Assembly in Vilnius took the wave of Buenos Aires and we tried to live a similar experience at the European level, though in a much shorter time.
- b. During the assembly, we discerned and deepened the three main verbs (deepen - share - go forth) which characterized the process of the World Assembly. We discovered that they not only describe a way of proceeding but also spiritual attitudes which let us grow as a community serving the Kingdom. Thus they not only constitute a chronological order but also form a kind of a cycle: each verb could be a point of departure for our journey in CLC, at the European level and in every National Community.

Buenos Aires



Vilnius:

3. *The Youth – present in Vilnius without being present*

- a. Even though not many young adults were present at the Assembly, we felt especially called to the “frontier” Youth, discerned at the World Assembly in Lebanon 2013.
- b. We discerned CLC and Ignatian spirituality as a gift for young people. We feel called to go out and meet them where they are, to walk a journey with them. We don’t want to transmit our spirituality to the coming generation in order to preserve CLC structures but because it’s a gift that can help them to *“unite their human life in all its dimensions with the fullness of their Christian faith”* (GP4) and thus to become truly authentic, to be themselves and to discover *“the uniqueness of each personal vocation [which] enables us to be open and free, always at the disposal of God”* (GP 2)
- c. Young people and their search for God constitute a real gift to CLC as well. They help us to find God where we are not looking for Him. So our encounters with young people *“open and dispose us to whatever God wishes in each concrete situation of our daily life”* (GP 5) and might lead to a mutual enrichment.
- d. **Deepen – share – go forth:** The three attitudes discerned at Buenos Aires and Vilnius may lead us in our service to young people
 - i. **Go forth:** We want to “go where they are”, to be involved in the world where young people live as it is here and now. We want to meet them where they are, in their concrete lives, in their search for God, justice and peace, as well as in the struggles they are facing.
 - ii. **Share:** As a worldwide community we want to become a sign of living unity in diversity and peace – people of different nations, mentalities and cultures praying and working as one community for *“progress and peace, justice and charity, liberty and the dignity of all people”* [GP2]
 - iii. **Deepen:** We want to offer young people the gift of authenticity in living our identity and spirituality.

4. *Experience of one community in a diverse world through concrete situations and creating spaces of communal discernment for reconciliation*

- a. The main **experience** of the Assembly in Vilnius was that we felt part of one World Community.
The Euroteam would like to create more opportunities to experience unity, peace and joy in the diversity of our community, e.g. by encouraging more spaces to meet at the European level, international formation meetings, cross-border activities etc.

The desire we heard in Vilnius is to make such events and meetings available to all members of the community.

- b. Each NC lives in a different situation, faces different challenges but we are called to serve as ***one community***. So we want to cooperate and learn from each other as we live ***in a diverse world***.

The Euroteam would like to encourage our members to initiate sharing about diversity and the different situations we live in, which may lead us to a mutual enrichment.

- c. Our community feels called to “work for justice through a preferential option for the poor” (GP 4). This work can be experienced through our joint ***engagement in concrete situations*** and frontiers (e.g. social justice, migration, ecology, youth, family)

The Euroteam wants to support the development and work of the existing European Migration Network. Furthermore, we would like to encourage our members to set up new networks and working groups at the European level, especially on the topics of integral ecology and family.

In agreement with the World-Exco, the Euroteam also would like to encourage the NCs to get in touch with Magis in order to initiate our cooperation with the existing Ignatian networks for young people.

- d. According to GP 6, we feel called “to go and serve where the needs of the Church so demand.” As expressed in the final document of the World Assembly 2018 discernment is one of the most important gifts of Ignatian spirituality that “can be shared with the Church and become a tool of wisdom for action in the world” (Final document Buenos Aires 14). So CLC in Europe wants to serve the church and the world ***by creating spaces of communal discernment for reconciliation.***

The Euroteam wants to encourage and invite all members to share best practices and design new Ignatian tools which can be replicable and useful in concrete situations, especially when we face challenges at our frontiers.

We offer this text as a set of guidelines that we (the national communities, the ET and the W-ExCo) will follow in the next 5 years. We need to enter this new period of our journey and discovery with an open heart and mind to be amazed by our Lord. As the next step, we propose that you share this document amongst yourselves in your leadership teams and please share it also with the rest of your national community. We want to hear your insights and plans as you go forth. Encourage sharing and deepening so that we can take concrete steps together.

We would like to invite all communities and individual members to contact us if you have ideas for networking, working groups, formation events, cross-border activities, joint projects and other initiatives at the European level. We will be very happy to hear from you and support your activities.

28th of November 2019

The Euroteam

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