

Timeline

- **Call for applications:**
July 2026
- **Application deadline:**
August 31, 2026
- **Outbound | Visiting Germany**
November 2026 – February 2027
- **Inbound | Hosting in Northern Europe**
March – October 2027
- **Presentation and discussion
at the Katholikentag in Paderborn**
May 24 – 28, 2028



Who can participate?

The programme is open to anyone actively involved in pastoral ministry setting or church life, whether professionally or on a voluntary basis, and you have:

- ✓ Joy in faith and commitment to the Church
- ✓ Interest in diaspora-related questions
- ✓ Openness to new perspectives
- ✓ Basic English language skills
- ