

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



JRS EUROPE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2019 was a year of stability, as we continued to work on the different projects and lines of action that are by now well settled in the various international teams. But it was also a year of growth. Financially, we experienced a small but continuous increase in our budgets. Spiritually, emotionally and creatively, our teams have flourished, and their commitment to our mission has grown even stronger.

An important event for us was the approval of the Strategic Framework for 2019-2021. More detailed information on this can be found in this Annual Report, but allow me to highlight some of the main aspects of this document. Firstly, the method of elaboration, which was largely participatory through a major effort of consultation with both members of JRS and external experts. In this respect, we can humbly say that it is a fairly accurate picture of our reality. Secondly, we would like to emphasise that it is not intended to be an ideal framework, but rather an objective analysis of the context that is calling us for action. Thirdly, the exercise of identifying the values that guide us is extremely helpful in getting to know JRS and its work better. Finally, the Framework identifies four areas of common action in which each JRS team is engaged according to its own capacities: **access to protection, detention, social inclusion and integration, and awareness raising.** The drafting of the Strategic Framework was a necessary exercise to internally analyse our capacities, common values, and methods of operation. It has acted as a lens for reality, aiding us to look at our work not with a routine and bureaucratic view, but one that is shaped by enthusiasm and commitment. This sense of energy and improvement is what you will find in the pages of this Annual Report.

As always, we extend our sincere gratitude to the staff, volunteers, beneficiaries and donors, without whose generous commitment none of this would ever be possible.

Jose Ignacio Garcia SJ

Regional Director, JRS Europe



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Smolich SJ
Director JRS International

José de Pablo SJ
Jesuit Conference European Provincials

André Costa Jorge
JRS Portugal

Jose Ignacio Garcia
JRS Europe

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There are 15 Country Directors members of the General Assembly of the legal body of JRS Europe.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Luis Arancibia
Social Apostolate – Spain

Katrine Camilleri
JRS Malta

André Costa Jorge
JRS Portugal

Peter Rozic
Social Apostolate – JCEP

JRS Europe is an aisbl according to the Belgian legislation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
05	THE POWER OF VOTE
06	CHANGE: RAISING AWARENESS IN EUROPE
08	FINANCIAL SUMMARY
10	THE WORK ACROSS COUNTRIES

KEY FIGURES





VALUES

Dignity

JRS believes in the intrinsic dignity of every person. We work with refugees and other displaced persons regardless of race, gender, religion or politics.

Solidarity

JRS is a work of the Society of Jesus, carrying out the Society's mission of faith and justice through humble and respectful service in solidarity with refugees from diverse cultures, nationalities and religions.

Participation

JRS upholds the principle of subsidiarity, endeavouring to be openly accountable for its work and transparent in its decision-making. We work in partnership with other religious congregations, humanitarian organisations, and with refugees themselves, encouraging co-responsibility, discernment and participative decision-making.

Compassion

The JRS mission is built on our faith in

God who is present in human history, even in its most tragic moments. We are inspired by this faith and by core values that inform all the work we do.

Hospitality

JRS aspires to be hospitality in action. We walk alongside, accompany, and offer hospitality to the most vulnerable, those "at the frontiers of humanity", giving priority to situations of great need, in places where a more universal good may be achieved, and to needs to which others are not attending.

Hope

JRS aims to give hope to refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. We provide a spiritual and practical response to their plight.

Justice

JRS is committed to a justice that empowers refugees to become "people with a voice of their own", working together with them to challenge systems that deny human rights.

In 2019 our "Strategic Framework for JRS in Europe 2019-2021: Growing in Hospitality and Solidarity across Europe" came out after a year of analysis and planning to reinforce our work throughout the network.

Our common mission, vision and values guide our work and cooperation. During the Regional Coordination Meeting of March 2018, the directors agreed on four key programmatic areas that best describe the work of JRS across Europe, and what is considered the most needed in the current European context: social inclusion and integration, access to protection, detentions and its alternatives, and awareness-raising.

VISION: *Shaping the Europe of the future*

JRS in Europe works towards a Europe where human rights, protection, hospitality, integration, and reconciliation all have a place to flourish within a larger vision for inclusive and welcoming societies.



JRS is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and others who are forcibly displaced.

The power of vote EU

JRS launched its first European campaign in 2019, 'The Power of Vote', as a call for European citizens to vote in the European elections while keeping in mind the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

The campaign focused on four areas: access to protection, alternatives to detention, dignified reception, and

inclusion. For each area, JRS provided a fact sheet with recommendations for the European Union and its Member States, and an infographic for social media. The website www.jrseurope.org/thepowerofvote gathered all written and visual materials, informing citizens of the power they possess to shape a European Union that is true to its values.

