



ENC Newsletter | June 2021

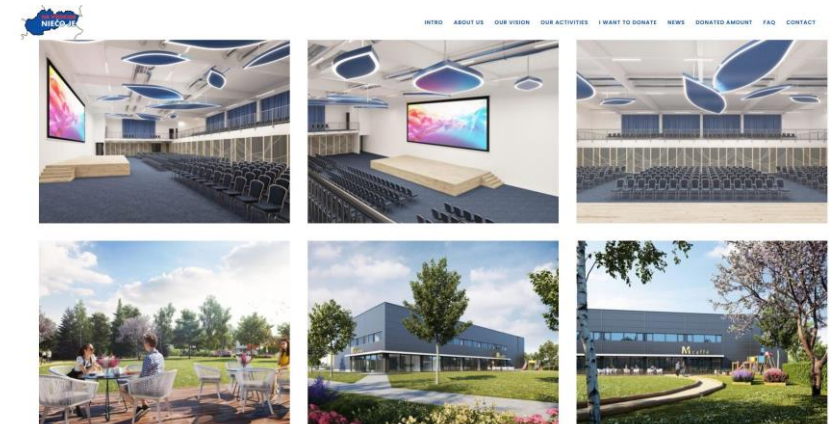
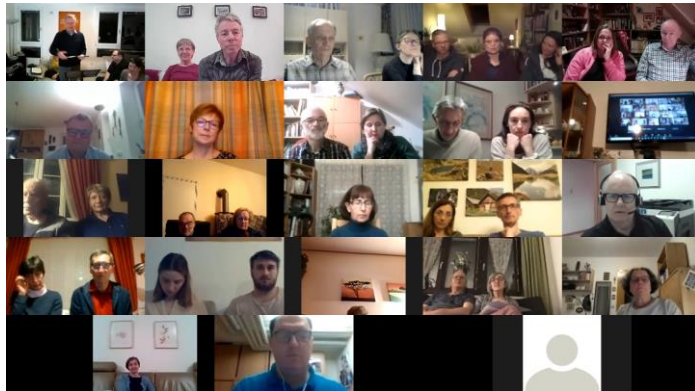
Community meetings restricted to Zoom sessions, participating in worship mainly via livestream, praying with your Christian friends only on the telephone...

These were the realities for most of us in the last months. But these challenges also created new opportunities. Many communities could extend their reach via internet to people who would never have entered their doors. International cooperation and increased networking extended the sphere of influence of ENC. The building project of a new community centre entering its final phase. And a former ENC community leader being sworn in as a Prime Minister. All this happening in the last year.



Reports about this and more will be presented in the upcoming Annual Report. Some news are already given in this edition of the ENC Newsletter.

Please click on the pictures to discover more of the good things happening in the ENC communities.



Country Report Ukraine

Orest Hryhorchak, the coordinator of OKS Network, which is composed of several dozen communities in Ukraine, asks for **prayer regarding the dangerous situation along the Russian border**. „We know that Russia doesn't joke“, he explains in a Zoom interview for the ENC media team. “Standing together in unity and prayer can help not only our situation in Ukraine, but also across Europe and the whole world. So please pray for the conversion of Russia.”

