

May 16, 2023

EUROPEAN NETWORK - RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN EN-RE



Kirche im Aufbruch – Eglises et Libertés – Church on the Move -
Iglesia por la Libertad

Biennial meeting of the European Network

May 20, 2023

Report from Réseaux du Parvis and FHEDLES (France)

In France, three organizations are members of EN-RE:

Fédération Réseaux du Parvis, FHEDLES, and from the 2022 Comité de la Jupe

As a federation, Parvis is composed of around 30 associations and groups. FHEDLES is one of them.

The French association Partenia, which was member, has been dissolved a few years ago

This report is relative to Parvis and FHEDLES. Report for Comité de la Jupe is issued separately.

One of our main concerns is the future of our structures. A small group in Parvis has been working for two years in view of thinking over being more attractive to younger generations.

It clearly appears that this should involve deep transformations of existing organisations, new ways of working together, communications, defining the main objectives.

Two new groups have joined us in the last two years. Close links are being established with other groups sharing the same basic objectives but still wishing to stay outside.

Relations with the French Church hierarchy remain a bit difficult. The official report of the French commission which investigated the sexual abuses in Church during the last 30 and more last years was really an earthquake.

However, together with two other delegates of Christian movements engaged in gender equality, Annie Crepin, who chairs FHEDLES, met archbishop Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, head of the Conference of the French bishops. The contact was very good.

An intense work has been carried out for preparation of the Synod, along the main following axis:

- Who are our walking companions

- Listening
- Speaking out
- Eucharist
- Co-responsibility in mission
- Dialog in Church, other confessions and society
- Authority and participation
- Discernment and decision
- Preparation to synodality

The main issues which are addressed are:

- Fighting against clericalism
- Access to ministries for all
- Gender equality
- Respect of various sexual orientations
- How to express the faith
- Social justice
- Welcome of foreigners, migrants, ...
- Transmission to younger generations

Communications

In view of celebrating 50th anniversary of the foundation of FHE (today FHEDLES), a book has been published in 2021. It contains a selection of the best articles of the FHE review published during the years 1980/90. It's highly significant that those are not at all obsolete and remain totally valid today.

Our Parvis review, last issue N° 116, is still published 5 times a year.

Jean-Pierre Schmitz