

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021



EUROPE



## Mission

Jesuit Refugee Service (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.



## Vision

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.

# 117,798

people served in Europe



Education



Livelihoods



Psychosocial/Pastoral



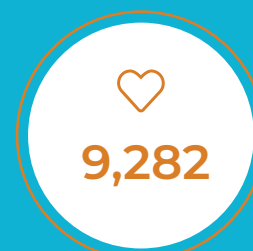
Communication



Emergency



Advocacy/Protection



Healthcare



Peace building

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 04

JRS EUROPE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### 05

ADVOCACY IN 2021

### 06

ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

### 08

CHANGE

### 10

THE WORK ACROSS COUNTRIES

### 28

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



## JRS EUROPE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2021 was marked by insecurity and uncertainty, mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects, especially on the most vulnerable groups. At the same time, it was an opportunity to enhance our creativity and flexibility in service. Our teams have been an example of care, professionalism, and resilience. There is much to be thankful for in a year in which we continue to keep hope alive.

In February and March, we mapped and analysed the impact of Covid-19 on the reception and detention of asylum seekers. These findings, published in "From Bad to Worse: Covid-19 Aggravates Existing Gaps in the Reception of Asylum Seekers", were presented in multiple countries in Europe and the US, alongside recommendations. They were also discussed in meetings with Members of the European Parliament and Commission.

JRS Europe held the workshop "CHANGE: building a society where everyone is welcome" at the European Youth Event, where over 3,000 young people from all over Europe gathered. The workshop engaged young people on the topics of migration and asylum.

In connection with this event, we showed two of the innovative aspects of CHANGE: refugee participation and students becoming ambassadors to share what they have learnt with their school or local communities. As part of the CHANGE Ambassador Programme, a group of students from Croatia created a song that represents the soul of the project inspired by what they have learnt and the refugees' testimonies.

*"Hey! Be the change you wanna see!  
We can do it together, You and me!  
All you have to do is open your heart,  
And everything's gonna be alright!"*

In December 2021, we launched a new online platform that hosts all our awareness-raising projects in the field of education. The platform is currently hosting the pedagogic materials from the project CHANGE but will also incorporate the materials of U-CHANGE and CHANGE environment.

2021 was also a stagnation year for the European Pact. Although negotiations on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum continued, pushbacks and deaths at the EU external borders were reported daily, and people seeking protection were treated as security threats. The Belarusian border and Afghan refugees were two examples of our advocacy commitment. JRS Europe also continued to advocate for safe and legal pathways, community-based alternatives to detention and the promotion of a welcoming and humane narrative, among other things.

Finally, the JRS annual report is not only a set of activities and projects but is also an expression of appreciation and gratitude towards our donors, supporters, staff and volunteers. Our commitment to carry out our mission to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and other displaced people would never have been possible without their firm dedication.

**Alberto Ares Mateos SJ**

*Regional Director, JRS Europe*



In 2021, negotiations on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum continued, pushbacks and deaths at the EU external borders were reported daily, and people seeking protection were treated as security threats. Throughout the year, JRS Europe has continued to advocate for:

- Safe and legal pathways
- Safe and dignified reception
- Full implementation of the current European legislation on asylum
- End of detention as a tool for migration management
- Community-based alternatives to detention
- The promotion of a welcoming and humane narrative

## ADVOCACY AND COVID-19

With the support of the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), with partners in nine EU countries we mapped and analysed the impact of Covid-19 on the reception and detention of asylum seekers. These findings were published and disseminated in 2021 and will continue to support and inform our advocacy during and beyond the pandemic.

## THE NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

JRS and the Christian Group worked on policy positions on the proposed EU Pact:

- Comments on the New Pact
- Pre-entry screening and border procedures
- Search and Rescue
- Solidarity mechanism
- Returns and third countries

We advocated with positions and amendments to several Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and policymakers with the Brussels-based civil society networks.

## BELARUSIAN BORDER

At the end of 2021, thousands of people were stuck between the EU and Belarus border for months, with no shelter and no help. Several lost their lives. As JRS Europe we signed a joint statement calling on the EU to restore rights and values at Europe's borders.

## AFGHANISTAN

JRS has advocated for the rights of refugees since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. We signed joint statements asking the EU to stop deportations to Afghanistan, to commit to helping Afghans in need of international protection and we continue to advocate for resettlement schemes and safe and legal pathways. With the JRS Advocacy Taskforce, we collected information on the situation of Afghans from the Country Offices and shared this with NGO networks at the EU level.

## THE NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

- Partnership with the JRS Country Offices (Advocacy Taskforce – two meetings, one on Afghanistan and one on the EU Pact)
- Recommendations on EU legislative initiatives (Christian group papers)
- Meetings with key policymakers, such as MEPs (11 meetings in total throughout the year with MEPs and their assistants and EC officials)
- Collaboration with NGOs (ECRE network, Christian Group)

INSIDE THE DETENTION FACILITY LIFE WAS HARSH



I HAD NO MONEY TO BUY PHONE CARDS TO TALK WITH ANYONE BUT MY ROOMMATES



ONE CALL BACK HOME COULD HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE CREDIT, SO I AVOIDED CALLING MY FAMILY

I FEEL LOST AND ALONE.



## ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In 2020, together with partners in nine EU countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Spain) and with the support of EPIM, we carried out a mapping and analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on detention and reception of asylum seekers. In February and March 2021, we published our findings.

## FROM BAD TO WORSE: COVID-19 AGGRAVATES EXISTING GAPS IN THE RECEPTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

With the outbreak of Covid-19, EU Member States ordered their populations to stay at home and practice social distancing with the aim of reducing the spread of the virus. Complying with these measures was often particularly difficult for asylum seekers, as many of them were living in overcrowded reception facilities, or worse, they could not access reception and were left homeless during a pandemic. More generally, we concluded that Covid-19 magnified and aggravated all the existing flaws of EU reception systems.

## ADVOCACY AND DISSEMINATION

The reports' findings and recommendations were presented – among others - in the following webinars:

- "Seeking protection in a pandemic", 23/04/2021, panel discussion JRS USA and Georgetown University.
- "Accogliere a distanza? Impatto e prospettive dopo un anno di pandemia", 30/04/2021, Asilo in Europa.
- "Presente y futuro del sistema de acogida en España", 13/05/2021, SJM Spain and University of Comillas.
- "Lockdowns and lockups: lessons (not) learnt on immigration detention", 22/06/2021, joint webinar by PICUM and JRS Europe.

The project findings were also discussed in several bilateral meetings with MEPs and EC officials.