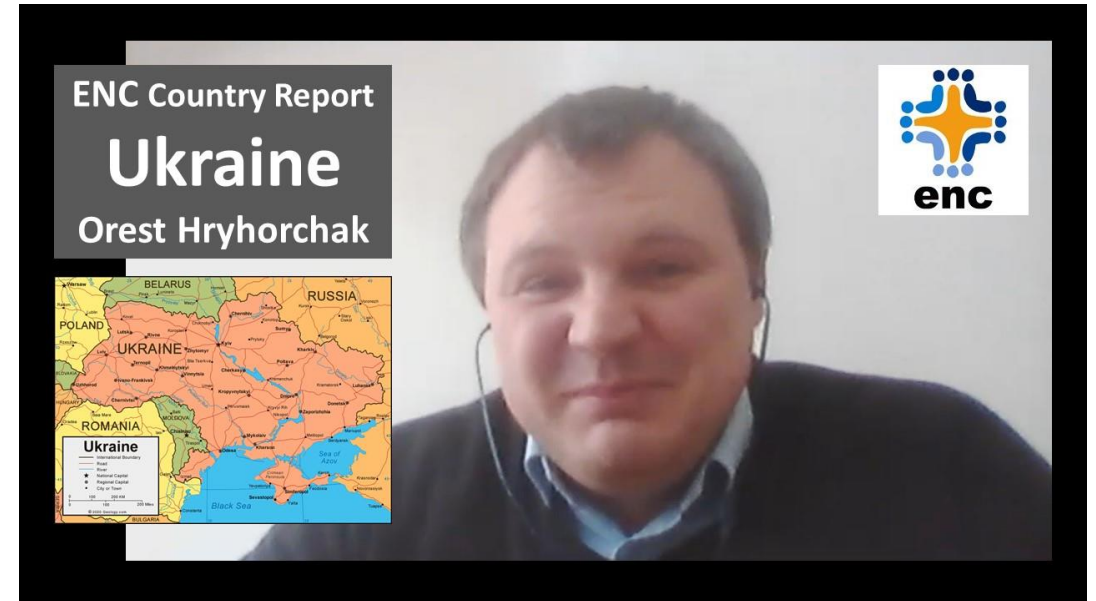
In this tense political situation, “**Christian Rescue Ministry**” continues to offer humanitarian aid in the war zone. About 100 volunteers from the Ukrainian communities support this mission.

In the last year, the structure of the **Ukrainian Network of Communities, OKS**, has been analysed and different ministries like evangelization and leadership formation have been set up for the 5 regions of this country. One of these is a medical committee to provide information related to COVID-19 and other medical issues. Another emphasis is on the development of internal relations.

Youth camps could be organized in the summer of 2020 and it is hoped for that meetings with up to 100 people will be possible in the coming summer, assuming an improved corona situation in the country. In addition to the traditional youth camps, a new format is planned. With support by Kevin Bridges, this “Life School” will provide a chance for children, not only to experience Christian fellowship but also to study English and participate in sports activities.

Three **online Leadership Schools** over the last year were supported by several ENC speakers and those messages were very well received. This is only one example how mutual support between the OKS communities and ENC is becoming more and more fruitful.

The restrictions for meetings due to the corona crisis forced the Ukrainian communities, like others across Europe, to take their **meetings and activities online**. An unexpected benefit soon became clear: Ukrainian born Christians in other countries connected with the communities in their homeland, e.g. by participating in the regular Bible study groups. And the live broadcast of the ENC Gathering was a special highlight with about **3000 persons watching the livestream with Ukrainian translation**. “**In no way this would have been possible before**“, adds Orest, “because we could not have brought 3000 people to an ENC Gathering.”



The full interview with Orest Hryhorchak can be watched here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aByK8gCy8MA

Orest Hryhorchak, Ukraine, has been elected to be the new ENC Vice President for the Farther East

His task is to maintain contact and develop the relationships between the ENC and the OKS community network in Ukraine.

“My heart is always open for establishing relations”, Orest says, “This is especially important for the Eastern spirituality and I want to build a bridge to the Orthodox part of Ukraine which makes up 80 percent of our country.” Being Greek Catholic himself, he feels closely related to the Orthodox rites and sees himself in the position of a bridge builder between the Orthodox and the Catholic world. “**I consider it my calling to make those relationships.**”



Bruce Clewett, for many years serving as ENC Vice President for Western Europe, remembers vividly how the **first ideas of forming a network of European communities** came up. **It started in fall 1997 at a conference organized by RELaY** (Reconciliation, Evangelization, Lay leadership and Youth) with about 100 participants in Southern England. During this event several people came up to Johannes Fichtenbauer, asking how community leaders can receive support. An ad hoc meeting was set up for those who were interested and the decision was taken to plan for a conference in the Czech Republic one year later. 70 community leaders came. “It was electric, you could feel the Spirit of God there”, remembers Bruce. The conclusion of this meeting was that a network of community leaders was to be formed, later to become a family of communities. **“We chose the simple name *European Network of Communities*, this is how it all started.”**

What is the special place for communities in today’s Body of Christ? “One of the things we noted is that beyond parish life many Catholics needed more connectedness. Communities and fellowships play a special role, because they are places where people who have committed their lives to the Lord can experience actual discipleship and be in contact with each other. The original idea after forming the ENC was to help people to stay alive spiritually and to look for synergies. **So we started to organize the ENC Gatherings where community members, especially leaders, would get input and could connect with each other.** Again, this was electric. Sometimes you do things and you know that God is in it.”