THE POWER OF THIS CAMPAIGN

13



JRS country offices involved

11



Languages into which the materials were translated

3M



People reached through this campaign

1M



Social media reach

2M



Press, radio, tv reach

2k



People in events organised in 6 countries

The European Parliament can play a crucial role

in shaping an EU that is true to its values



SOLIDARITY AND EQUALITY

Work towards inclusion of migrants and refugees



PROTECTION

Create more safe and legal pathways for people seeking protection



DIGNITY

Guarantee humane reception conditions for all people asking for protection in Europe



LIBERTY

Make Detention of asylum seekers and migrants a policy of the past



This project is co-funded by the European Union



CHANGE aims to educate young people on the positive contributions of refugees to society and to encourage them to take action within their schools and local communities.

Through a **6-Stage educational course** (www.jrschange.org), CHANGE encourages students to think critically on the subject of refugees and migration, to distinguish facts from opinions, and to recognise prejudices and stereotypes.

CHANGE provides a platform for refugees to share their stories directly with students, enabling refugees to speak in classrooms, and to share their experience of living in Europe, as well as their hopes and dreams for the future.

- 1 SELF-AWARENESS AND SELF-ESTEEM
- 2 CRITICAL INFORMATION
- 3 CHANGING PERSPECTIVES
- 4 FORMING AND REPRESENTING JUDGMENTS
- 5 DEALING WITH PREJUDICES
- 6 GETTING INTO ACTION

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

JRS Country Offices of
Croatia, Hungary, Ireland,
Italy, Malta and Portugal

Lucas Onderwijs
in the Netherlands

Fundación ALBOAN
in Spain



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union

Together – students, teachers and refugees –, all have a role to play in CHANGE.

During CHANGE, students reflected on their shifting perspectives of the reality of migrants and refugees:



I am a Student
#ACT4CHANGE

"We have put ourselves in their shoes: we have imagined the dangers, fears, difficulties and injustices they suffer in their flight, during border controls, detention centres and legal procedures. We also had time to broaden our critical gaze and strengthen our awareness of solidarity."

A high school teacher's reflection on the opportunity for encounter between students and refugees:



I am a Teacher
#THINK4CHANGE

"The story of a life, which has experienced extreme suffering, was presented before the attentive gaze of my students, in an emotional atmosphere of heartfelt participation. In spite of that part of humanity that is afraid of "the Other", which arrogantly and violently flaunts a feeling of non-acceptance, non-dialogue, non-listening, the children have welcomed the story of a person in a warm embrace."



I am a Migrant
#SHARE4CHANGE

During Abdulazez's visit to the class, the students and Abdulazez discussed several topics like the languages they speak, family and friendships, and places where they have lived in and those that they aspire to live in. Abdulazez also presented some of his artwork to the students. He talked about the importance for him to tell and represent the stories of refugees through his art, especially with students in classroom.



JRS Belgium has visited migrants in detention for several decades. In 2019, the team expanded its role to include visits to the Caricole detention centre, near the airport, and the detention centres of Bruges and Merksplas on a regular basis.

The Belgian government detains people with very different stories: some fled war recently to ask for protection, others arrived in Belgium decades ago. The central thread is that JRS visitors stand by the people in detention and advocate for their inclusion in society.

JRS Belgium accompanied families in 'return houses' (houses that accommodate detainees during the asylum application process or while waiting for a return procedure). On these visits, the team addressed the challenges and pressing issues faced by the detainees, provided counselling, acted as intermediaries between the family and lawyers, and also provided outside assistance.

The visitors offered a listening ear to the problems of the detainees and thereby

contributed to their protection. Throughout this process, JRS Belgium played a pivotal role in raising public awareness through their field observation.

Between August 2018 and April 2019, the Belgian government started detaining families with children. Recognising the need to provide care and assistance to them, JRS Belgium visited the families in various family units. As these units were situated close to the airport, the team members faced quite a challenge in their process of interacting with the detainees, among other things because of the continuous disturbing noise of the aircrafts.

During the visits, JRS staff observed that, for the children and their parents, living in those 'golden cages' was physically and psychologically very trying. Living in detention, families experienced high levels of stress and mental health problems, as they were held in prison-like facilities. These 'houses' were—at least temporarily—closed in April 2019 following an appeal made by NGOs (led by JRS Belgium) with the Council of State.

Among JRS France's main goals is the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in French society. The team accompanies and accommodates asylum seekers and refugees, facilitating access to housing, training and the labour market in as many as 42 different towns and cities around France, with the aim of encouraging and enabling refugees to become active participants in French society.

2019, for JRS France, was a year of consolidation, with a strong focus on hospitality. To this end, the team carried out its mission through programmes such as "JRS Welcome" and "JRS Ruralité".

JRS Ruralité was launched as a pilot project in 2018, mainly in the regions of Limousin and the Haute-Vienne, offering short-term experiences. Through this programme, asylum seekers and refugees are given the opportunity to go on weekend trips for a break from the daily routine, to discover different ways of life and integrate with local communities.

