

Zagreb Baptist Church: refugee ministry- Feb. 2018

Dear friends and partners in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,

This is to inform you that we **now have** the agreement with our Government for the 20 years of free use of their premises to turn them into the House of Hope for all nations.

House of Hope for all nations - will have four basic activities:

1. Housing a group of 7 - 10 asylum holders - a new group every two years.
2. The school of Croatian language and culture for asylum holders.
3. Training / Mentoring center for employment, self-employment and start-ups for asylum holders.
4. Meals on Wheels - asylum holders serving the local community - elderly and helpless.

We plan, God willing, to complete the renovation and open the house by October 1, 2018.

The project is owned and, will be led and run by our local church, with the cooperation of Baptist Union of Croatia, and other evangelical churches and civic initiatives in the Croatian Capital.

It will be a platform for our church, the Baptist Union of Croatia and evangelical believers to demonstrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its power expressed in the program of justice, love and hope for vulnerable people, particularity for the refugees from the middle east (Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan) that enjoy international protection in Croatia and plan to build their life and future here.

The beginning phase of the project:

1. Gathering and forming the task force and org. structure for the project.
2. Study: The basic model / program of integration of asylum holders into the life and community of Croatia.
3. Feasibility study / business plan for the House of Hope - Zagreb, Croatia.
4. Plan for raising gifts and donations - locally and internationally.
5. PR with damage control plan and implementation for the local community: asylum holders are not welcome in our culture: they are feared of and rejected.
We need to work with both: the asylum holders and the local community to create platforms of understanding, acceptance and cooperation.
6. Architectural design for adaptation and renovation of the building.
7. Cleaning the site. At the moment it is a huge mess.

For this first phase we estimated the cost to be **US\$ 15 950,00**

This initial phase is crucial and foundational for the project - If well done it will provide a solid foundation for launching and leading this strategic project and ministry of our church. Could you please share this news with your team / church and consider granting our church a gift toward this initial phase, as the Lord leads you. Please, let us know soon how the Lord is leading you and your church for contributing toward the work of this ministry. Thank you.

p. Mihal Kreko

For your information: We are preparing this project for the EU Social fund grants that is open to apply for social projects for public and civic (churches as well) sectors.

Our project fits perfectly for this grants and timing is also providential. The date to submit the project for EU grant is by 18th of April. Minimum grant is 65 000 US\$ and maximum depends on the project itself.

We have also German Lutherans and a few evangelical churches from USA - interested to contribute for the renovation of the building.

So we are very hopeful for the realization of this project. However - we need to now to initiate and position the project ready for the major move.