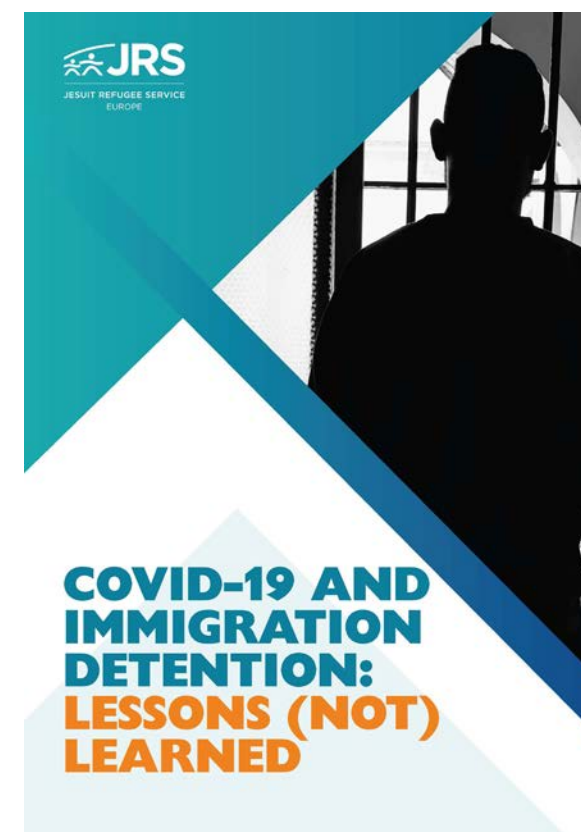
The reports' findings and recommendations – completed with testimonies illustrating them - were also published in the form of 11 fact-sheets and special digital visual material was developed for the dissemination on social media.



## COVID-19 AND IMMIGRATION DETENTION: LESSONS (NOT) LEARNED

Despite the EU Return Directive stating detention is unlawful when there is no reasonable prospect for return, only one country – Spain – released detainees during lockdown in spring 2020. In other countries, many detainees were released in practice, but this was done on a case-by-case basis and not as a result of a general policy decision. In Malta, Portugal and Romania, detention simply continued.

Living in detention in times of Covid-19 meant increased isolation for detainees, as external visits were not allowed or severely limited. Feeling of stress and anxiety were also aggravated during the pandemic, because of the fear of contracting the virus and because of lack of sufficient information on the pandemic and how that would impact their legal status and stay in detention.



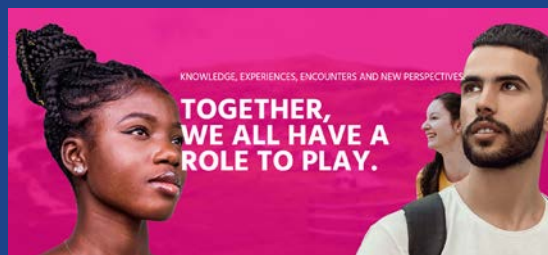




## AWARENESS RAISING MATERIALS

### WEBSITE

In December 2021 we launched a new online platform for all our awareness-raising projects in the field of education. The platform is currently hosting the pedagogic materials from the project CHANGE and can be accessed by teachers, students and the wider public to download resources or find further information. In 2022 it will also incorporate the materials of U-CHANGE and CHANGE environment.



### VIDEOS



In 2021, we launched nine CHANGE videos. The European video gives an overview of the project while the national videos show the particularities of the implementation in each of the countries. The videos show two of the innovative aspects of CHANGE: refugee participation and students becoming Student Ambassadors to share what they have learnt with their school or local communities.

## PORTUGAL: CULTURAL GUIDE

Along with the very practical challenges of finding housing and being allowed to remain in the country, newcomers to Portugal – refugees and migrants alike – encounter cultural differences. To support overcome this challenge, Student Ambassadors for CHANGE at the Fernão Mendes Pinto Secondary School created a 10-minute video overview of Portuguese heritage, including typical dishes and popular activities.

## ITALY: LITERARY CONTEST

Thousands of high school students from 15 Italian cities participated in the writing contest “La scrittura non va in esilio” (Writing Does Not Go Into Exile). The expert jury, made up of writers, journalists, and representatives of international organisations chose the winners: all young students, who wrote about migration from different perspectives.

## CROATIAN SONG

As part of the CHANGE Ambassador Programme, a group of students from Croatia created a song that represents the soul of the project inspired by what they have learnt and the refugees’ testimonies.

*Hey! Be the change you wanna see!*

*We can do it together, You and me!*

*All you have to do is open your heart,*

*And everything's gonna be alright!*

## BELGIUM: WHO WE ARE

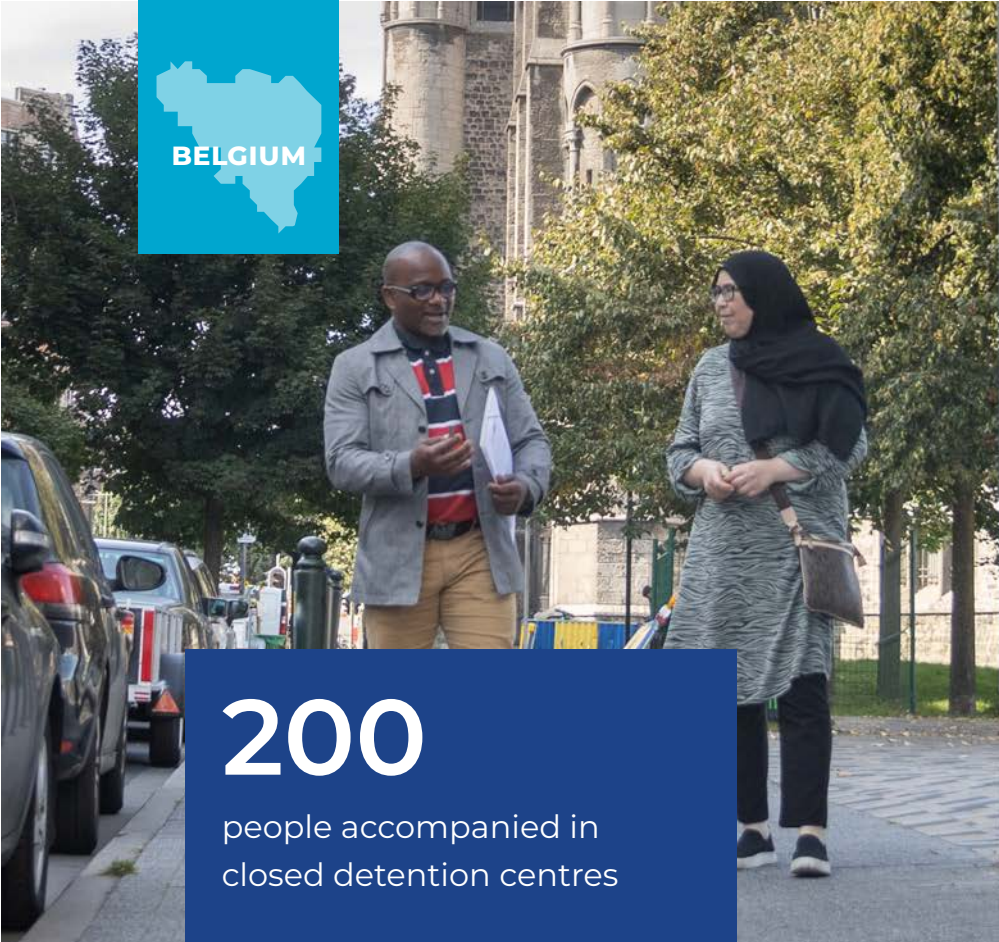
55 students from Collège Saint Michel school attended the dance-theatre and marionette show “Who We Are” from the company Transe-en-Danse in November 2021. The performance featured five young artists from sub-Saharan Africa and Palestine, all asylum seekers in Belgium. Through the marionettes that represent them, the artists invite the audience to listen to them.

The show helped the students reflect on the CHANGE topics. It challenged them to confront the harsh reality of migration, and to open their hearts to the human stories behind numbers and labels. A perfect addition to CHANGE, it fuelled the discussion on how European society can be more welcoming towards migrants and refugees.

## EUROPEAN INTERSCHOOL KAHOOT

Between December 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, we celebrated the third edition of the European Interschool Kahoot. More than 3,500 students from schools in Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Portugal and Spain participated in the sessions to work on the issues of migration and refugees. Through live video chats, we could interact with the students in their classrooms eager to participate.





200

people accompanied in closed detention centres

**In 2021, JRS Belgium reaffirmed its focus on accompanying people in detention, but also paved the way to further develop two rather new projects, the projects CHANGE and Plan Together.**

To create more understanding between host communities and refugees and migrants, JRS Belgium offered young people a chance to participate CHANGE. People who migrated to Belgium talked about their lives and experiences, while teachers reflected on migration together with their pupils.

JRS Belgium also encouraged young people to take action. Students of the Sint-Niklaas Institute drew their own animated characters about migration, after first listening to testimonies, while students of the Sint-Michiels college went to a theatre performance by migrants on migration. JRS Belgium will expand its engagement in 2022.

Covid-19 restrictions, which rendered visits to the living areas impossible for many months, made visits in closed

centres more difficult. Still, JRS Belgium was able to psychosocially accompany 200 people and provide juridical information with the support of a new jurist.

From these visits two issues were very prominent. Firstly, some people have been detained for a extensive time before being forcibly returned, even for more than a year. Secondly, while illegal in Belgium, the government still locks up young people who seem to be minors while they await an age test. This takes weeks and is unreliable since it is based on the bone growth structures of European people in the 1950s.

The government has been working on expanding the capacity of closed centres and investing in detention rather than guidance and support of migrants. JRS is accompanying people at home, showing alternative ways of dealing with people who are looking to establish a sustainable future. The focus of our approach is to remain open to all solutions, return as well as legal residency. We keep advocating to make a shift, from forced return to cooperative choice.



327

people hosted in 1,501 civic hospitality locations.

**In 2021, JRS France focused on returning to in-person activities in all our programmes to recreate the link between exiled and local people.**

Despite a drop in the number of host families, civic hospitality was offered to 327 people in 1,501 host locations, with a total of 38,298 overnight stays. To better understand the context of the "Welcome Programme", a qualitative study on the definition of these encounters was carried out. In addition, a diagnosis of the health problems of the people hosted within the families and the different prejudices that the host families may have was completed. The objective was to build and deploy a physical and mental health policy for all the actors of the JRS France network.

The JRS Youth Programme brought together 1450 participants from more than 65 different nationalities in 600 sport and cultural activities.

The employment and training support programme grew in 2021 with the development of tools inspired by the

Japanese method "Ikigai" - or "finding one's reason for being". The finalization of this tool was planned for the first half of 2022.

JRS France also created an "inter-antennas" working group, providing a place to share expertise, training, skills and support for initiatives across the network. In total, 198 people were accompanied to employment and training.

The JRS Accompagnement Juridique programme accompanying forcibly displaced persons in their asylum and integration process helped almost 300 people in the 11 active offices. At the same time, JRS France offered support in finding accommodation for people leaving the JRS Welcome programme, after they obtained international protection. In the Île de France region, some 20 people have been able to obtain housing through it.

Finally, 2021 saw the completion of a report on the reception and integration of forcibly displaced persons. The research was conducted on the issue of the professional integration of refugees in France with a European comparison.





© M. Schneider/JRS

2,387

refugees and other forcibly displaced people served

**With 1,000-1,200 refugees placed in detention every year in Bavaria alone and a new detention centre opened in Hof in 2021, detention is applied too often, too quickly, too frequently, and for too long. However, only one in 10 detainees is represented by a lawyer during the judicial procedures preceding a detention order. JRS Germany is working to provide significantly more detainees with access to legal assistance.**

To do this, JRS Germany joined forces with six lawyers specialized in migration law and four experienced volunteers to form a team that provides quick legal assistance and representation. JRS mediates the cases and reimburses the involved lawyers if a case is lost.

The team exchanges, consults and coordinates on individual proceedings. By analyzing cases and experiences it also uncovers structural deficits. The results are incorporated into the public relations and lobbying work of JRS.

To face one of these structural deficits,

together with an alliance of over 80 civil society organizations, JRS Germany launched the "GleichBeHandeln" (equal and/or quick treatment) campaign. The aim is to restrict the obligation to transmit data and enable all people to go to the doctor without fear. This is in response to the social welfare office obligation to pass on data regarding the patients to the migration authority if the costs of treatment must be covered by the public sector. This discourages undocumented migrants to seek medical attention.

In addition, JRS Germany carried activities aimed to raise awareness. In November, law student Asma Sadat held a three-day seminar that dealt with topics such as empowerment and body positivity to empower women with a migration background. In August, Egyptian artist Essam Shenouda exhibited paintings to convey the stories and experiences of refugees at the St. Canisius Church in Berlin.



4,743

people served through the Magazi project.

**In 2021, the number of people arriving in Greece dropped to 8,803. Due to a governmental plan to reduce congestion on the islands in 2020, transfers to mainland Greece placed most of the migrant community in Athens. JRS Greece supported refugees by covering basic needs, and delivering social protection services, assistance, and basic goods. The needs of forcibly displaced people living in Greece increased, compounded by economic and social impacts of Covid-19.**

JRS also adapted its projects to the Covid-19 reality. Greek language classes for integration, were transferred online during lockdown, and free internet was provided to the most vulnerable students. In 2020/2021, 120 students participated and 100 students registered for 2021/2022. In addition, hot meals were delivered to 16 students and dry food was provided to 10 families monthly.

Magistories, a project to integrate the children and adults who do not have

access to public education, was conducted online with free internet provided to the most vulnerable students. 235 people registered for languages courses in 2021. During summer, Magistories held a summer-camp for children between 6 and 12 years old, with creative games and activities. Snacks and drinks were also distributed to the students.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Magazi, a shop providing free clothes, shoes, hygiene items, pumpers, and toys for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants, served 4,743 people by appointment.

The Food-Basket project distributed food to the most vulnerable 84 families participating in JRS projects. It also provided drinks and snacks at Victoria Square to children participating in the activities.

At the Women Day Centre (WDC), families could use showers and washing machines. In addition, JRS provided accompaniment and creative workshops for the women. In total, WDC had 2,410 beneficiaries in 2021.





**Throughout 2021, JRS Hungary maintained its services supporting the social and educational inclusion of people receiving protection.**

JRS continued to provide apartments and safe housing conditions for refugee families and, in close partnership with local Jesuit institutions, young refugees. Supporting school inclusion remained the top priority of our educational programme. Hungarian schools often lack capacities to enrol non-Hungarian-speaking refugee children and guarantee language or catch-up courses. This was made even more difficult by the Covid-19-pandemic. JRS continued working in close cooperation with schools that enroll refugee children to provide them with support.

JRS also maintained a strong focus on language skills development for both for children and adults.

During the summer, JRS Hungary organised catch-up activities for refugee students aiming to strengthen their

writing and reading skills in Hungarian in the House of Dialogue

In close cooperation with a partner NGO, JRS offered language classes in the reception facility for unaccompanied minors in Fót. In addition, JRS provided financial support to be spent on free time activities to encourage meeting opportunities for children and young people. JRS also provided technical assets and school supplies for the facility to support the start of the new school year.

In cooperation with other JRS offices, JRS Hungary participated in the EU-AMIF funded CHANGE project. The project was mostly carried out online due to Covid-19. Among other activities, JRS Hungary co-organised two international Kahoot competitions for high school students.

With the support of JRS, local youth organised an interactive, informal event with the involvement of JRS volunteers and beneficiaries. Its aim was to provide a platform for personal encounters through games, short performances and a dinner prepared by refugee families.

**JRS Ireland maintained its focus on the accompaniment of forcibly displaced persons living in State accommodation, supporting asylum seekers to access protection and realise their rights and entitlements.**

The cornerstone of the outreach programme was the "Information and Advice Clinic". In addition, over 600 people were supported by the National Resident Helpline - a confidential, freephone service coordinated by JRS.

Children benefitted from CHANGE and a Summer Programme of activities, and over 70 asylum seekers were also sponsored to undertake further education or vocational training.

The Fáilte Project, which provides reception and orientation support to protection applicants, expanded online with the "JRS Welcome Website". Welcomejrs.ie is a one-stop portal for protection applicants in Ireland, and digitised Fáilte Project's information.

The "Connecting Communities" project,

which seeks to enhance the long-term integration of people aiming to exit state accommodation, supported 141 people.

In response to the turmoil in Afghanistan, JRS engaged with statutory agencies and Department of Justice officials on the needs of Afghan nationals in Ireland, to accelerate case processing procedures and facilitate requests for family reunification.

JRS Ireland advocated to inform the Government's White Paper on Ending Direct Provision through Working Papers, presentations, and direct dialogue with policy officials. In November, JRS launched the Misesan Cara funded report "Protection with Dignity: A Humane Response to Global Forced Displacement", aiming to ensure people seeking refuge and protection are welcomed and supported to live with dignity in receiving countries.

In response to increasing barriers to access protection, the SEEAP Project was launched to assist persons seeking protection in Ireland and more effectively navigate the early stages of the process.





# 17,000

asylum seekers and refugees supported by Centro Astalli.



**Despite the pandemic and its social and economic impact, Centro Astalli's (JRS Italy) activities served 17,000 asylum seekers and refugees, including first aid services, food parcels and financial support.**

Overall, the projects had the main goal of identifying new opportunities of social inclusion and integration for asylum seekers and refugees, through training courses, professional retraining, empowerment, and internships.

In addition to screening activities such as Covid-19 tests, the SaMiFo center, dedicated to the health of forced migrants, also provided vaccinations for refugees outside the reception system.

In response to the Afghanistan crisis, Centro Astalli assisted 22 families who arrived via humanitarian corridors and were hosted in reception facilities throughout the country. They received information in the early stages of arrival and accompaniment during the asylum application. A SaMiFo team visited them, hosted preventive quarantines in

Covid-19 hotels, and listened to their health and social requests.

To facilitate the transition from assisted reception to autonomy, Centro Astalli implemented several projects. Among these was an experimental co-housing project for Italian and foreign university students. A student who arrived with the help of the UNHCR University Corridors for Refugees, for which Centro Astalli is a partner participated.

The Italian Public Administration digitised many of its services in 2021. To try to counter the negative consequences of the digital divide, Centro Astalli accompanied refugees in this transition.

In 2021, Centro Astalli celebrated 40 years through multiple activities: the publishing of a book titled "La trappola del virus"; a visit from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi; a video message from the former President of the Parliament European, David Sassoli; an exhibition called "Volte al futuro – con I rifugiati per un nuovo noi"; and a message from Pope Francis.

**JRS Malta embarked on several outreach projects which targeted audiences not normally reached online or on social media.**

"Learning Human Stories" is a project aimed at countering misinformation, fostering social inclusion through encounter, and promoting active citizenship by engaging members of local communities to think critically about forced migration. It creates spaces for dialogue and encounter with refugees, and supports members of local communities to become agents of change. JRS Malta worked with the Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Malta to engage parishes and communities to organise awareness-raising programmes. The project was funded by the Active Citizens Fund and, according to data recorded, managed to reach hundreds of people of different ages and social backgrounds.

Another project which focused on debate and awareness raising was "FA.B! Family Based care for children

in migration". This project was aimed at supporting the improvement and expansion of alternative family-based care systems for unaccompanied migrant children in five European frontline Mediterranean Countries: Italy, Greece, Spain, Malta and Cyprus. Family based care is commonly recognised as the best way to facilitate integration and promote the well-being of children, yet only a minority of unaccompanied migrant children benefit from foster-based care. FA.B! focuses on addressing this gap through awareness and advocacy, intervening on the critical aspects of the process of establishing a foster-based care system as an alternative to reception centres.

Together with Aditus and ASGI, JRS Malta worked on a project called "Access to Protection". The aim of the project is helping asylum seekers find protection in Malta, and ensuring they are received with dignity and provided with the information, assistance and support they need from the moment of their arrival.



**Three main programmes were carried out in 2021: support in unemployment, help at the Belarusian border, and modernisation of the JRS usable space.**

Refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable migrants and humanitarian migrants were given temporary support to achieve basic livelihoods, including people looking for work or housing, or those struggling with a mental health crisis. The programme also included lessons in Polish, music and technology.

Emergency food, medical supplies, legal assistance, job-seeking support, housing and language assistance were provided to people who crossed the Belarusian border. In addition, support was provided to people placed in detention.

Reconstruction, expansion and thermal modernisation works were implemented in the JRS Poland building.

**Since 2003, JRS Slovenia has broadcasted the radio show "Building a more open society" once a month on the catholic radio Ognjišče, where we discuss refugee, development, and migrant issues. With these shows, JRS hopes to present the listeners with a more positive attitude towards refugees and migrants.**

JRS staff also visited the detention centre weekly, providing psychosocial support and pastoral care, and maintaining strong relationships with the detainees. We are the only NGO who are visiting the detention centre on the regular base. .

211

Afghan people welcomed in Portugal

**2021 brought many challenges but JRS Portugal accompanied, served, and advocated for those in need.**

More than 30 schools participated in the CHANGE project. The project was very successful, with some student ambassadors' activities and JRS Portugal participating in the European Youth Event in Strasbourg.

JRS launched #NoCrimeNoPrison, a campaign to end the administrative detention of migrants and create a job search visa. While it did not reach the signatures required to be discussed in parliament, it sparked meetings with the President and several political parties.

The team of the Academy also developed projects to help the integration of migrants and refugees in Portuguese society based on language and employment. The project "Entre Palavras" promoted Portuguese classes and cultural visits around Lisbon, and Cuidar sem Fronteiras offered work training and certificates, which led to many people finding employment. The

employment team also launched the new project "Ctrl + Alt + Emprego", which gives basic IT skills to migrants and refugees.

JRS launched the second edition of "Livro Branco", a study on refugees and migrants problems, based on field experience. It included solutions and strategies for the government.

In November, JRS welcomed 211 Afghan people - 58 military personnel, and 125 people connected to the Afghan football world, and their families. Most of them reunited with families who had arrived a few months earlier and whom JRS Portugal was already accompanying. This rescue operation required very close work with the Portuguese government, through funding from the Romulus T. Weatherman Foundation and the collaboration of the Deliver Fund and USAID, and JRS USA.

The people were housed in temporary reception centres in Lisbon, Fátima and Ericeira. JRS provided psychological, legal, medical support, occupational activities, and Portuguese language lessons.





+700

refugees assisted and accommodated

**2021 marked a new record in Romania migration history with 9581 asylum applications. JRS Romania's main areas of action were integration and protection, and over 80 advocacy interventions were recorded.**

Through "My Place to Integration", JRS carried out activities to ensure access to quality integration services, such as information; counselling; material assistance; legal, medical, psychological, social, cultural, recreational, and educational activities; language courses; and cultural orientation.

To prevent overcrowding in reception centres, JRS helped over 700 refugees to access private homes and helped them settle into, as well as furnish them. JRS provided financial support for rent for 360 people, which fomented development and integration in host communities and prevented refugee segregation. JRS also piloted a mentoring programme focusing mainly on teaching the basics of HTML and JavaScript, but also involving creative problem-solving tasks, team-

building activities and thematic lessons. The innovation brought by the programme was the lack of technical resources needed for from the participants. To complete the mentoring programme, every participant had to develop a personal website that would tell their story and journey.

JRS carried out activities within the Assisted Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration project to promote and facilitate it through counselling, and information.

JRS is present in all reception centres, public detention centres and relevant border crossings, monitoring the vulnerable and marginalised cases, and working with the authorities to improve legislation, reception conditions, asylum procedures, information, and access to fundamental rights.

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in more migrants being released from detention. The Pedro Arrupe Center, funded by AMIF, offered detainees a dignified place of residence, where they could benefit from a range of social services. Among the 113 accommodated people, JRS managed to keep the spread of Covid-19 below 1%.



92

refugees accessed Covid-19 vaccines through JRS clinics

**For many of the refugees, access to healthcare is fraught with difficulty. JRS UK hosted workshops and pop-up Covid-19 vaccine clinics and developed new partnerships to ensure refugees could access vaccination.**

When the news broke in December 2020 that the vaccine had proven effective in protecting people from Covid-19, it felt as if the whole world breathed a sigh relief. Finally, it seemed there was a light at the end of the tunnel and a hope of returning to some form of normality.

From conversations with refugees, it became clear people were anxious about accepting the vaccine. With a great deal of misinformation being shared, JRS knew it needed to offer refugee friends a safe space where they could ask questions about the vaccine and Covid-19 in general. Therefore, JRS UK hosted several Zoom Q&A workshops with medical professionals.

The next barrier was ensuring refugees were able to access the vaccination, since many find registering with a GP and

accessing healthcare can be challenging. JRS partnered with the outreach team at Barts NHS Health Trust and the Excel vaccination centre to host a vaccination clinic at JRS centre in Wapping. The partnership offered an opportunity for refugees to have the vaccine in a place they felt safe, alongside people they knew. In addition, refugees could access face-to-face casework or legal advice and toiletries and hot food provision. Through 12 vaccine clinics, JRS was able to vaccinate 92 refugees at the vaccination clinics, from first doses, through to booster doses.

The partnership with Barts NHS Health Trust was extended beyond that project with the aim to remove barriers to healthcare for refugee and people on the peripheries of society. This was useful when JRS cooperated with a local Filipino community organisation to help vaccinate 67 of their members with first doses and supported them when they organised their own clinics.





JRS South-East Europe



JRS South-East Europe

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In 2021, JRS BiH focused on five camps, where four different projects were carried out. Working together with the Danish Refugee Council, JRS employed 16 cultural mediators who provide asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants with aid to access health services and psychological assistance.

In addition, with the aim of improving the living conditions of refugees and

migrants in temporary receptions centres, JRS offered basic computer skills classes, along with a hair salon and a library. JRS also worked on the provision of food assistance and non-food items such as tents, sleeping bags, power banks and clothes. Services of disinfection were also provided as well as translation and legal support

Thirdly, alongside the Central State office for Croats Abroad, JRS offered legal and social assistance, integration activities and education to descendants of Croatian emigrants.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, JRS also carried out projects supporting vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees, and providing first assistance in pandemic recovery. Finally, JRS also provided mental health services for refugees in local communities affected by earthquakes and the pandemic.

## CROATIA

In 2021, JRS Croatia worked on six projects. The new MUZA project focused on refugee integration through language courses, cultural trips, school assistance, social activities and food and non-food item aid.