Different experiences are made available, including farm-stays with the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF France) network, and organised workshops in rural areas.

JRS Ruralité also offers long-term integration opportunities for the settlement of refugees in rural areas. JRS France forms part of a consortium of eight associations in Haute-Vienne that support refugees through the PAIR project (Plateforme d'Accompagnement à l'Intégration Professionnelle des Réfugiés).

All active projects strive to break down barriers between asylum seekers and locals. With this aim, "JRS Jeunes" conducts co-building and co-participation activities to provide a shared space where asylum seekers can socialise with French people, and "JRS Ecole de Français" offers lessons in French, not only for practical purposes but also as a way to express new inner feelings, reconciling people with their own history. Through JRS legal, JRS supports asylum seekers and refugees in the diversity of their legal, social and administrative procedures.



JRS Germany initiated a project whereby a nun and a Jesuit provide pastoral care and counselling to asylum seekers in the First Reception Centre of Brandenburg in Eisenhüttenstadt.

The centre is located close to the German border with Poland in a town with about 29,000 inhabitants and 120 km away from Berlin. It is very difficult for protection seekers there to get access to counselling, legal advice, and other much needed assistance. JRS works in close cooperation with a protestant pastor and an organisation that offers legal assistance.

One focus of the project is on the vulnerable individuals, such as young people, pregnant women, LGTBI people and people with mental or physical disabilities, who are housed inside the centre in a separate building called the "Protection House". There they receive support, pastoral care and counselling by JRS twice a week. For them as well as for other inhabitants of the centre,

group meetings and fellowship activities are organised on a regular basis, both to ease them into life in Germany, and to help them through any psychological stress they may be feeling after a period of great uncertainty. This spiritual and psychosocial support is especially important during the Covid-19 pandemic and several quarantine measures that have added to the psychological stress.

Meanwhile, some protection seekers have been relocated from the centre to other places. JRS keeps the contacts to a few of them and continues providing them with some support.

In Wünsdorf, a reception centre located in an even smaller town but closer to Berlin, JRS Germany initiated a project to support people who are obliged to leave the country. Once a week, they are visited by a Jesuit who provides psychosocial support, and coordinates a range of activities, such as Bible study groups. If needed, assistance is also provided in legal matters and in contacting organisations in the individual person's country of origin.

JRS Greece prioritises education, livelihood, reconciliation and advocacy as means to foster agency and promote the full development, healing and freedom of displaced people. All projects aim to support people from the moment of arrival in Greece, and accompany them on the path to self-sufficiency and participation in their new society.

The local centres run by JRS Greece are at the heart of this mission. In helping people to meet their basic needs, JRS continues to operate the 'magazi', a goods store where migrants, refugees and vulnerable Greek people can obtain clothes, household goods and toys, free of charge.

Magistories continued to provide a space for people to experience the values of hospitality and compassion through education and the sharing of knowledge. In order to provide a sense of community to those who have lost their own, 'tea time' is an activity where asylum seekers and urban refugees convene while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. During tea

time, JRS staff and volunteers offer a warm welcome and a listening ear, and attempt to care for each person by providing emotional support and other practical services. The Pedro Arrupe Center project also facilitated the social integration of 225 students, including refugees, migrants and Greek children.

JRS Greece made the decision to transform its Emergency Shelter, in operation since 2015, into a Women Day Centre. This decision was supported by the local SJ community in Athens, and JRS Greece spent several months re-accommodating the shelter's residents before its closure in July 2019. The Women Day Centre opened its doors in November 2019, with the aim of promoting the integration of female asylum seekers and refugees in Greece and in Europe. It is equipped with professionals who provide psychosocial support, and aid autonomy through the creation and development of a life plan. The centre also provides a schedule of activities for women, a play area for their children, access to showers, and a laundry room.



JRS Hungary continued to support the social and educational inclusion of people receiving international protection in the country.

With an educational program that aims to support the process of school inclusion, the team worked in close cooperation with schools that enrol refugee children. Teaching Hungarian as a foreign language remained a top priority, and 486 language classes were held with the involvement of 13 volunteers. A book portraying local best practices and a reading book for students was also launched in 2019. As part of the CHANGE project, in-class activities were organised during the school year. With this awareness-raising project, four high schools and 386 students were reached.

With the aim of promoting solidarity, a number of events were organised in the House of Dialogue. Since September 2019, JRS Hungary is present in the reception facility for unaccompanied minors in Fót. Together with a partner NGO, language classes and other activities were

organised for them twice a week.

JRS also participated in a refugee outreach pilot project coordinated by UNHCR, which enabled the employment of a person with a refugee background, who was involved in the organisation's social work. Football games and cooking events were also held on a regular basis, with the participation of refugees and locals.

JRS continued to provide flats for refugee families, and accommodation for young refugees. Throughout the year, in cooperation with the Jesuit University Hall for Roma students, housing was provided for six refugee youth committed to finishing their studies. In September 2019, a new programme was launched in partnership with a local parish that decided to support three refugee families. JRS holds that such examples of hospitality are essential in helping Hungarian society become more open and sensitive towards refugees.

JRS also works closely with migrant families and young individuals, providing social support in various areas.



JRS Ireland maintained its priority focus of accompanying and serving asylum seekers living in state accommodation, immigration detainees and persons granted status in local communities. In 2019, over 2000 protection seekers directly benefited from JRS services.

Outreach was delivered on a weekly basis to 60 individuals in 12 Direct Provision centres and up to 10 people were visited weekly in prison. The needs of children were addressed through the provision of homework clubs, afterschool services, a four-week summer programme, intercultural events and the JRS CHANGE project. JRS also directly sponsored over 50 asylum seekers to undertake further education.

JRS Ireland continued to deliver the Fáilte Project, which promotes positive mental health through psychosocial and educational supports, information and advice. At the end of 2019, the PATHS Project concluded, having supported 188 persons granted status to transition to secure suitable housing in the community.

Access to appropriate accommodation to enable asylum seekers live with dignity was the greatest challenge of 2019. A 50% increase in applications in 2019, following a 20% increase in 2018, saw the demand for state-provided accommodation soar. Coupled with a wider housing crisis, this led to a situation where direct provision centres reached full capacity.

In response, the state started to place asylum seekers in emergency accommodation. The numbers grew exponentially, reaching over 1500 individuals by the end of 2019. Supports and services fall far short of what is available in Direct Provision. Responding to this need, JRS commenced outreach and support to 750 persons residing in 20 emergency locations nationwide.

National standards for accommodation for protection applicants, developed by an advisory group of which JRS was a member, were finally published. JRS is advocating for the standards to be fully implemented, consistently delivered and independently inspected by the 2021 deadline.



© Francesca Napoli

In October 2018 the migration and security decree significantly changed the life conditions of forced migrants in Italy. This law abolished the humanitarian protection permit, issued to those who did not qualify for refugee status or subsidiary protection but were deemed as vulnerable. This also resulted in the eviction of asylum seekers from accommodation centres (such as Sprar, now Siproimi) and, consequently, from integration schemes and inclusion measures.

Without accommodation, access to basic needs like food and personal hygiene is hard to achieve. The Italian social system is very poorly endowed and in no way capable of providing sustainable support for persons who need to find a place in a new society after experiencing trauma and persecution. As a result, large number of recognised refugees are marginalised in Italian society with very limited chances of achieving a normal life situation.

Since the introduction of this decree,

JRS Italy has worked to support forced migrants in these very difficult conditions, by accompanying them and providing access to a range of direct services, such as soup kitchens, showers, shelters, outreach centres, Italian language courses, integration support desks, and medical care points in Rome, Palermo, Catania, Trento, Vicenza and Naples.

Last February, Centro Astalli opened a new reception and integration centre in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. The Matteo Ricci Centre was established as a place of gathering, dialogue and strategising, and it offers migrants and citizens the opportunity to come together and share ideas. The opening ceremony was attended by Italy's president, Sergio Mattarella.

In a time in which racism and xenophobia are heavily on the rise among the Italian population, JRS Italy also focused a lot of its work on awareness-raising campaigns and projects on the asylum seekers and interfaith dialogue. The team reached out to thousands of students and teachers through these events in 2019.

SWITZERLAND



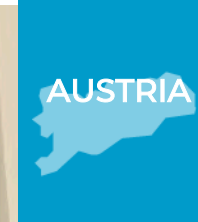
JRS Switzerland's priorities are empowerment and community, with the aim of bringing people together to develop their strengths and help each other.

JRS worked closely with rejected asylum seekers in various camps by accompanying them after asylum procedures, networking with other solidarity movements, and creating a sense of community through various organised activities, such as bike tours, religious events, and group meals.



© Ursula Markus

AUSTRIA



JRS Austria's "Locugee: Awakening Potentials" project continued to accommodate locals and refugees in a shared environment. The project currently houses 28 people, of whom 21 are refugees.

JRS opened a learning centre in March 2019, providing German language courses and lessons in democratic values and principles of Austrian society. The centre also serves as a home base for four young lawyers, who provide legal assistance.



Through the presence of its multidisciplinary team, JRS Malta accompanies and assists refugees with information, as well as legal, social, medical and psychological support. The team operates in various settings, meeting refugees through outreach in detention and open centres, and welcoming them into the office during drop-in hours.

In 2019, Malta experienced an increase in the number of refugee arrivals by boat. The reception system was quickly incapacitated, and consequently, newly-arrived refugees are being indefinitely detained. The introduction of this policy, coupled with the challenging conditions of the centres, has had a profound, negative impact on the wellbeing of refugees who are hosted in these conditions. Refugees are left feeling unwelcome, disillusioned and criminalised.

