



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

JESUIT
REFUGEE
SERVICE
EUROPE



The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international Catholic organisation established in 1980 by Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ. Its mission is to accompany, serve and defend the cause of forcibly displaced people.

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The names of the people whose testimonies and photographs are featured in this report have been changed to protect their privacy. We thank them for sharing their stories with us.

Cover photo: 'Little Djabe' – photographed by a participant in Portugal as part of the JRS Refugee Photography Project.
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Back cover photo: Participants on the first day of the Refugee Photography Project © JRS UK

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Celebrating Pedro Arrupe Day
in Lisbon ©JRS PORTUGAL

MAKING A DIGNIFIED SPACE FOR REFUGEES IN EUROPE

As citizens of Europe, we take pride in being able to freely move around the continent at will. There seems to be space for everyone; but not all can enjoy the space that is available.

Refugees and the forcibly displaced continue to find little room for themselves and their families. State-sponsored accommodation – which is necessary because most refugees are not allowed to work – is finite, numbering only in the thousands in even the most generous EU country.

Consequently refugees are forced into homelessness and destitution. In Rome, asylum seekers are entitled to housing but there is a shortage of space. Asylum seekers in France

sleep at train stations; refused asylum seekers in the United Kingdom who cannot return to their country of origin wander from one bed to the next.

The UN Refugee Agency estimates that in 2012, the EU-27 registered 296,700 new asylum claims. That seems like a lot. However, that is just 0.06 per cent of the entire population of the EU. It seems there ought to be enough space for everyone.

During the last year JRS offices throughout Europe have endeavoured to show how true this is. In France, JRS invites families to open up their homes to asylum seekers; in Morocco, JRS offers migrant women a safe place to rest for the

night; and in Portugal, JRS welcomes refugees relocated from Malta. Even in detention centres, JRS personnel strive to bring a small measure of dignity back into spaces that are bereft of hospitality.

To make space for refugees is not merely to open up more reception centres, however necessary that may be. Rather, it is also to open up our hearts and minds, as well as our doors and time, to people who fled the comfort of their homes to seek shelter in ours. In Europe, there is plenty of space and dignity to do this.

Br Michael Schöpf, SJ
Regional Director, JRS Europe

The regional office

Based in Brussels, JRS Europe facilitates the network of JRS country offices by common planning and project work, advocating for refugees' rights at the EU-level and ensuring their voices are heard by policymakers.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

- At the Annual General Meeting in Paris, 'hospitality' was the main theme. Participants concluded that the best way to make Europe a more welcoming society for refugees is not just to provide services ourselves, but to show other people how to be hospitable to refugees, too.
- A new policy position on 'alternatives to detention' was adopted, to help JRS persuade governments to detain fewer migrants in favour of accommodating them in communities.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Two steering committee meetings were held for DIASP, an 18-month project to research how the Dublin Regulation impacts asylum seekers' protection in Europe. Project partners collected 257 interviews with asylum seekers in nine EU countries.
- JRS detention visitors gathered for the 6th Detention Visitors Support Group (DVSG). The week-long workshop focused on inter-cultural communications between JRS staff and detainees. Participants were trained to write effective detainee testimonials that can be published on websites and newsletters.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- JRS Europe joined the newly established Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights and was voted to serve as its co-chair. It is an important step towards ensuring that Frontex border operations respect migrants' human rights.
- We advocated for the inclusion of alternatives to detention in a new EU law, obliging governments to detain asylum seekers less frequently.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

- The newly formed JRS communications taskforce held two meetings in Brussels. It is developing a regional communication strategy by way of organising small projects that improve regional capacity, experience and skills.
- In November, we organised a photography exhibition in the European Parliament. Hosted by Hungarian Vice President MEP László Surján, the event featured 20 photographs taken by refugees in five EU countries. The exhibition was the first project of the communications taskforce.

Policy and Advocacy

DETENTION

The European Parliament and Council agreed to new EU rules on asylum seeker detention, to be formally adopted in 2013. Although countries will be able to detain asylum seekers in certain conditions, they can only do it as a last resort and only after all 'non-coercive' alternatives to detention are used first.

JRS took part in the first ever European NGO meeting on alternatives to detention, held in Athens in November and organised by the International Detention Coalition (IDC). Participants planned joint strategies for reducing migrant detention in Europe.

One month earlier, JRS in Europe adopted a common policy on alternatives to detention. A central point is that governments would better respect the dignity and rights of migrants by accommodating them in the community rather than in detention.

BORDERS

In a major decision, the European Court of Human Rights condemned Italy for intercepting a boat of 200 migrants in the Mediterranean Sea and pushing them back to Libya.

The ruling means that no asylum seeker can be sent back from an EU border without first being able to apply for refugee protection.

The EU Border Agency, Frontex, launched its first ever Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights.

Made up of 15 participants from civil society, EU and UN institutions, the Forum will monitor Frontex activities and make recommendations for the protection of migrants' human rights at Europe's borders. JRS Europe co-chairs the Forum.

DESTITUTION

The European Parliament and Council agreed to grant asylum seekers access to the labour market nine months after they have registered their asylum application. This is a reduction from the 12-month waiting period that is currently in force. JRS welcomes this as the inability to work is one of the major factors that force asylum seekers into destitution.

DUBLIN REGULATION

EU decision-makers came closer to agreeing on a new Dublin Regulation with significant improvements: a new 'right to information' for asylum seekers, improved judicial remedies and access to free legal aid. The proposal also obliges governments to detain only as a last resort. Despite the improvements, the heart of the Dublin Regulation - that asylum seekers are transferred to their EU country 'of first entry' - remains unchanged. For many asylum seekers this is the worst part of the regulation, as it forces them to be in countries where they do not want to be.

Major projects

THE DUBLIN REGULATION'S IMPACT ON ASYLUM SEEKERS' PROTECTION (DIASP)

In this project, JRS Europe and its ten partners aim to learn how the Dublin Regulation affects asylum seekers' dignity and human rights.

The Dublin Regulation is an EU law adopted in 2003 to identify EU countries that are responsible for examining asylum claims. Generally, an asylum seeker has to submit their application in the first EU country to which they arrived.

