Policy on Financial Support for Projects and Programmes in the EMS Fellowship
Evangelical Mission in Solidarity
Ecumenical Fellowship with a common witness

• The EMS is a Fellowship of 28 churches and mission societies in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Together we bear witness to the compassionate and transforming love of God for our world.

• Our witness is holistic. Spreading the Gospel, Christian education, diaconal service, development cooperation and the commitment for justice, peace and the integrity of creation complement each other.

• The EMS supports programs & projects of Fellowship members as a contribution to missionary witness at the various places. 2014–2016 a total of 71 programs and projects is fostered. An international committee of the EMS Mission Council decides on the applications.
Introduction to the EMS Support Policy for Programs & Projects (ProPro Policy)

1. Policy Objectives
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1. Policy Objectives

- The Policy with its funding criteria, quality standards, PME instruments & procedures and project consultancy intends to
  - focus on common issues and challenges in the EMS Fellowship
  - support a competent selection, fostering and accompaniment of projects and programs
  - strengthen ecumenical solidarity and mutual learning by exchange and networking on the projects and programs
  - professionalize the management of Church projects and programs and thus to enhance their positive impacts
  - improve mutual transparency and accountability in the Fellowship
  - foster an effective fundraising for the projects and programs
2. Eligible areas of activity

Spreading the Gospel

Church Education and Training
School and Vocational Education

Diakonia
Combating Poverty

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
3. General support criteria

• The EMS supports programs and projects that are guided by certain general principles and objectives. This includes:
  
  ▪ Participation and empowerment of the people involved
  
  ▪ Gender equality and the overcoming of discrimination
  
  ▪ Preservation of the ecological resources in the project region
  
  ▪ Networking with programs/projects working in the region and/or within the EMS Fellowship in the same area of activity
  
  ▪ Sustainability, i.e. the rooting of the results in the life of the beneficiary group and the extension of the missionary and diaconal competence of the church by the program/project
4. PME procedures (Project Support Cycle)

• by 28.02. Submission of proposals (biannually)

• by 28.02. Submission of evaluation reports on prior year

• by 20.06. Decision on proposals in Mission Council Committee for Program and Project Support (biannually)

• by 30.06. Approval of project list in Mission Council (biannually)

• by 31.10. Submission of planning reports for coming year and audited accounts for prior year

(Details of the Project Support Cycle see in policy appendix)
4. PME procedures (ProPro Committee)

- The approval of project proposals is effected biennially in line with the EMS budget. The proposals are considered and decided on in the Mission Council Committee for Program and Project Support.

- The Committee consists of six representatives from Indonesia, Middle East, Africa, India/East Asia, Germany and the General Meeting’s Finance Committee. Three Committee members are to be members of the Mission Council as well.

- The ProPro Unit of the EMS Secretariat prepares and manages the Committee’s meetings.

- The Mission Council delegates to the Committee the decision on the allocation of the budget part “Support for programs and projects” which the Mission Council then approves as part of the draft budget.
4. PME procedures (Small Project Fund)

- The Small Project Fund serves the support of small, short-term enterprises of the churches beyond the main approval procedures. Applications to the fund may be submitted in each trimester.

- Support Criteria:
  - Project runtime within the current budgetary year
  - Maximum funding amount: € 5.000
  - No additional funds for already approved programs or integral parts of them
  - Application and reporting standards correspond to those in the main approval procedure

- The Mission Council Presidium decides on proposals to the fund.
5. Impact orientation in the PME of projects and programs

- “A project may render all its scheduled services without these services being successfully used by the target groups or being able to generate positive impacts on the target groups’ life.”

  World Famine Relief Association

- In world-wide development and church cooperation a shift has occurred from the focus on the outputs (i.e. products & services) of a project to the actual impacts of a project on the problem situation it aims to change.

- Impact oriented PME is made by the use of an impact chain. The focus in this PME lies on the impacts the project aims to effectuate, not – as it often does by now – on the activities and products of the project.

- EMS in the course of the revision of the ProPro Concept as of 2014 has included impact orientation in its program & project support.
5. Impact orientation in the PME of projects and programs

- Impact orientation in projects and programs means
  - to start from the question: What changes in the initial situation do we want to achieve?
  - to deduct your project planning from the expected impacts i.e. the intended changes of the initial situation
  - to plan your activities in terms of feasible impact assumptions, i.e. to ask: What activities will presumably lead to the desired impacts?
  - to consider yourself as project managers responsible for the achievement of impacts, not (only) for the provision of a product or service
  - to ask in your project monitoring and evaluation for the impacts, not for the activities of the project. The key questions are: What changes do we observe? How have they been achieved? How do we have to readapt our activities to further achieve the desired impacts?
5. Impact orientation in the PME of projects and programs

- The impact chain shows how the resources and activities of a project via the production of outputs contribute to the achievement of desired impacts.
- Impacts or Indirect Impacts: Long-term changes in the life of the target group and the project environment to which the project contributes (The infant mortality rate declines, the youth unemployment rate declines, the living conditions of children in the society are measurably improved)
- Outcomes or Direct Impacts: The factual changes in the life of the target group that occur as a result of your action. These impacts arise from the use of the outputs (diseases diminish, trained youth find work, children get a school graduation)
- Outputs: Products and services of the project that are made available to the target group to reach the desired impacts (provision of clean water, certificates of a training, admission of children in a home)
- Activities: Actions conducted by the aid of the inputs that lead to certain products and services of the project (well sinking, trainings, building a children's home etc.)
- Inputs: The materials and resources used (personnel, finances etc.)
Evangelical Mission in Solidarity
MISSION MOVES | CONNECTS | OPENS UP
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