In October, JRS and partners represented six migrants who had been detained

for over ten weeks. The Maltese courts declared their detention unlawful, and released them into the community. Notwithstanding this, the team was unable to continue this work due to the lack of space in open centres, which resulted in the homelessness of all those released.

JRS Malta responded to the rapidly changing context in various ways. The team increased the number of outreach visits in all centres, where they continued to offer information sessions and services to meet the increasing need. This was also an opportunity to encounter refugees with compassion, and to listen to their stories and their hopes and dreams for the future. In light of this, the team began discerning a new style of outreach, which went beyond information and service provision. The vision, which is rooted in JRS' values, is to create a warm, hospitable and dignified space for refugees in centres to engage with their reality, learn more about the Maltese context, and think about their future with hope.



In addition to providing legal assistance on a regular basis, JRS Poland focused a lot of its work on education, by working with other organisations to improve the quality of the Polish language courses, offering tutoring for high school students from former USSR countries, and providing financial support for educational purposes. Migrants and refugees also had the opportunity to attend theatre workshops and intercultural meetings. Additionally, the team travelled to India, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Zambia on volunteering trips, and also organised recreational trips for women and children.



SLOVENIA



JRS Slovenia focused a lot of its work on compassion, solidarity, hope and participation. The team carried out weekly visits to the detention centre, playing an important role in the wellbeing of the detainees by forming friendships with them and providing psychosocial support.

JRS' radio programme 'Building a more open society' continued to air on a monthly basis, as a means of raising awareness on refugees and migration issues among the local community.



In 2019, JRS Portugal assumed three new responsibilities. One role entails the coordination of the Refugee Support Platform, which deals with the reception and integration of refugees in Portugal. This role posed a challenge on the team, who took on greater responsibilities in the hosting process of those who accept Portugal as their new home.

The second project saw the opening of a new shelter in the south of Portugal. This shelter provides a safe atmosphere for incoming refugees and their families, and serves as an initial point of access to the Portuguese language and culture. To promote the independence and autonomy of vulnerable migrants, the third project provides assistance in finding suitable accommodation, by assessing the unique needs and financial capacities of each individual, and accompanying them until they find a place to call home.

JRS provided Portuguese language classes and training courses to

ease access to the local job market. Specialised courses for women were also offered, particularly for those working as housekeepers or care assistants for the elderly. One of the most important components of these courses is the self-development class, where the main focus is to empower the students in their capacities, qualities and rights. To ease the process of finding work, JRS also set up an employment office for refugees.

The communications and advocacy officers in JRS Portugal did an important job in defending migrants' rights by organising and promoting awareness-raising campaigns for the civil society. A campaign was also launched during the European Elections, alongside an event where Portuguese MEPs participated in a panel discussion on the living conditions of migrants and refugees in Europe.

At the end of the year, JRS published a book highlighting the biggest problems faced by refugees in Portugal, and put forward their suggested solutions to these problems.



In 2019, in response to the high number of people who were forced to leave their homes due to violence and conflict, JRS Romania continued to work in close partnership with UNHCR.

To ensure that the best interests of displaced people were respected in all aspects of the asylum procedure, and afterwards, the work was carried out through a multisectorial approach, including: the promotion of a unitary practice in reception; the provision of training on appropriate standards and useful instruments; the provision of constant, qualitative information for asylum seekers throughout Romania; and the reduction of the risk of refoulement at borders. Through this work, approximately 1400 new asylum seekers were accompanied, and, for the first time, there were no children in detention centres in 2019.

JRS also facilitated the integration of resettled refugees, by training volunteers, creating a platform for employers to hire refugees, and documenting on film the

process of integration of resettled refugees in Romania. Over 600 refugees were reached through these activities, in addition to the 473 refugees who were assisted in finding and acquiring private housing.

Furthering the goal to promote alternatives to detention, and with the help of the Romanian authorities, JRS accommodated and supported 50 refugees in the Pedro Arrupe Centre, who were either released from detention or who were allowed to stay in the country but had not yet gained legal residence. This work also extended to those who wanted to return to their countries of origin but did not have the means to do so. The team assisted 60 people in their safe, dignified and voluntary return.

JRS also formed part of a network of activists committed to offering protection for resettled and relocated refugees in Europe. A range of awareness-raising activities were organised, culminating in an international conference, with the goal of enhancing cooperation between small communities, authorities and the public in assisting the resettled.

JRS South-East Europe

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

JRS BiH worked on three projects in 2019. The medical escort project with the DRC, funded by ECHO, provided support to 3312 migrants, who were escorted by cultural mediators to seek medical protection in hospitals. The RENOVABIS project, based on cultural

and educational activities, served 2264 migrants. The Una-Sana Canton capacity-building project focused on pro bono translating for courts, prosecutors, the BiH department for foreigners, and social welfare centres, in order to ensure that migrants receive proper legal treatment.