The project methodology is based on direct interviews with asylum seekers, and during the year 257 interviews were done in nine EU countries, in what is one of the largest collections of data about how asylum seekers are affected by the Dublin Regulation. This data underwent a preliminary analysis during the second steering committee in November. The project's final report is to be published in June 2013.



A young participant on the first day of the JRS Refugee Photography Project in Italy © JRS ITALY.

DETENTION VISITORS SUPPORT GROUP (DVSG)

JRS held its 6th DVSG meeting in Brussels during July with 31 participants from 11 JRS national offices.

The week-long training focused on 'intercultural communications', a theme of special importance for detention-visitors who frequently encounter a variety of nationalities in detention. Participants discussed how to address human needs through non-violent communications, and examined specific cases to learn how to better accompany and provide assistance to detainees.

Detention visitors were also trained on how to write detainee testimonies. Their daily encounters with detainees are a valuable source of knowledge about what happens behind the walls of detention centres, much of which can be used to advocate for improvements in policies and standards. Participants wrote several testimonies which will appear in JRS publications throughout the year.

Communications

Two meetings of the newly established communications taskforce were held in May and November. Made up of 12 persons from ten country offices, led by JRS Europe, the taskforce's main objective is to lay the basis for a common regional communications strategy. By working together and sharing experiences and skills, the taskforce endeavours to not only communicate major refugee concerns but to also express how refugees can enrich our society in Europe.

The taskforce undertakes its work under three main headings:

1. Raising awareness about the people we serve and the issues that matter to them.
2. Building connections between refugees and citizens, to encourage mutual interaction and respect, and to strive for change at a one-to-one level as well as at the level of policy.
3. Developing a strong internal communications network, to share information and expertise and to promote collaboration among JRS offices.



Pastor Jacob Latif, a Pakistani refugee living in Italy, was the keynote speaker at our photography exhibition. Here he stands with his Tabla, which he played to the crowd as they browsed the photos.

© GIANNA FELLER / JRS ITALY

MY LIFE AS A REFUGEE

Twenty photographs taken by refugees in five European countries were exhibited in the European Parliament from 27-30 November. This exhibition was the first of its kind as it brought the perspective of those most affected by European asylum policies directly into the heart of where the decisions that impact their lives are made.

The exhibition was the first common project of the communications taskforce, done in collaboration with JRS offices in Malta, Portugal, Romania, Italy and the UK.

A young child plays at a summer camp in Malta.
This photo was taken by a participant in the JRS
Refugee Photography Project © **JRS MALTA**



BELGIUM

FRANCE

GERMANY

IRELAND

ITALY

MALTA

MOROCCO

PORTUGAL

ROMANIA

SLOVENIA

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

SWEDEN

UKRAINE

UNITED KINGDOM

**JRS ACTIVITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES
(LUXEMBOURG, SPAIN)**

OVERVIEW OF JRS COUNTRY OFFICES

BELGIUM

ACCOMPANYING PEOPLE IN DETENTION

During the year JRS Belgium visited migrants held in four detention centres. In August, the team re-focused its priorities to improve its work in three areas: detention visitor training, collaboration with other detention-visiting NGOs and lobbying against the government's aim to reduce legal assistance for foreigners. JRS continues to be the only local NGO to regularly visit detention centres and community housing units for families, Europe's leading alternative to detention model.

TESTIMONY

Papa Arane Sow, from Senegal, was forced to leave Belgium after a stay of 14 years. He spent three months in detention before he was deported. He said, *"How is it possible for me to keep good memories of the time I have spent in Belgium?"* For him, the Belgian system is determined to make migrants leave the country despite the difficult future deported people face. Nevertheless, Papa says, *"Belgium will stay forever my second homeland, in the deepest of my heart. I don't want to throw any stones, but I tell the truth".*

Caricole detention centre, situated just next to Brussels National Airport. © JRS BELGIUM

ADVOCACY

- Publicised a collective NGO evaluation on the alternative to detention for migrant families and children.
- Joined four other NGOs in a claim at the Constitutional Court of Belgium against the Belgian law allowing the detention of children.

EDUCATION

- Gave presentations on migration issues in Belgium to several schools, parishes, and youth groups.



FRANCE

OFFERING A WARM WELCOME

In 2012, JRS France's *Welcome Project* expanded to many more cities in France. Eighty families and 30 religious communities hosted refugees in twelve different cities: over 130 homeless asylum seekers were able to spend up to eight months in a warm and reassuring environment. Many volunteers enabled JRS France to offer more language classes and activities for refugees such as joining French students for football matches, taking part in cooking lessons, music and cultural trips. In some cities, the coordinators of the *Welcome Project* opened the project to small families also. Half of our guests have obtained protection, ten had their applications rejected and the others are still waiting for an answer.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- More than 100 refugees were provided with administrative follow-up and legal counselling.

ADVOCACY

- Collaborated with the *Confédération Française du Droit d'Asile*. JRS France put forward ten proposals to the government to improve the living conditions of asylum seekers.

EDUCATION

- Collaboration with *CISED* (a Jesuit organisation that supports post high school students) to support older refugees to continue their studies.

TESTIMONY

"When I was working as a journalist in DRC, my team and I were often challenged by threats, antenna cuts, and violence. I saw some of my colleagues being arrested at work and publicly humiliated. We could not complain about this as the police closed their eyes. In December 2010 the situation escalated so I left the Congo and went to Brazzaville, where an officer gave me a passport and lent me the money for a ticket to Paris.

In Paris, I found refuge in a church for two months. I applied for asylum and I heard that

I would have to wait for one to two years for a room. Then I heard about the JRS Welcome Project, and I was hosted by two families. My experience of French life is safe, comforting and challenging at the same time because at times I feel disconnected. In December 2011, JRS asked me to speak at a school about my journey and impressions. I spoke about how immigrants are viewed in France, and how the prevailing discourse generates hatred and disgust".

Kevin, a journalist, who is originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



Mansour, a man taking part in the *Welcome Project*, with the family with whom he is staying. © JRS FRANCE

GERMANY

DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN DETENTION

The number of detained migrants awaiting deportation has steadily decreased. In 2011, there were 6,500 detainees; but JRS staff estimates that 80% of these people are awaiting a 'Dublin transfer' to other EU countries.

JRS protested against fast-track asylum procedures at the airports, supported refugees who protested against their living conditions and criticized the negative tone in political and media debates about Roma asylum seekers.