The interview with Bruce Clewett can be found here:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh-Tv-hFhFk

identity

ENC consists of communities which are either Ecumenical or church-specific communities. These communities are so called “Communities of the Third Way”: These are neither churches, nor religious orders, but rather a “third” way of putting into practice the biblical ideal of a Christian community. They try, like numerous communities before them, to follow the example of the “first century church of Jerusalem” (cf. Acts 2 and 4). These groups live by a common set of values but at the same time vary widely in their emphases, structures and goals.



Bruce considers the friendships which were formed as the most outstanding result of these Gatherings, providing a real family feeling. Even the language barriers could be overcome to a large degree by providing translations into up to nine languages simultaneously.

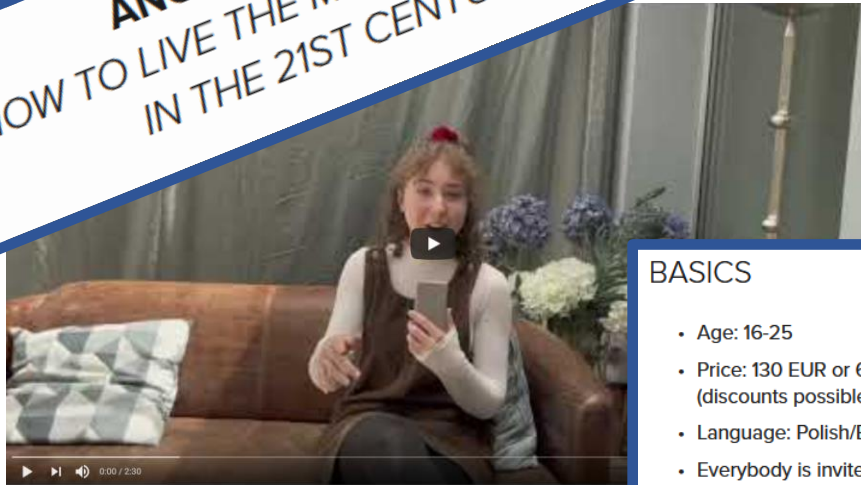
As the second key aspect of the ENC Gatherings the worship times together have to be mentioned.

“Furthermore, a good balance could be found for the various teachings, sometimes more prophetic, sometimes more leadership oriented and people seem to get a lot out of that.”

Until about two years ago Bruce was the programme director of these events. “I gave it up with a sad heart, but I knew it was time to give it on to others.”



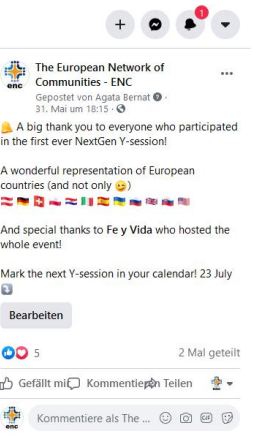
ANOTHER KINGDOM
 HOW TO LIVE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS
 IN THE 21ST CENTURY



- BASICS**
- Age: 16-25
 - Price: 130 EUR or 600 Zloty all inclusive (discounts possible)
 - Language: Polish/English
 - Everybody is invited. Special shout out to Lew Judy, Promisia, ENC Communities and Charis



Find out more about the MC Community Days in Grodek / Southern Poland from 9 – 14 July 2021
www.masterscommission.ch/communitydays



Current and upcoming ENC youth events

The first ever NextGen Y-session took place via Zoom on May 28th.
Now mark July 23rd in your calendar to join other youth from many countries for a time of worship, input and fellowship.



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