CROATIA

In collaboration and dialogue with other religious congregations, organisations, state institutions and with refugees themselves, JRS Croatia based its work in 2019 on integration, encouraging co-responsibility, discernment and participative decision-making. This work took place both in the centre in Zagreb and in other cities, especially through collaboration on the resettlement programme.

JRS continued to provide support for education and labour market integration, by including refugees in various activities, and improving their agency and confidence. With the aim of having a positive effect on the development of

vulnerable children, the team set up a child-friendly area in the reception centre in Zagreb, providing a space for children to play and learn in a social and relaxing environment.

In preparation for the arrival of Syrian refugees, an educational meeting was conducted with state administration, city and county representatives, and people in education, health, welfare and other institutions. JRS also continues to publish its multilingual newspaper *Paths*, created by refugees for refugees and local communities, where they can share their stories, current experience and hopes for the future, with the motto: "Strangers yesterday, neighbours today!"

JRS South-East Europe

KOSOVO

As JRS Kosovo continues to expand its work in reception and detention centres, offering different services and activities for refugees and detainees, 2019 also saw an increase in the supports provided for more effective integration into the country.

A range of activities and services have been made available over the past year, including medical support, psychological services, hygiene and food services, courses targeting different areas of education, sports, and social events.

NORTH MACEDONIA

JRS in North Macedonia works closely with asylum seekers in the reception centre in Skopje, by supplying a range of goods and services, including medical care, computers, translation services, and by organising activities.

JRS provided free legal aid and

counselling in the reception centre in Skopje on a biweekly basis. This included conducting interviews in the presence of an Arabic-English translator, providing information on applications and procedures, fingerprinting, issuing ID cards, and legal representation during the refugee status determination interview.

SERBIA

The main area of support provided by JRS Serbia in 2019 focused on protection and integration support for unaccompanied and separated minors. Children were accommodated in the Pedro Arrupe Integration House in Belgrade, where the most vulnerable were provided with

constant care and supervision. JRS also worked to strengthen the Integrated Protection System for Refugees in Serbia, by organising meetings and round tables with stakeholders from the field of social assistance to refugees and forced migrants.



JRS Europe Partners

LUXEMBOURG



© Kristóf Hólvényi

SPAIN



UNITED KINGDOM

Goupe Ignatien des Migrations (GIM) provided French language courses for incoming asylum seekers in collaboration with Caritas and Reach a Hand. 65 asylum seekers benefited from this initiative, with the option of continuing their studies in the National Language Centre.

Over 300 people were welcomed at Ubuntu day centre where they were provided with information, orientation, psychosocial counselling, sports and leisure activities, and community meals. Volunteers also carried out weekly visits to asylum seekers in the retention centre and in private accommodation, to offer personal guidance and assistance.

GIM organised trips to Paris and Taizé as part of its youth programme, and coordinated the participation of six young refugees in a session organised by CLC in Strasbourg on befriending refugees. Academic scholarships were also awarded to two students: one at Uni-LU, and another at the medical faculty in Belgrade.

Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM) developed its hospitality project by accompanying vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in their integration into Spanish society.

In particular, emphasis was placed on safeguarding women and children, especially those working in the housekeeping sector, those at risk of human trafficking, and young unaccompanied children.

A pilot project of the private sponsorship scheme was carried out in the Basque Country for relocated families. Following the successful accompaniment of two Syrian families in Bilbao, the implementation of this project in other parts of the country is now a possibility.

In addition to frequent detention visits, SJM took legal action in over 250 cases in order to safeguard the dignity of migrants. A campaign was launched to highlight the human rights violations and presence of children in detention centres, and to call for human alternatives to detention that ensure health, legal and translation assistance inside the centres.

2019 saw the opening of JRS UK's new legal project, as a result of the continued cuts to state legal aid in the UK, which have decimated quality legal advice. The legal team set up the legal advice service from scratch, with the main focus of building relationships of trust with refugees, in order to adequately address their complex legal cases.

Those served by JRS have come to the UK seeking refuge and wanting to rebuild their lives, but found the system for determining their claims is stacked against them.

One of their first cases was for a gentleman who has lived in the UK for over 20 years with his family: thanks to his spirit and endurance, and the legal team's hard work, he was finally granted leave to remain in spring 2019, after years of constant worry that he might be torn from his family. The legal project went on to support a further 92 people in 2019.