JRS advocated for improved medical care for irregular migrants and asylum seekers in two federal state parliaments. Several states expressed favour with closing down detention centres. JRS Germany is a founding member of the Berlin Forum for Monitoring of Deportation, a new platform where representatives from churches, the administration and the federal police can meet each other. In 2012, this platform advocated for the installation of a deportation monitor at the soon-to-be-opened airport in Berlin.

DETENTION

- 1000 detainees accompanied in Berlin, Brandenburg and Bavaria; 80 legal cases led to 47 releases.

HARDSHIP COMMISSION

- 659 personal consultations; of 54 cases brought to the authorities, 28 permissions to stay were granted to individuals and families.

LEGAL COUNSELING

- Advised 142 irregular migrants.

TESTIMONY

A Roma family (pictured below) with three children faced deportation to Bosnia but the family was granted permission to stay via the Hardship Commission. JRS had accompanied the family for two years, and was encouraged by the solidarity the family experienced from school mates, teachers and public administration staff who endorsed their request to stay in Germany.



A mother and child who were assisted by JRS
© JRS GERMANY

IRELAND

LIVING LONG TERM IN DIRECT PROVISION

JRS accompanied individuals and families seeking asylum living in 11 direct provision centres. A range of services and activities were developed in response to their needs.

'Direct provision' centres were first intended to house asylum seekers for less than six months. But as of 2012, nearly 90% of the inhabitants

were there for at least one year; one quarter had lived there for longer than five years. According to JRS, prolonged stays in the direct provision centres are the biggest challenge faced by Ireland's asylum system. People living in direct provision for a long time feel a great deal of despair. The impact of the prolonged wait and resulting uncertainty is profound.



EDUCATION

- Weekly homework club for 12-15 children living in direct provision in Dublin; crèche and after school support for 55 children in Limerick; weekly English language classes for 30 asylum seekers and 10 migrants in two Jesuit schools.

ADVOCACY

- Leading the delivery of intercultural activities and the development of an integration policy in Limerick; produced and disseminated 1,000 copies of the 2012 Intercultural and Interfaith Calendar.

DETENTION

- Weekly visits to 8-10 women detained in the Dóchas Centre.

TESTIMONY

"I fled my country because I feared for my life. But since I have come to Ireland, I have found that there is more than one way to kill a person. I feel that while I am waiting for a decision these last four years I have been dying slowly. I am deeply frustrated that, as an asylum seeker, I cannot work. I want to work. I do not want to be a burden on anybody. I want to pay my own way".

Theo, from Africa, has lived in direct provision for over four years.

Two girls taking part in the JRS Summer Programme in a direct provision centre in Dublin.

© KATE PUTNEY/ JRS IRELAND

ITALY

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The biggest challenge for forced migrants in Italy is social inclusion. Recognised refugees face the most difficulties. Integration programmes are only offered to asylum seekers, and for a short time after one obtains a refugee status.

The authorities cannot house everyone, and accommodation is only granted for up to six months. Italian law enables asylum seekers to work after six months, but people are not

supported even if they cannot find work. The social system is poorly funded and many refugees are left with no chance of having normal lives; they end up living on the streets. JRS responds by providing a soup kitchen, accommodation, outreach centres, Italian language courses, integration support desks, and medical care points in Rome, Palermo, Catania, Trento, Naples, Milan, Padua and Vicenza.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- 34,000 asylum seekers and refugees served; meals five days a week for 400 migrants.

EDUCATION

- 576 migrants attended Italian language classes; asylum and interreligious dialogue projects for 13,320 10-18 year old students in 100 schools.

TESTIMONY

"I left Somalia and arrived to Italy by boat in 2012. I went through Ethiopia, the Sahara, Sudan and Libya. It was a terrible journey. In Sudan and Libya I was even imprisoned, but I managed to flee.

I left my country because of the many problems and I hoped for a better life here. On the journey I was treated like an animal. And then I found none of what I had hoped for. In Rome, refugees face destitution and misery and I experienced the terrible conditions in which my countrymen, who have also fled, live".

Awais, 26 year old, refugee from Somalia

Two men at the Centro Astalli soup kitchen in Rome.

© CLAUDIO LOMBARDI/ JRS ITALY



MALTA

ADDRESSING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

Reception conditions for asylum seekers remained a major concern, as did the lack of any real possibilities for integration for those granted some form of protection. In this context, it is particularly hard for migrants with physical or mental health problems to obtain the care and support they need.

In detention, where most asylum seekers spend their first months in Malta, the support and care provided is extremely basic, as detention centres are staffed almost exclusively by security personnel.

Migrants living in independent accommodation often find themselves completely bereft of all support, as they find it hard to access mainstream health and social services, although in principle most would be entitled to it.

In order to address this need, JRS Malta implemented a project providing psycho-social support to vulnerable asylum seekers and to improve their access to mainstream services.

Through this project, JRS staff provided services to 230 individuals. The project also offered training to 156 professionals working with asylum seekers. Everyone's feedback was overwhelmingly positive and participants expressed a need for further training.

TESTIMONY

Michael, an Eritrean man, arrived in Malta five years ago. After spending a year in detention he was granted subsidiary protection. Soon after his release he found a job, rented an apartment and worked hard to send money to his wife and children. He could not bring them to Malta as people with subsidiary protection are not entitled to family reunification.

Over time, the separation from his family became harder to bear. He hoped for resettlement to the United States, where he would finally be reunited with his wife and children.

When his application for resettlement was rejected all of his hopes were shattered and his world fell apart. Unable to bear the thought that he would never be able to be with his family, he decided to end his life. Although he survived, the injuries he suffered brought him close to death and left him with long-term medical problems. JRS staff visited Michael throughout the time he spent in hospital and supported him as he slowly rebuilt his life. In his own words: "...The psychologist's sessions helped me to put things in perspective; they got me thinking about why I ended up taking such drastic measures. They also helped me to handle situations that I face without resorting to such drastic measures. I do not have words to explain how grateful I am to JRS ...I know that I would not be where I am today without your support."

OUTREACH

- Information given to 1700 new arrivals (mostly in detention).
- Provided further services to 1200+ persons in detention and from our office.