Secondly, JRS started the project "IPA", which, through meetings, workshops, and on-line consultations with JRS BiH and JRS Serbia, aims to strengthen the capacities and networking of national civil society organizations in the field of international development cooperation.

## KOSOVO

JRS Kosovo collaborated on the creation of the Curricula for Integration. JRS also supported refugees in state owned apartments and asylum seekers in reception centres by providing food and non-food items, psychological

and medical support, computer courses Albanian language courses, and social and cultural activities. JRS Kosovo also organised capacity building events to strengthen the knowledge and information about integration at the local level.

## MACEDONIA

JRS MK provided asylum seekers in Vizbegovo, Skopje and two Transit Centres with food supplements, medical support, Covid-19 tests, hygiene, and psycho-social accompaniment. JRS also organised social and cultural activities for adults and children, offered free legal

aid and legal counselling and provided physiotherapy and vaccination assistance. In addition, JRS achieved, through more than one year of advocacy, the scheduling of public hearings by the Administrative Court of Skopje. JRS also provided support for people evacuated from Afghanistan.

## SERBIA

In 2021, JRS Serbia focused on two projects both within and beyond the Integration House, "Pedro Arrupe". Firstly, JRS worked with assisted children with their education, socialisation and integration, and accompanied them to health institutions and solving administrative tasks in government institutions.

JRS worked on transitional accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers. As part of its mission, JRS aims to provide a safe dwelling place to start independent living in Belgrade, while aiding in Serbian language classes, mentorship and socialisation and supporting access to education, healthcare and employment.





SWITZERLAND

JRS Switzerland continued to be present in some camps of rejected asylum seekers in the canton of Zürich with education and community creation activities. In addition, it continued accompanying asylum seekers during and after asylum procedures by helping them find private accommodation with host families.

On the advocacy front, JRS Switzerland participated in actions demanding easier visa procedures for Afghan refugees and a campaign asking the Swiss government to link the Swiss participation in Frontex to a demand for radical transformation in an organization guaranteeing the human rights for refugees at any EU border and in the Mediterranean Sea.



LUXEMBOURG

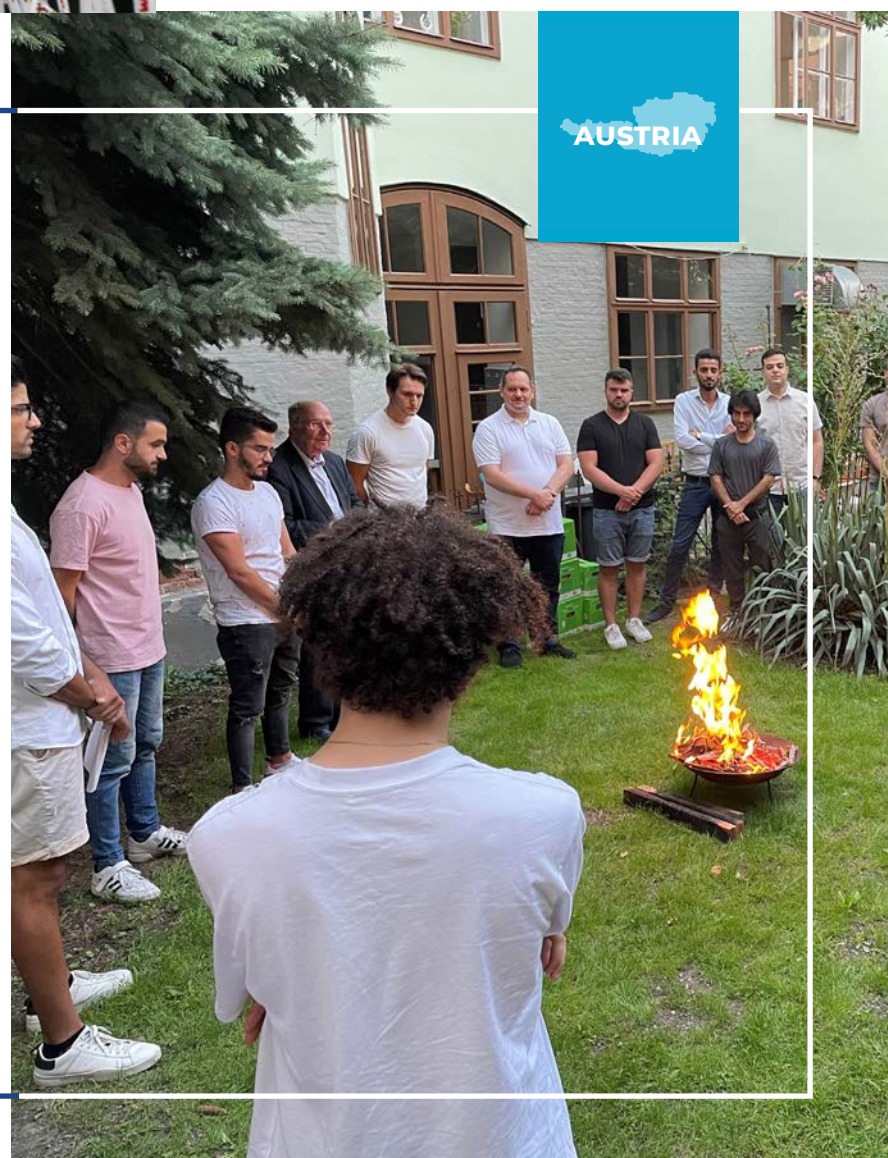
210

young people participated in the Karibuni project

In 2021, JRS Slovenia shifted the "Locugee: Awakening Potentials" project with a renewed focus on language and job-seeking assistance.

This change was based on an assessment after detecting extraordinary difficulties with German language studying and a predominance of Arabic as the only language spoke in the common areas of the Locugee house. With this shift, the new focus is summed up as "Deutsch+Arbeit=Zukunft in Österreich", which translates into: "German+Job=Future in Austria".

The new focus is added to the existing activities in terms of cultivating traditions, rituals and community life.



AUSTRIA

In 2021, despite the restrictions and limitations imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic, JRS Luxembourg focused on four key areas of work.

JRS organised activities for young refugees between 15 and 21, as part of the Karibuni project. The activities are all non-formal pedagogy, allowing them to discover Luxembourg, work on their skills, promote community building, and support them in their life projects. In total, 210 teenagers participated.

JRS-Luxembourg is increasingly confronted with young people who face difficulties in finding internships or apprenticeships. Thus, it helped over 30 people with guidance in the job searching process. In addition, to break the isolation of their mothers and the confinement of women in refugee shelters, monthly meetings with 31 mothers were held.

Since September, the responsibility of the Ubuntu rebondit project for persons in the Dublin procedure, returned to JRS-Luxembourg, in partnership with Caritas

and Reech eng Hand. This project aims to strengthen their resilience and enable them to make informed choices. The project responds to the psychosocial needs of those present at the emergency shelter called SHUK and at the Retention Centre. In four months, 71 people benefited from 121 psychosocial and sports activities.