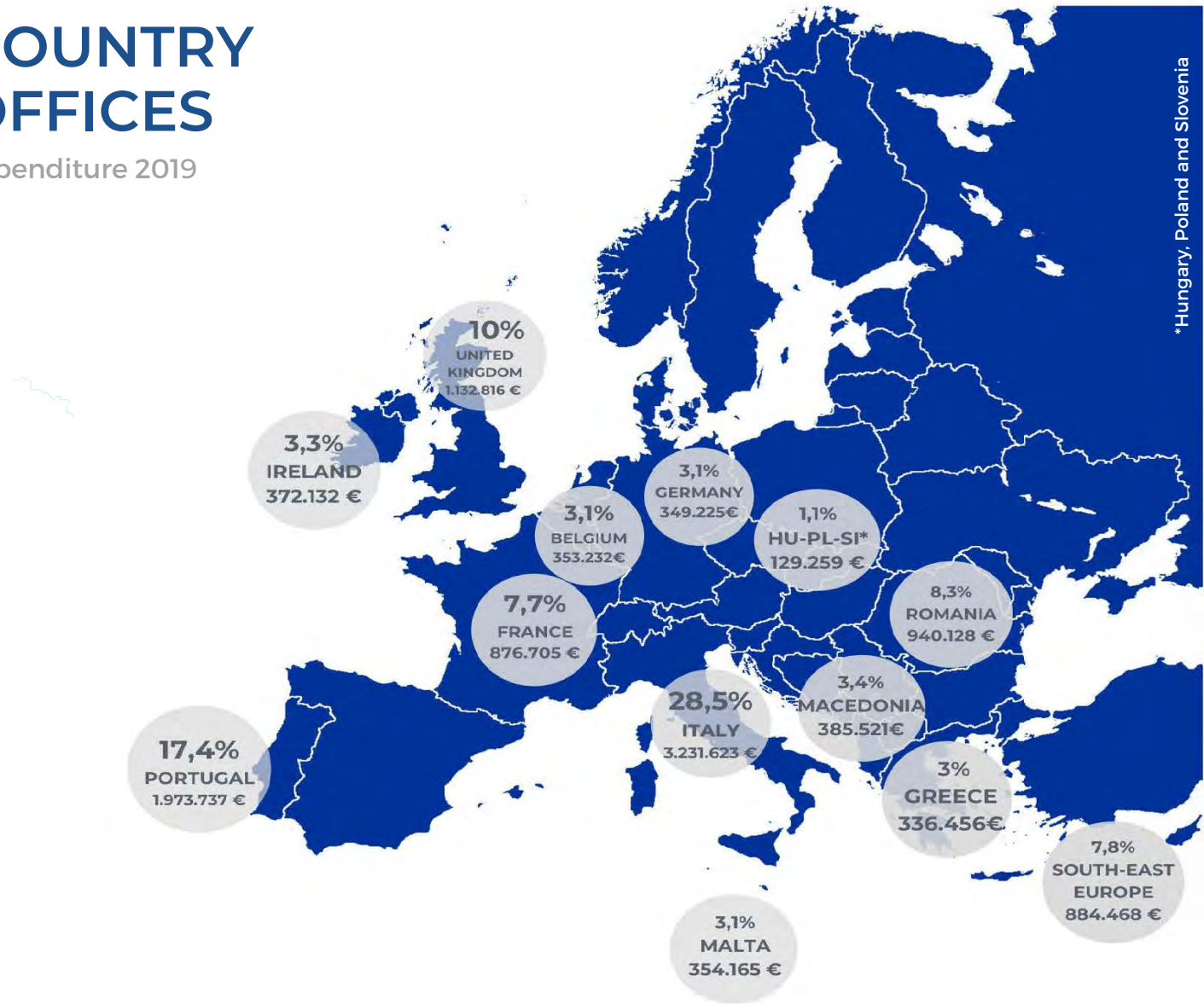
A programme for refugee-led activities was also launched to encourage

community and participation of refugees and asylum seekers, and to provide the opportunity to use and develop skills. Creating spaces of learning and enabling not only offers immediate support to participants, but builds leadership and other skills for the future, and so has an important long-term impact. As the project has progressed, the team has witnessed strong bonds develop among the community.

The JRS Creative Arts Space and the JRS Community Kitchen began in the summer of 2019, in which refugees take turns to lead a group in preparing food according to a recipe of their choice, which is then shared in a group meal. This activity offers an opportunity to learn skills in facilitation, as well as cooking, and it is always a time of joy. One of the participants said, in relation to this: "As a JRS service user, seeing how our food is made is very rewarding. Also, making collective decisions on the next menu is equally helpful. I also find the Community Kitchen very therapeutic as it is one time to be creative.