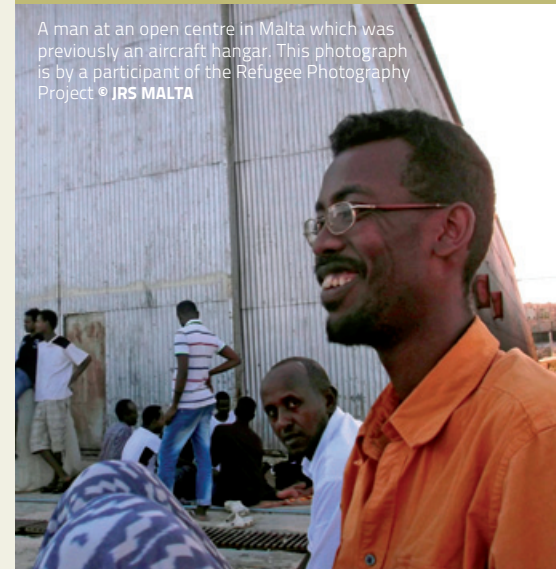
LEGAL SERVICES

- In-depth legal casework: 146 cases

ADVOCACY

- Publication of *Kidane – a story of hope*, a book for primary school children telling the story of a refugee, and an accompanying teachers' resource pack.

A man at an open centre in Malta which was previously an aircraft hangar. This photograph is by a participant of the Refugee Photography Project © JRS MALTA



MOROCCO

LOOKING FOR SHELTER

To find a place to rest every night is difficult for refugees in Morocco. Rooms are small, unsanitary, humid and dark. High rents force people to share rooms with other refugees that they do not know. These flats are a target for police controls. The lack of privacy is hard to bear for people who are traumatised and suspicious of everyone.

The street is not a welcoming place for refugees either. Police roundups, followed by deportations, now affect children and pregnant women. In 2012, there was a terrible increase in violence against sub-Saharan migrants.

Women and children who come to the JRS centre find a quiet place where they feel protected. JRS focuses its efforts on strengthening their dignity day by day.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- Assisting migrants to access local health services and working to integrate children into Moroccan schools.

DESTITUTION

- Providing food parcels, economic support and workshops for women in languages, literacy, computers, sewing.

ADVOCACY

- Monitoring rights abuses and collecting migrant testimonies for JRS publications.



Migrant women participating in a JRS workshop. © JRS MOROCCO

TESTIMONY

When she left Ivory Coast, Sandrine thought it would be an opportunity to leave behind the traumatic experiences she lived through during the war, when she lost all her family, and was imprisoned and raped by the militia. Upon arrival, Sandrine wandered for days in Casablanca. She had no choice than to accept the proposal of a Nigerian man to live in his flat with 10 other men, only if she would give in to their demands. If Sandrine

resisted they made her sleep outside. One day they kicked her out because she was “useless” to them. After many days roaming the streets, a female migrant met Sandrine and welcomed her into her home, and told her about JRS. When Sandrine came to us, she was traumatised and in bad health. She now has a room for herself, where she can finally rest and feel safe.

PORTUGAL

REACHING OUT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE

JRS welcomed several relocated refugees from Malta into their new 'Welcoming Centre', after having signed a protocol with the government to provide services to these individuals. At the detention centre in Porto, JRS continues to provide psycho-social services; at the national level, JRS has lobbied for alternatives to detention. During the debate on the country's new Foreigner's Law, JRS advocated to keep measures allowing migrants to legally settle, and against restrictive changes that would have led to more cases of destitution.

TESTIMONY

"I was detained at Lisbon Airport for 15 nasty days that reminded me of the terrible nights in my country. I got a four month temporary residence permit but when I left detention, I had no place to go. I was admitted to the JRS Centro Pedro Arrupe. I started to develop psychological problems because I felt guilty about the terrible situation my family was going through. I thought of committing suicide several times. Thanks to the support I got from JRS, my health improved. I started learning Portuguese and doing voluntary work that helped me integrate into the local community".

Leonard, an asylum seeker from Rwanda who is a resident of the JRS Pedro Arrupe Shelter.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- 3,424 people supported at the JRS Pedro Arrupe Shelter; psycho-social services for 196 detainees; psychological counseling for 132 people at the JRS Centre.

ACCOMMODATION

- 68 migrants housed at the Pedro Arrupe Centre; 25 homeless migrants received social and spiritual support.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 170 people provided with professional training, literacy and Portuguese language courses; 355 people employed via the JRS Employment Office



JRS volunteer with a mother and child who reside at the Pedro Arrupe Shelter in Lisbon. © JRS PORTUGAL

ROMANIA

INTEGRATION

JRS Romania has worked for the integration of recognised refugees since its foundation in 2000. In 2012, JRS received EU funds in partnership with Save the Children-Romania to advance its integration goals. Two projects were implemented to supplement government assistance to refugees. Within these projects, JRS assisted refugees with language classes, finding government assistance for housing and with obtaining professional qualifications.

But the funds that are dedicated to refugee integration are insufficient. JRS will complete a research analysis at the end of the projects on the integration process in Romania and the results will be used to formulate recommendations for the government.

TESTIMONY

Ibrahim: Refugees face all sorts of problems - some very serious - both before and after leaving their country. The services that JRS provides are of the utmost importance to a foreign person.

"When I arrived, I had a good financial situation, but things gradually changed. I lost almost everything. I moved to Bucharest and by then, I had little money and it was impossible for me to

ACCOMPANY

- Managed several projects with support from European funds, UNHCR and from private donors.

SERVE

- The JRS team of 16 people provided direct services to more than 1,000 people. Services included assistance with finding housing; legal and social counselling; advocacy for their rights to work; visiting people in detention; training courses for authorities.

ADVOCATE

- JRS worked with UNHCR to lobby for better reception conditions due to their positive impact on refugees' integration.

© JRS ROMANIA



pay rent or to live in a hotel. JRS helped me to find a home for a year. I am happy and grateful that I met my wife at the English and Romanian classes organised by JRS. Today, my wife and I have our own home, a son and a happy family life".

Afef: *"...Before, when it was very hard for us, JRS gave us some food packages and healthcare that really helped us a lot. Since*

our situation has improved significantly, we are beginning to integrate into this city, even though it is quite difficult. I cannot forget how much the JRS volunteers helped us, especially during my pregnancy, by accompanying me to the doctor and wherever I needed to go".