French courses started in November 2021 at Maison Iñigo under the responsibility of JRS Luxembourg. Its aim is to offer courses to those who, having no knowledge of French, are not able to follow the official courses organized by other organizations.

Lastly, JRS-Luxembourg focused on advocacy work asking the authorities to end the precarious tented housing for the "Dublinés" and the creation of a Dublin house, to give priority in the vaccination programme for refugees in shelters, to grant a stay permit to all Afghans present in Luxembourg and facilitate family reunification for close relatives, and to intervene in favour of a European Pact on Migration that meets the challenges of migration.





**With education, labour incorporation, housing resources and a team of legal and psycho-social orientation, SJM aims to provide full inclusion to unaccompanied minors in their transition to adulthood, who face a hostile stigmatization. 2021 was a landmark year for SJM, consolidating the work in traditional areas and starting new initiatives to accompany, serve and advocate for migrant and refugee rights.**

In detention centres (CIE) SJM continued visiting migrants in four cities. SJM also published the 11th edition of the CIE Annual Report, including legal actions denouncing awful conditions for interns. In addition, SJM organised the first online meeting for volunteers who visit CIE.

In the Southern Border area, SJM continued accompanying migrants in transit, from many different origins in Melilla with the legal office. SJM also opened strategic litigation processes to transform the restrictive migration policies at the border. The Supreme Court finally

recognised the right of asylum seekers to free mobility to mainland in a case led by SJM.

There were some challenges for hospitality and, the project for welcoming refugees and forced migrants. A third Private Sponsorship initiative started, fostered by UNHCR and both National and Regional Governments, aiming to create a community network to help the inclusion processes of resettled refugee families. In the meantime, the network of welcoming families increased in several cities, and new hospitality communities started.

In the area of Migrant Women and Participation, SJM worked to improve the labour rights of women in care and domestic work through dialogue with employers.

SJM held several training courses in 2021 focused on language and labour education. SJM also presented a new corporate image, a renewal of our logo, colours and website.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas H. Smolich SJ  
*JRS International Director*

Herminio Rico SJ  
*Assistant to the President JCEP*

André Costa Jorge  
*JRS Portugal Director*

Alberto Ares Mateos  
*JRS Europe Director*

## 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 Director*

André Costa Jorge  
*JRS Portugal Director*

Filipe Martins  
*Social Apostolate – JCEP*



## ADVOCATE

You can keep yourself informed about our work and share our messages and stories by subscribing to the JRS Europe newsletter on our website ([jrseurope.org/contact](http://jrseurope.org/contact)) and following us on social media.



## DONATE

You can contribute to JRS' work by donating via PayPal on our website ([jrseurope.org/donate](http://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

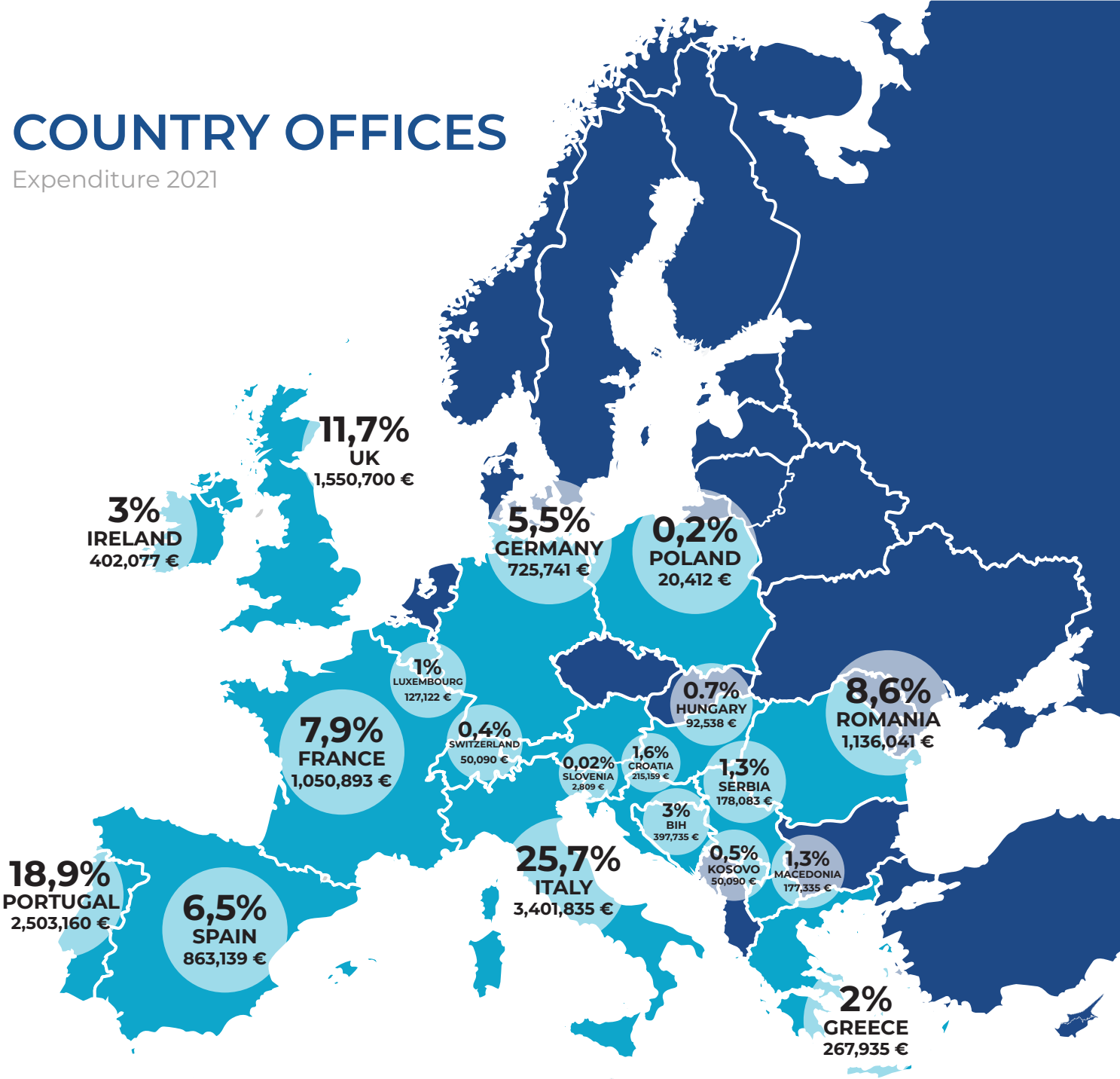
+32 (0) 2 554 02 20

[europe.admin@jrs.net](mailto:europe.admin@jrs.net)