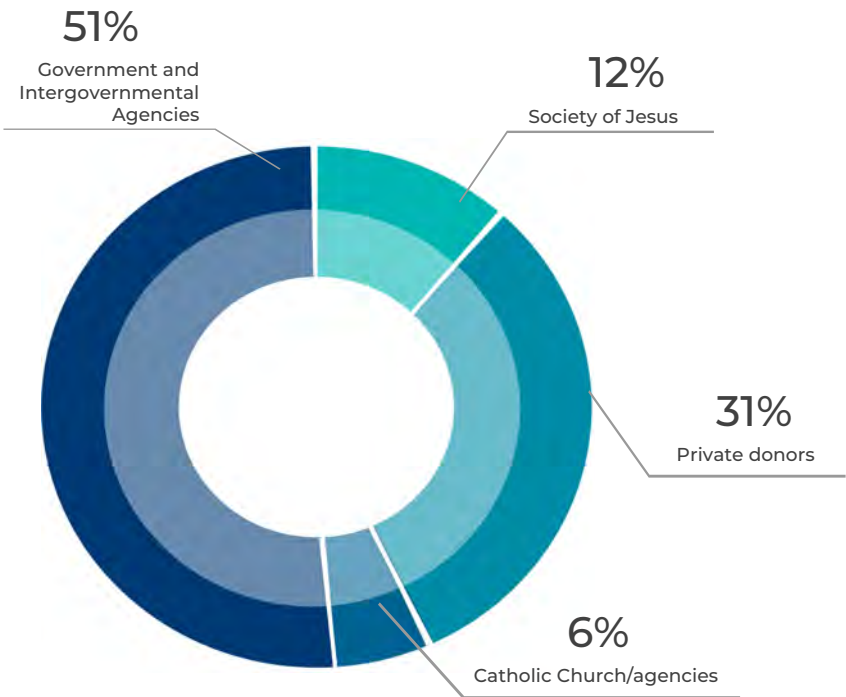
COUNTRY OFFICES

Expenditure 2019



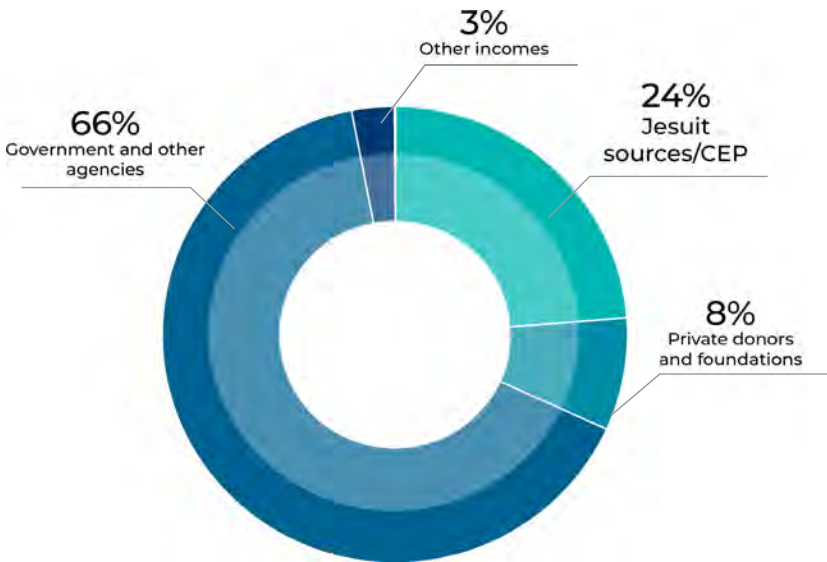
Income 2019

Society of Jesus	1,354,289 €
Private donors	2,271,312 €
Catholic Church/agencies	707,789 €
Government and Intergovernmental Agencies	6,952,930 €
TOTAL	11,286,320 €



REGIONAL OFFICE

Income 2019



Jesuit sources/CEP	256,627€
Private donors and foundations	86,056€
Government and other agencies	717,846€
Other incomes	30,164€
TOTAL	1,090,694€

Expenditure 2019



Thank you

JRS Europe thanks our donors who made our work with refugees possible in 2019.

Your generous support - be it through volunteering your time or offering material and financial support to sustain our programs - helped JRS Europe to successfully accompany people, advocate for their rights, provide needed services and raise awareness on the issues they face as well as the positive contributions that they lend to building diverse and inclusive societies across Europe. Notably, we would like to thank the Council of Europe Development Bank, EU AMIF, European Parliament, EU Solidarity Corps, Jesuit Conference of European Provincials and JRS USA.



EUROPE

WWW.JRSEUROPE.ORG



ADVOCATE

You can keep yourself informed about our work and share our messages and stories. Sign up for JRS Europe newsletter on our website (jrseurope.org/contact) and follow us on social media.



DONATE

You can contribute to JRS's work by donating via PayPal on our website (jrseurope.org/donate) or via bank transfer to the following account:

IBAN: BE 49 2100 9067 7571

Swift code: GE BA BE BB

Account name: JRS Europe



CONTACT

**Jesuit Refugee Service
Europe**

Chaussée de Wavre 205, 1050
Ixelles, Brussels - Belgium

 +32 (0) 2 554 02 20

 europe.admin@jrs.net