Ibrahim and Afef (pictured), a couple who are now recognised refugees living in Romania.

SLOVENIA

BUILDING A MORE OPEN SOCIETY

JRS Slovenia celebrated its 10th anniversary on 14th June with a special thanksgiving mass and the publication of a book of personal stories and the history of JRS Slovenia, entitled, *People on the Move*. During the year, JRS noticed a small decrease in the number of asylum seekers from 358 (2011) to 304 (2012), and a substantial increase in the number of detainees in the detention centre from 250 (2011) to 359 (2012).

JRS prepared monthly radio shows entitled "Building a More Open Society" for the national Catholic radio station, Radio Ognjišče. The aim of these shows is to discuss issues concerning refugees, migration and development. The first show was broadcasted on 11th February 2003 and the latest show in 2012 was the 160th edition. The format is typically an interview with a guest followed by news from Slovenia and Europe.

TESTIMONY

"I came to Slovenia from Ukraine a year and a half ago and I applied for asylum in Ljubljana. The life here has been stressful and for a long time I could not find a job. First, I worked in the forest, but I did not get paid for the work I did. Now, I am working as a warehouseman in a corporation in Ljubljana. I got a contract for a month and I also have medical insurance. By profession, I am a computer engineer and a psychologist. I sent a lot of job applications as I have more than 10 years of work experience. As I could not find a job in the area of my profession, I applied for a licence to transport goods. I was happy to finally find a job, but the work is physically tiring. I have met many families in Slovenia that disintegrated or separated. I will be 30 years old soon, and I would like to have a family but in such an uncertain situation it is difficult. Living life in this limbo is very stressful but everyday difficulties and burdens were somehow relieved by the people who visited us in the asylum home and talked with us".

Andriy, originally from Ukraine, and living in Slovenia



A man who lives at an asylum centre in Slovenia, on his way to work. © JRS SLOVENIA

DETENTION

- Weekly visits to a detention centre located in Postojna to offer psychosocial support, legal advice and pastoral care to detainees.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- Daily visits to an asylum home offering two different projects: creative workshops for children and a programme against human trafficking and sexual and gender based violence.

ADVOCACY

- Monthly radio program on Radio Ognjišče to discuss migrant issues and advocate on their behalf.

SE EUROPE (CROATIA, MACEDONIA, KOSOVO)

NEW MIGRATION ROUTES

In 2012, JRS offices in South East Europe saw an increase in the number of migrants when routes through the Balkans became the main entryway into the EU.

Due to the crisis in Syria, accommodation centres in the region became overcrowded by approximately 300% between October and November 2012.

In Croatia, JRS offers education services and emergency aid, and accompanies asylum seekers and irregular migrants. JRS collaborates with other organisations in the region and holds roundtable discussions four times per year.

In Macedonia, JRS increased its activities in the open accommodation centre following the hiring of new staff. A social worker became available at the centre, which accommodates 160 people, to support asylum seekers. The government does not provide medical support, so people are dependent on JRS for medical help. JRS collaborates with the accommodation centre to provide a kindergarten. After persistent lobbying, JRS now also has a presence in a detention centre.

In Kosovo, JRS assisted land mine survivors with scholarships,, and formed good connections with the Ministry of Interior to encourage their support to asylum seekers.

TESTIMONY

"My parents were killed in Zimbabwe when I was 4 years old. I was involved in an organisation in South Africa that is fighting against the killings, human rights abuses and dictatorship of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe. In 2011, I was tortured in South Africa by a Zimbabwean militant organisation. I barely escaped alive. The militant group was still threatening to kill me so I left South Africa. I travelled to Bulgaria and

Hungary by truck and from Hungary to Croatia by train. When I arrived in Croatia, I applied for asylum and then I was accommodated in a centre in Kutina. Seven months later I was transferred to another centre in Zagreb. My first application was rejected and I reapplied for asylum".

Michael from Zimbabwe arrived in Croatia 15 months ago.



Benedict Coleridge, JRS Europe (L) and Josip Divkovic, JRS South East Europe (R) on a visit to a kindergarten in a reception centre in Vizbegovo, Macedonia. © **DEJAN STRACKOWSKI / JRS MACEDONIA**

ACCOMPANIMENT

- Provided material and emotional support to asylum seekers and irregular migrants living in accommodation centres in Croatia and Macedonia.

INTEGRATION

- Provided language courses, in Croatia and Macedonia; worked with other civil society organisations to inform refugees about local culture and living conditions.

SWEDEN

VISITING DETAINEES

JRS Sweden's detention visitors group accompanies detainees at the detention centre in Mårsta. They offer moral support and assist people with contacting their lawyer or relatives and if necessary, mediating between the detainees, the police and the Swedish Migration Board. In addition, JRS offers pastoral care for Catholics both of Western and Eastern rites in the form of liturgies, prayers and confessions.

In 2012, the rising number of asylum seekers in Sweden also meant an increase in the number of asylum applications that were rejected resulting in expulsion orders. JRS assisted detainees held under the Dublin II Regulation by establishing contacts with other NGOs or JRS offices in the detainees' destination countries to ensure adequate support upon arrival.

TESTIMONY

Zarina fled Dagestan with her two young daughters from her abusive husband and they travelled to Sweden. Their journey was difficult; they went by bus through Russia, then by train from Moscow to St. Petersburg, then by ferry to Stockholm. Zarina applied for asylum in order to live without fear in a safe country.

Zarina did not realise that the people who helped her to get a Schengen visa had provided her with a visa for a different EU country. Therefore the Swedish authorities did

not consider themselves to be responsible for her asylum claim. When the Swedish Migration Board informed Zarina that she and her children had become a Dublin II case and that she had only a few days to leave for another country, her world broke down. JRS contacted an NGO in the country where Zarina was to be deported in order for them to receive her and her children, and to have a lawyer to help her with her asylum case.

Zarina, a young mother from Dagestan, who was deported from Sweden under the Dublin II regulation.

ASYLUM

- In 2012, approximately 44,000 people sought asylum in Sweden. This is a significant increase compared to 30,000 asylum seekers in 2011.

DETENTION

- There are five closed migration detention centres in Sweden with a total capacity of 150 places. Mårsta detention centre, close to Stockholm airport, has 70 places.

