



Čakovec, 06. Sept. 2021: A delegation from *Diakonie Karlsruhe* led by pastor Wolfgang Stoll has visited our activities in Croatia. Aside from strategical discussions they also visited the construction site at the school and the *Pastoral Center*.

In this short report we want to let You take part as well as to provide You with some insights in our current activities by means of some pictures. For more than three years we have been working together with *Diakonie Karlsruhe*. Since then, they have provided us with contributions in kind, know-how and two used vehicles which are in use locally.



Rooftop terrace atop the new school building



Visiting the entry of the new school building



At the meeting (from left to right): Marc Beck, Patrik Hensel, Wolfgang Stoll, Jelena Kuhar Papesa, Natalia Ansa Held, Johannes Neudeck, Petar Horvat, Evelin Horvat, Katharina Neudeck, Zeljko Mraz



Ceremony: musical contribution

School: On 6. Sept., school started for new grades. Out of 400 applications **100 young people were enrolled to school.** At the ceremony, Bratko Horvat reminded his audience of the Aaronic Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26) and its relevance in our lives.

Dormitory: In this year, 24 adolescent Roma stay in our dormitory (capacity: up to 50). Often, these adolescents from Roma villages cannot provide the scheduled monthly payment of about 100 \$. Regarding these cases we founded a social fond.

Each year, more than 500 young people achieve a solid education in our evangelical school as an independent institution based on Christian values.



Introduction of the teaching staff



Construction site school building: preparations for the outdoor facilities and entranceways



Bratko and Petar Horvat at work: hundreds of hours of personal contribution are performed...

The new building project at the school led by and in cooperation with „Stiftung Wertestarter“ (Haiger/Berlin) has been started and conducted. In the last few weeks the construction site has made a lot of progress.

Bratko Horvat (member of the school council/ founder) reported that the ground level, featuring six classrooms focusing on natural sciences, shall be put to use as soon as it is completed.

At present there is a lack of about 35,000 \$ to complete the ground level. **Therefore, we are in need of support. Could you help to provide one of the 350 missing „virtual blocks“, each in a value of 100 \$? Please consider donating some “money-blocks” so we can go on building the school with blocks of concrete.**

The personal contribution in work executed by local teams makes up for an amount of more than 175,000 \$. Petar Horvat (member of the school council) tells us about a team of volunteers developing a concept of a „smart school“ adapted particularly for this school building. This smart school system supports the use of the building similar to what is known as a smart home. The delegation from Karlsruhe was surprised and impressed by the fact that young adolescents passionately soldered components so that ventilation, lights, heating system, projectors etc. could be controlled digitally providing sustainability on a long-term and enabling an innovative school operation.



Interior construction: the ceiling is installed by means of personal contribution as well

Moreover, our meeting discussed the topic of the situation of refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Together with Ivica Horvat and Zeljko Mraz we work in cooperation with the Red Cross in Bihać to provide help to the refugees in the region of Bihać. Due to a shortage of bread in August and September 2021, we provided 12,000 loafs of bread in a short-term operation.

The refugee camp Lipa contains almost 1,000 people, the majority being young men. At the moment, after a fire in late 2020, the camp is being equipped anew with accommodation containers. Attached You find some pictures featuring the journey of a bread from bakery to plate.



Selam Midžić (leader of the Red Cross in Bihać) and Johannes Neudeck, Juli 2021 in the camp Lipa





Handing out meals in the camp Lipa



In concern of working with refugees, *Diakonie Karlsruhe* provides great experience due to its own department for migration and integration. In regard of this, we continue our exchange. Furthermore, at our meeting we addressed the topic of **mobile care**, which we want to develop via our school and together with several local congregations in the medium-term. Our guests from Karlsruhe have already promised assistance regarding **know-how**. Moreover, we were introduced to the work of second-hand-shops in Karlsruhe. We will continue to consult on possible developments of such activities.

We also discussed the topic of earthquake aid. Ivica Horvat (president of *Baptist Union Croatia*) speaks of more than 1,000 earthquakes having been recorded since late 2020. Only a few weeks ago a stronger earthquake caused severe damage. **28 accommodation containers were provided (they can be borrowed for free), more than 100 chimneys were replaced and more than 70 houses were repaired.** Additionally, rooftops were tiled anew and walls were secured and replaced. Many friends and members of local congregations voluntarily took part in this work. More engagements are planned until Christmas. Families and adolescents were able to gain pastoral support in holiday camps. *Hilfe Konkret e.V.* provided major support for these projects.

The encounter with our guests from *Diakonie Karlsruhe* took place in cordial atmosphere. A return visit and ongoing co-operation are intended.

By means of this intermediate information we want to let You take part in our activities. We are thankful for Your help - financially and through intercessions. We commit ourselves to spread the joyful message of the gospel in word and deed. We will continue to report.



Hilfe konkret e.V. Reiterweg 40
D-68163 Mannheim
[mail: info@hilfekonkret.de](mailto:info@hilfekonkret.de)
www.hilfekonkret.de

Donations:
Deutsche Bank Frankfurt
Kto.252 7000; BLZ 500 700 24
IBAN: DE60 5007 0024 0252 7000 00
BIC: DEUTDEDBFRA

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Kto. 110 46 100; BLZ 670 900 00
IBAN: DE68 6709 0000 0011 0461 00
BIC: GENODE61MA2