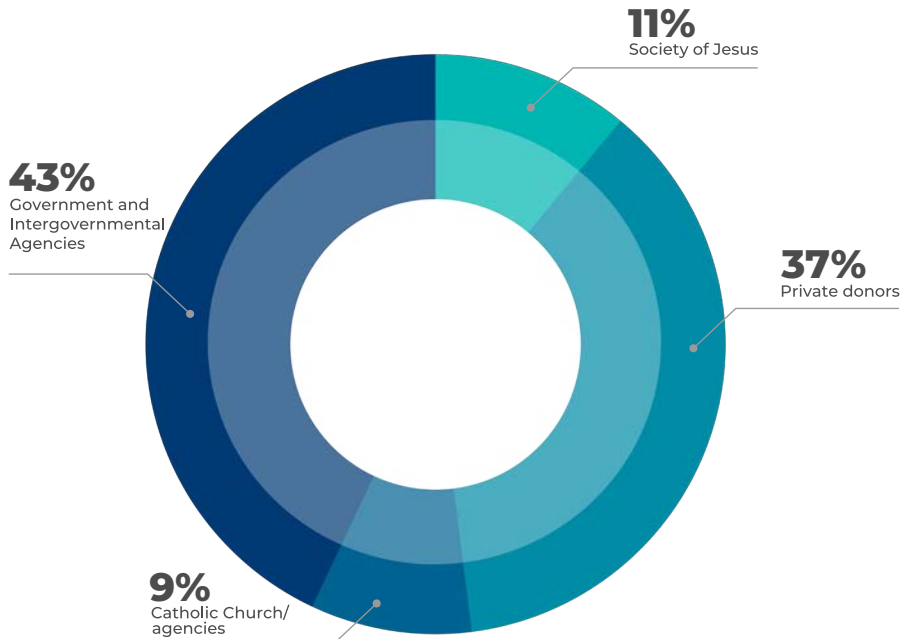
# COUNTRY OFFICES

Expenditure 2021



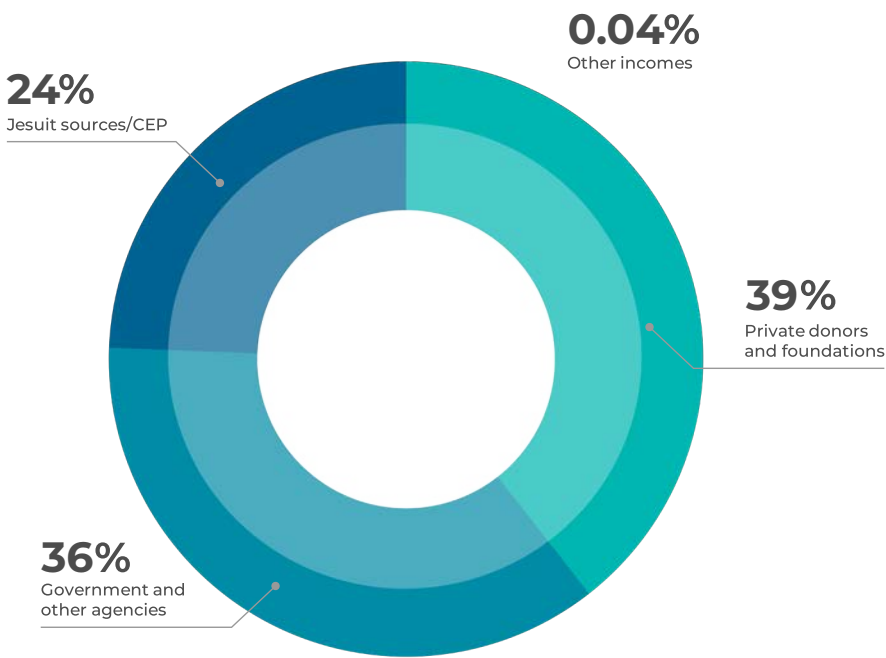
Income 2021

Society of Jesus	1,370,496.98 €
Private donors	4,839,366.62 €
Catholic Church/agencies	1,120,525.32€
Government and Intergovernmental Agencies	5,607,626.07 €
TOTAL	12,938,014.99 €



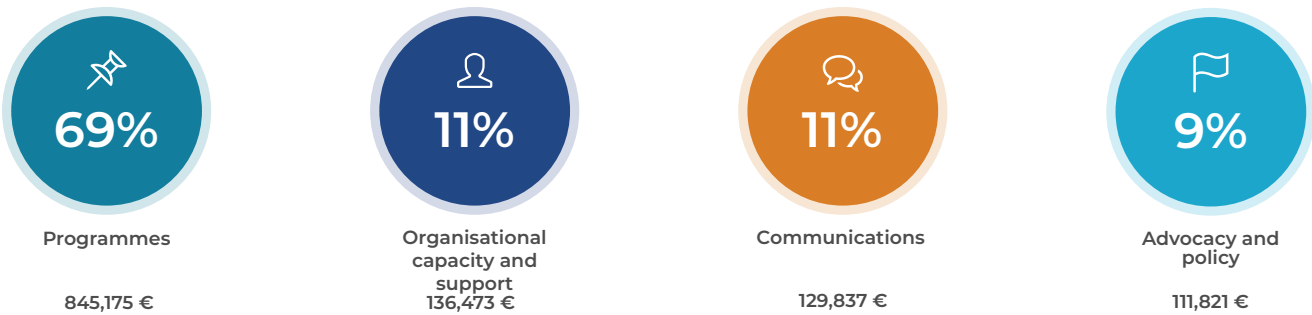
# REGIONAL OFFICE

Income 2021



Jesuitsources/CEP	319,795€
Private donors and foundations	517,811€
Government and other agencies	475,197€
Other incomes	503€
TOTAL	1,313,305€

Expenditure 2021



# Thank you

JRS Europe thanks our donors who made our work with refugees possible in 2021.

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 EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Erasmus+, European Parliament, European Program for Integration and Migration EPIM, European Solidarity Corps, Fondation Gratitude, JesuitenWeltweit, JRS USA, Oak Foundation.



NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

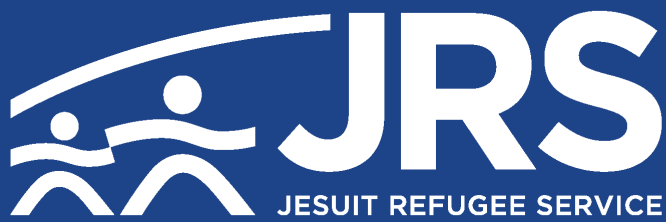
---

---

---

---





EUROPE



[WWW.JRSEUROPE.ORG](http://WWW.JRSEUROPE.ORG)