ADVOCACY

- JRS took part in several events on the harmful effects of detention on migrants, and highlighted the possibilities of alternatives to detention.

Mårsta detention centre, close to Stockholm airport. © JRS SWEDEN



UKRAINE

CHANGING MIGRANT ROUTES

In the autumn of 2011 there was a noticeable drop in the number of migrants entering and leaving Ukraine and by summer 2012, it was clear that this was not a temporary change. During a visit of the Ukraine Migration Services to the centre, the director stated that a new transit route had opened up through Croatia. On the black market, it cost “only” \$5,000, compared to \$15,000 to transit through Ukraine.

For this reason, there are less people in the Ukrainian detention centres and accessing asylum services. As these situations are in constant flux and can change quickly, JRS Ukraine waited but by the end of the year there was no change. The JRS centre, equipped for 24 asylum seekers, housed 13 people in 2012. As each case is resolved, there are more free beds with no one to occupy them. If this meant that there were fewer refugees in the world, fewer seeking justice and a peaceful life wherever possible, one could rejoice but JRS knows this is not the case.



Hasad from Afghanistan, 65 years old, waiting three years for reunification with his family in Germany. © JRS UKRAINE

TESTIMONY

Last year, JRS Ukraine wrote about an Iraqi family. The father, Ali, is a lawyer whose family members were killed because of his work. His case has been written up publicly in Iraqi papers and according to JRS Ukraine, it is one of the clearest cases for asylum that they have handled. Ali's application was refused without explanation by the Migration Office and then the appellate court also refused to overturn the decision. JRS appealed to Kyiv and Kyiv demanded that the case be reviewed according to a new law on asylum. The case drags on into its third year.

These types of negative decisions are troubling as they represent an increase in judgements against asylum applications in the Ukrainian courts. The laws that the EU and the world have demanded of Ukraine with respect to migrants are in place. They guarantee a minimum of justice and consideration but too many cases in Ukraine are determined by a lack of balance in weighing bureaucracy against humanity and a nervous look over the shoulder to see whether the EU is watching. However, it appears that the EU has weakened its oversight of the enforcement of Ukrainian law; although if Ukraine is simply copying the practices of several EU member states, how can the EU complain?

Ali, an Iraqi father, who has been waiting for almost 3 years for a decision on his case for asylum.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- Provision of room and board for up to 24 asylum seekers, plus legal representation, language instruction, job search, community life, and life-skills counseling.

EXTERNALISATION

- Monitoring developments in Ukrainian law and changes in EU policy with respect to migrant flows in Ukraine.

RESETTLEMENT

- JRS began a procedure to help resettle refugees from Ukraine to the United States.

UNITED KINGDOM

DESTITUTION AND DETENTION OUTREACH

JRS UK runs a day centre in central London for those left destitute by the asylum process. Each week staff and volunteers meet with up to 100 people and refer them to specialist advice services offered by partner agencies.

Limited hardship funds are available for those who have no recourse to public funds and are not permitted to work. This funding enables them to travel to attend essential medical and legal appointments, and to meet reporting requirements with Immigration Services.

Staff and volunteers continue to implement a volunteer visiting programme to detainees in the two immigration removal centres near Heathrow (Colnbrook and Harmondsworth).

This programme has expanded in the last year to include additional chaplaincy services at both centres, and a weekly meeting at Colnbrook involving staff and volunteers and offering pastoral services, referral to other specialist service providers or legal advisers, and a listening ear. A volunteer also contacts legal advisers on detainees' behalf.

TESTIMONY

Stephanie first came to JRS in September 2010. She is now in her 30s and has been here for 5 years.

She came to the JRS-UK Day Centre most weeks and received money for bus passes, advice on where to secure college funding and help with educational grants from our Hardship Fund supported by the London Churches Refugee Network.

She has experienced of destitution and achievement during her time in the UK, as well as challenges with securing her leave to remain.

Despite the difficulties of living as an asylum seeker, she was able to study and in 2012, graduated with a 2.1 in her undergraduate degree from a London university. She has also trained to be a volunteer museum tour guide.

Stephanie has shared how JRS-UK had made a difference in her life and reminded us that when she first came to JRS she spoke little English, was not studying and was depressed. She said that we helped build up her confidence so that she could study, and that staff managed to find her grants to pay for travel and courses.

She said that the difference between JRS and other organisations is "At JRS you don't just

secure peace and comfort for us; you also secure life and a good future for us".

She is proud of her achievements. But, there are still many frustrations for her. She does not make it to the day centre more than once a month as she is now living outside London after she lost her accommodation. This makes it hard for her to sustain her volunteering activities.

Stephanie was awarded full refugee status one year ago but is still waiting for her official documentation to be sent to her. As a result of the delay, she is not able to access the normal welfare system or seek employment as she does not have the necessary paperwork to present to the job centre or to prospective employers.

ACTIVITIES

- Creative writing workshops, run in partnership with English PEN.
- Museum Tour Guide Training for migrants through the Wallace Collection Museum.

SPIRITUALITY

- A Spiritual Accompaniment Programme offers one-to-one spiritual accompaniment, but also a women's prayer group, retreats and away days and a men's and a women's peer support group.

JRS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

LUXEMBOURG

In 2012, 2,056 people applied for asylum in Luxembourg, 80% from the regions of the former Yugoslavia. 57 people were granted refugee status ; 1,648 people were returned, of which 124 were forced returns.

The Ignatian Migration Group (GIM) advocated for Roma people as they form a large number of the people seeking asylum in Luxembourg. GIM held a meeting with representatives of the Roma community and sponsored a Roma family's emigration in partnership with CLC Canada.

The staff of GIM continued supporting irregular migrants. The main difficulties in the asylum process involved administrative delays as well as the requirement to present a passport from the country of origin. GIM welcomed the Government's decision to give permits to 462 undeclared workers, but were concerned about 180 people whose applications were rejected.

A GIM staff member visited migrants in the detention center each week, and worked closely with the center's chaplain.

SPAIN

In 2012, the Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Spain (SJM) continued to accompany migrants in detention who are awaiting deportation from Spain. Migra Studium started visiting the detention centre in Barcelona, and Pueblos Unidos continued visiting the detention centre in Madrid.

