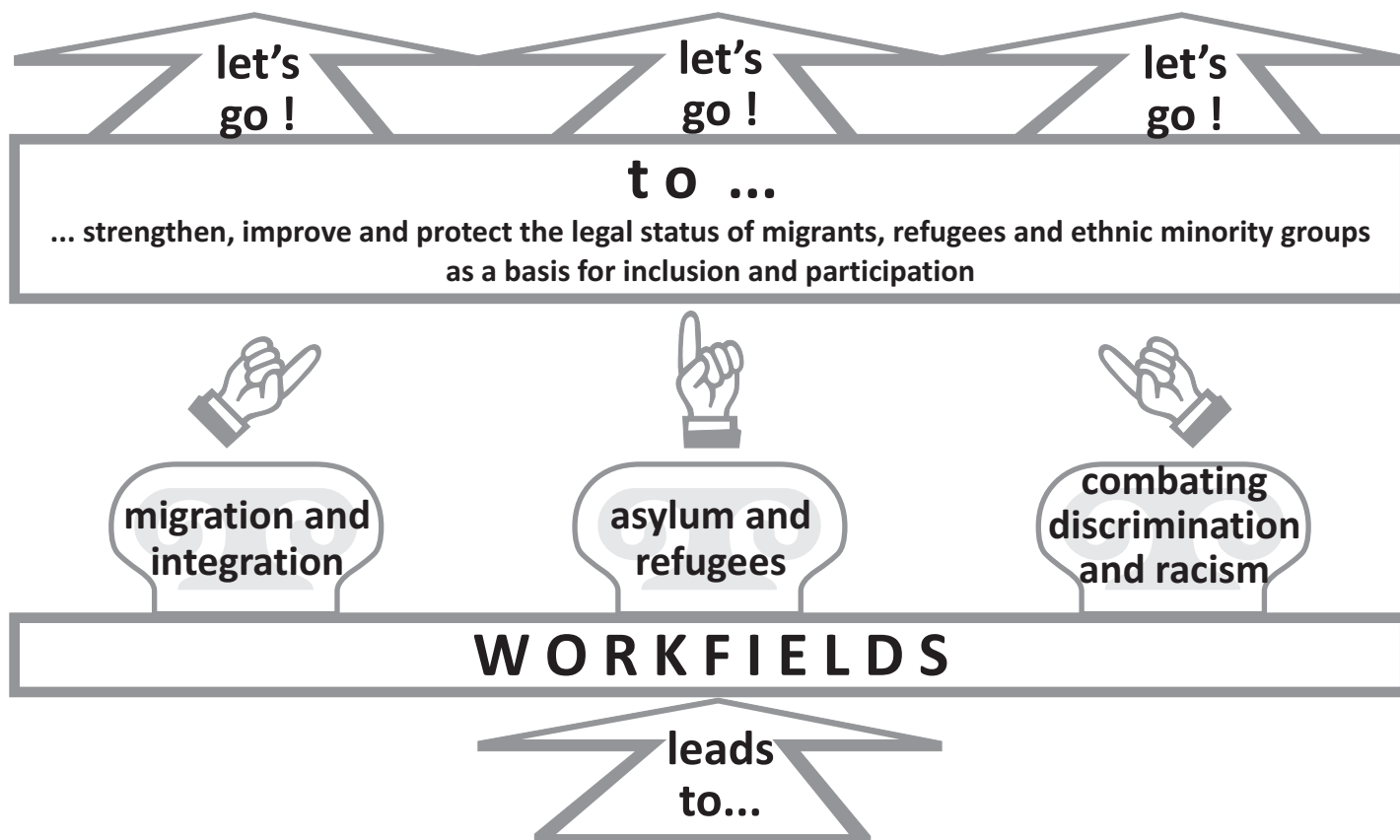


**WHY a MIGRATION YEAR 2010?**



**The Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, at their parallel meetings in Cyprus, endorsed *planning, launching and implementation of a joint year european churches responding to migration 2010.***





## european churches responding to migration 2010 aims for:

- **VISIBILITY** of the churches' commitment to strangers responding to the message of the Bible
- promotion of an **INCLUSIVE POLICY** at European & national level for migrants, refugees & ethnic minority groups

Churches shall be encouraged to strengthen and enhance their work with and for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority people, giving the full significance to "Being Church together" in order to face challenges, remove fears and highlight positive aspects of migration.

(knowing about **EUROPES DIVERSITY of SITUATIONS** of migrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups in different countries.)

# EXCHANGE and ENCOURAGEMENT

through improvement of the visibility and fostering the meaning of existing church programmes

- highlighting existing programmes vis-à-vis governments and political institutions as well as society at large

- more inclusive policy development

- recognition of the potential of diversity in society

- greater justice, solidarity and equality

- facilitated participation in community and social life

- overcoming borders and facilitating the crossing of borders

- world economic crisis and movements of people due to the crisis (shifting of people)

- t b f (e.g. specific regional problems)

## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

*(what should happen in/ be after 2010)*

leading to...

- right to vote on local level
- citizenship
- civic participation
- participation in community life
- t b f

**more inclusive communities and societies**

leading to...

- we are full up
- they are taking our work
- fear of losing the own local identity (too many strangers)
- fear of strange culture, religion, habits
- t b f

**addressing fears in societies**

leading to...

- diversity, variety
- new inputs (cultural, scientific, knowledge)
- strengthening EU competitiveness due to potential of migrants on the labour market
- young migrants slow down the aging process of European societies
- t b f

**highlight positive features of migration**

## AREAS of ADVOCACY

*(what do we want to do/ achieve)*

# - 2010 -

## European churches responding to migration

- Visibility of the **churches' commitment to strangers**, responding to the message of the bible
- Promotion of an **inclusive policy** at European and national level for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups, through work **for and with migrants**, refugees and ethnic minority groups

### through:

- strengthening the **rights of migrants**
- effective **programmes welcoming migrants** and refugees
- enhance **encounter and participation**
- **combating exclusion** and unemployment
- monitoring and **improvement of detention conditions**
- **refugee protection**
- **studying** and researching national rules for **legal rights of migrants**
- advocating for the rights as contained in the **International Convention on the Rights of all Migrant workers** and the members of their families
- t b f

### through:

- **Being Church together** - uniting in diversity
- **welcoming strangers** in our communities/ churches
- **diaconical assistance** and support for migrants and refugees
- enhance **participation of migrants** in communities
- **exchange and support for migrant churches** in the local area
- 
- t b f

### political level:

**RIGHT TO A LONG TERM RESIDENCE STATUS  
AFTER FIVE YEARS OF LEGAL STAY,  
IRRESPECTIVE OF THE REASONS OF STAY**

### church level:

**VISIBILITY OF CHURCHES' ENGAGEMENT  
FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & SOCIETIES  
AND WORK FOR AND WITH MIGRANTS**

**O U R K E Y A I M S**

to...