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The Équipe Européenne de Catéchèse

The Équipe Européenne de Catéchèse (European Catechetical Equips) knows its foundation to the First International Catechetical Congress which was convened in Rome in 1950. The proceedings of the Congress did not result in any new discovery or in the communication of new ideas.¹ However, the very act of meeting and discussing helped “greatly to form and maintain profitable contacts”.² This is evident in the fact that it was during this congress that the European Catechetical Team was formed.

The Équipe Européenne de Catéchèse is a group of experts made up of people responsible for catechesis in Europe on a national level, and individuals who conduct research and teach catechetics at a Tertiary Level of Education, both in Universities and in other Institutions. They usually meet every two years to discuss some major catechetical problems in Europe and to exchange experiences. This biennial meeting was not held during the sessions of Vatican Council II.

Since its foundation in 1950, the Équipe Européenne de Catéchèse discussed numerous different topics:³

¹ Cfr. G. Delcuve, *Report of the International Catechistic Congress held at Rome 10–14 October 1950*, “Lumen Vitae” 5 (1950) 4, p. 639. This article can also be found in French: G. Delcuve, *Le Congrès catéchistique international tenu à Rome du 10 au 14 octobre 1950*, “Lumen Vitae” 5 (1950), p. 677–683.

² G. Delcuve, *Report of the International Catechistic Congress held at Rome*, p. 643.

³ Cfr. E. Alberich, *Équipe Europea di Catechesi*, in: J. Gevaert (Ed.), *Dizionario di Catechetica*, Torino, Elledici, 1986, p. 242–243; F. Schreiblemayr, *25th Anniversary of the European*

- Strasbourg, 1951 – the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Luxembourg, 1953 – the doctrine of the Eucharist and catechesis
- Gengenbach (Baden), 1954 – catechesis on the Church
- Brussels, 1955 – Jesus Christ
- Lucerne, 1956 – Christian morality in catechesis and Religious Education
- Vucht (Holland), 1958 – catechesis and signs
- Vienna, 1959 – signs in catechesis
- London, 1961 – eternal life
- Paris, 1962 – the act of faith
- Ettal (Upper Bavaria), 1966 – catechesis after the Council
- Turin, 1967 – the catechetical situation in different countries
- Madrid, 1968 – topical themes in secular environments: life, liberty, the resurrection
- Mont Sainte Odile (near Strasbourg), 1969 – the place of the Sacraments in Christian life and the necessity of child catechesis
- Vogelenzang (Holland), 1970 – catechesis on interpretation and catechesis on proclamation
- London, 1971 – formation and higher training of catechists
- Vienna, 1972 – a new pedagogy of the faith: towards a creative catechesis
- Zurich, 1974 – the significance of Jesus Christ for the contemporary human being: a challenge to catechesis
- Rome, 1976 – catechetical experience and experience of the Church
- London, 1978 – catechesis as an initiation into Christian life and action
- Lisbon, 1980 – proclaiming the Gospel to the rich? Duties and prospects of catechesis in a money and in a consumerist dominated society
- Munich, 1982 – adults in the Church and in society: possibilities and duties of adult catechesis
- Sr. Georgen/Längsee (Austria), 1984 – communicating the Gospel in a highly technological world: challenges and new possibilities for catechesis.
- 1986
- Gazzada (Italy), 1988 – competence in atechesis
- 1990
- Brussels, 1992 – what catechesis for which Europe?

- England, 1996 – the formation of those responsible for catechesis and the agents of catechesis
- Slovenia, 1998 – contemporary cultures in Europe and catechesis
- Schmochtitz (East Germany), 2001 – how does one become a Christian in Europe today?
- Budapest, 2004 – which proclamation in a context of pluralistic and multi-religious dialogue?
- Graz (Austria), 2006 – catechesis in the context of popular religiosity
- Lisbon, 2008 – the missionary conversion of catechesis – the relationship between faith and first proclamation
- Krakow, 2010 – the narrative dimension of catechesis
- Malta 2012 – the language and languages of the faith
- Celje (Slovenia) 2015 – Conversion – the act, the process and accompaniment.

The statutes of the EEC stipulate that there are two types of members: the members who form part of the EEC *ex officio* because they are either National Directors for catechesis either in their particular nation or they are responsible for catechesis in their diocese or because they represent an academic institution which has catechesis as one of its main subjects. The other members are those who hold the membership on their own behalf because they are experts in catechesis.

The administrative committee is made up of a President and four committee members who are elected from among the members of the EEC for 4 years.

In the last Congress which was convened at Celje in Slovenia, there were more than 60 participants coming from all the different European nations.