There are approximately 3 million third country nationals living in Spain which has a population of 47 million people. It is estimated that 320,000 people are irregular migrants. There is concern that some irregular migrants are not registered with the Municipal Registers; this registration offers the right to education and some healthcare.

In 2012, Spain reformed the healthcare system and everybody suffered some restrictions. It is no longer a universal system, but one based on the conditions of "insured" and "beneficiary". Therefore, only foreign people with a residence card are entitled to be insured. Irregular migrants can only receive emergency care, except for pregnant women. SJM advocates for the granting of primary healthcare to foreigners who are registered at the Municipal Registers.

The government is also preparing a reform of the Penal Code. The draft regulation penalises the persons or institutions that support, help or welcome undocumented migrants traveling through Spain. SJM-Spain calls for the exemption from criminal liability of those who only provide humanitarian aid. The objective of this proposed regulation is to intimidate Spanish or foreign citizens to deny all forms of support to irregular migrants who are left without any help, so that they would return home or refrain from entering Spain.

As some Jesuit communities host irregular migrants and SJM entities advocate for their rights, some Jesuits have joined a civil society platform, "Salvemos la hospitalidad" (Let Us Save Hospitality). This platform is lobbying the Ministry of Justice to change the wording of the Penal Code to be sent to the Parliament.

APPENDIX I
THE STRUCTURE OF JRS IN EUROPE

APPENDIX II
DIRECTORY OF JRS IN EUROPE

APPENDIX III
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

APPENDICES

Structure of JRS Europe in 2012

JRS Europe was established in March 1992. It is an incorporated “International Association” under Belgian law (AISBL No. 452165993), with a Constitution, General Assembly and Governing Council. It is recognised as a refugee-assisting NGO by the EU institutions and by several states within Europe and beyond.

JRS Europe is a region of the Jesuit Refugee Service worldwide. In Europe, it is organised as a project of the Conference of European Provincials and an inter-provincial apostolic work of the Society of Jesus, covering 20 Jesuit provinces. National coordinators and directors answer to their respective provincials and for certain matters directly to the JRS Europe regional director.

The directors of the JRS country offices meet twice annually for regional coordination meetings, which facilitates strategic planning for the region.

PERMANENT STAFF

Br Michael Schöpf Regional Director
 Ms Carola Jimenez-Asenjo Project Development Coordinator
 Mr Stefan Kessler Policy and Advocacy Officer
 Mr Philip Amaral Advocacy and Communications Coordinator
 Ms Emőke Korzensky Communications Officer (left in November)
 Ms Isabelle de Sazilly Administrator

VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS, TEMPORARY STAFF

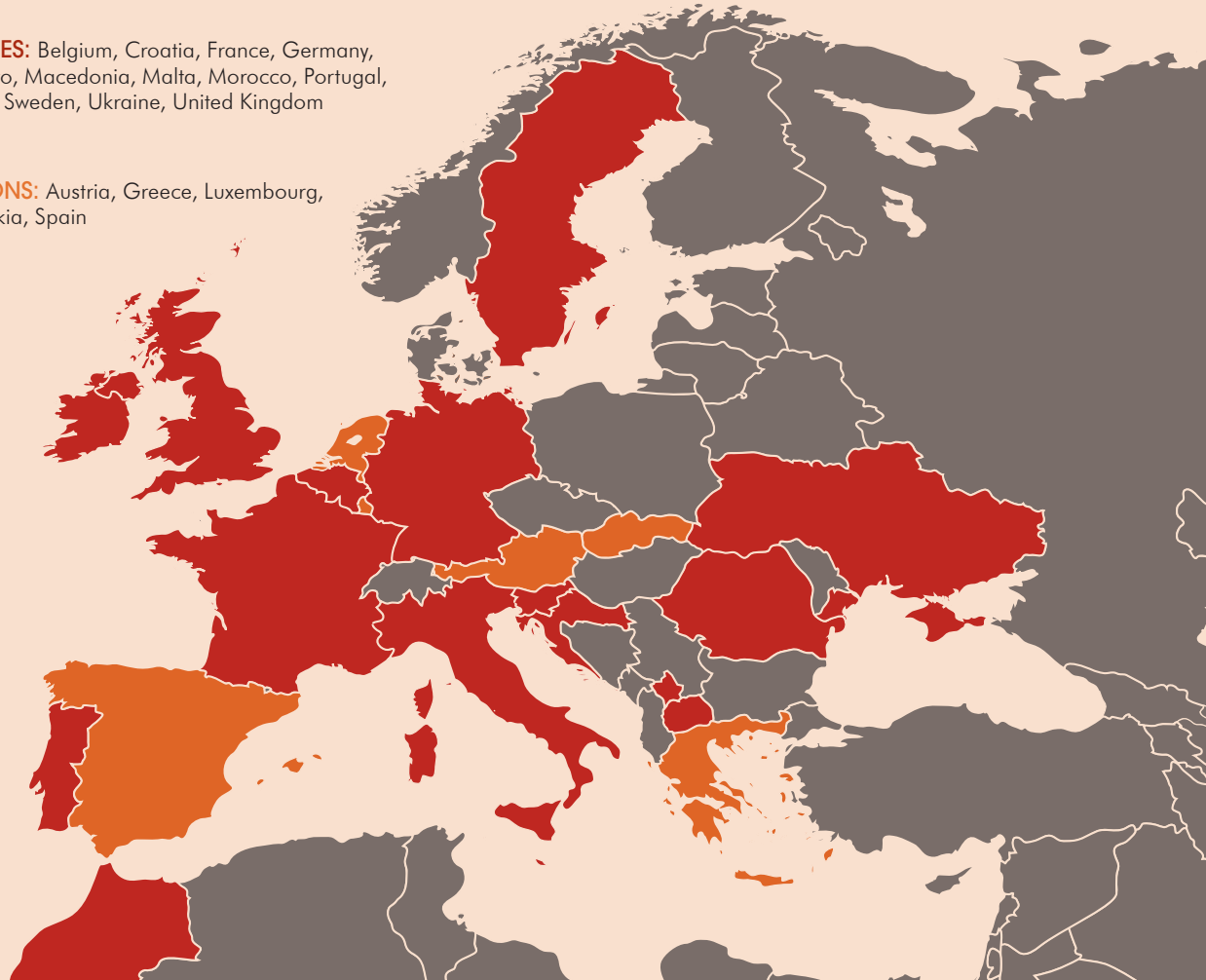
Mr Joseph Poncin Administrative Assistant
 Mr Gianluigi Campogrande Advocacy Assistant
 Mr David Colgan Media Assistant
 Ms Stephanie Wolfe Policy Intern, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Br Michael Schöpf SJ
 Ms Louise Zanré
 Ms Katrine Camilleri
 Mr Ignacio Eguizábal
 Fr Alberto Brito SJ

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SPAIN

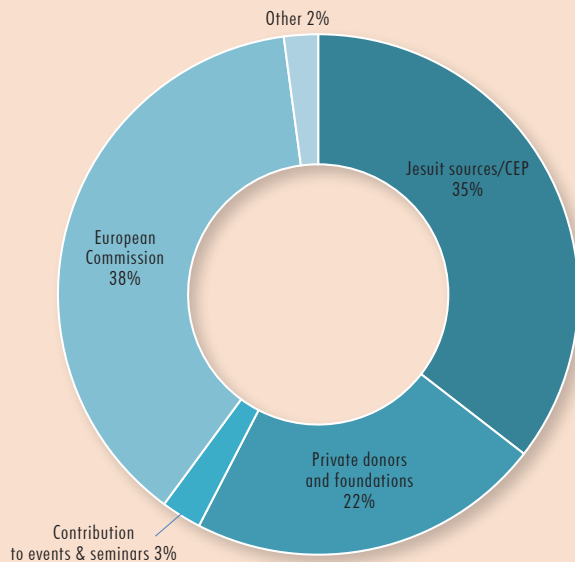
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Financial summary

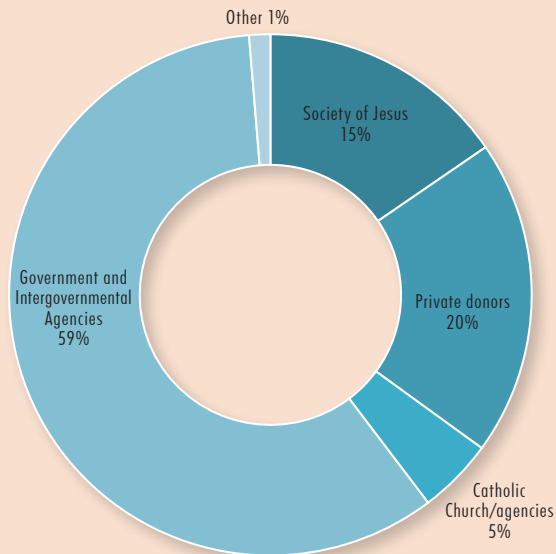
REGIONAL OFFICE - INCOME



Jesuit sources/CEP	189.771
Private donors and foundations	118.104
Contribution to events & seminars	13.426
European Commission	202.106
Other	11.333
TOTAL	534.739

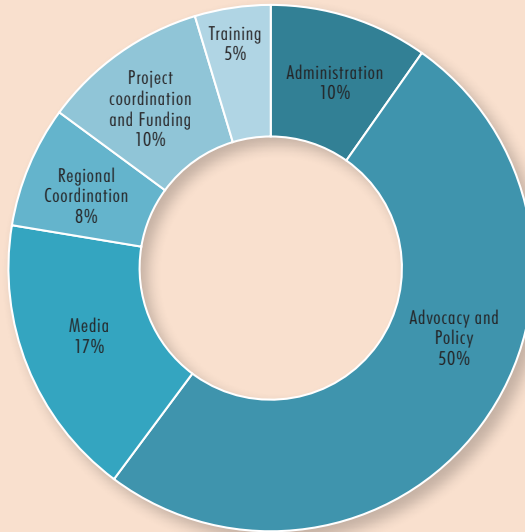
The income not spent in 2012 was used to: upgrade (€25,000) the reserves fund which is required in case of financial difficulties or in case the operations should have to cease any time in the future, and to start a fund for a Project Assistant to cover a Jesuit vacancy(€40,000)

COUNTRY OFFICES - INCOME



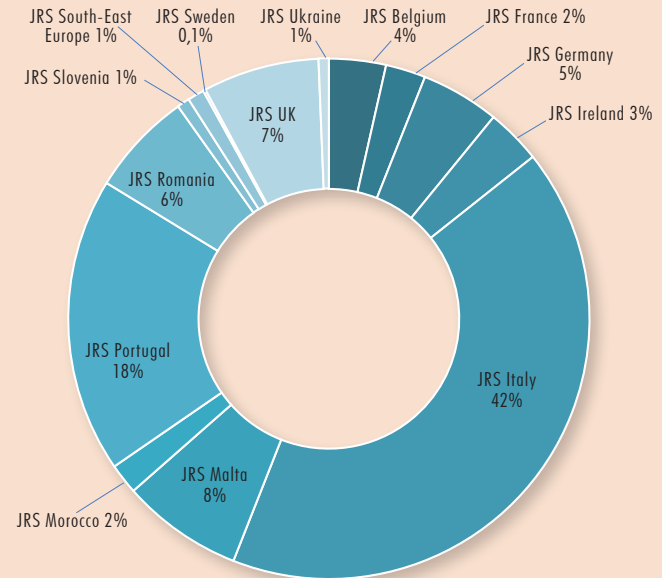
Society of Jesus	918.636
Private donors	1.164.621
Catholic Church/agencies	278.930
Government and Intergovernmental Agencies	3.514.214
Other	78.094
TOTAL	5.954.495

REGIONAL OFFICE - EXPENDITURE



Administration	45.927
Advocacy and Policy	236.915
Media	81.818
Regional Coordination	35.121
Project coordination and Funding	48.173
Training	21.934
TOTAL	469.887

COUNTRY OFFICES - EXPENDITURE



JRS Belgium	191.358
JRS France	134.458
JRS Germany	263.797
JRS Ireland	185.235
JRS Italy	2.253.703
JRS Malta	407.689
JRS Morocco	102.263
JRS Portugal	991.309
JRS Romania	348.627
JRS Slovenia	42.000
JRS South-East Europe	55.843
JRS Sweden	8.445
JRS UK	390.950
JRS Ukraine	34.356
TOTAL	5.410.031



ACCOMPANY
SERVE
ADVOCATE

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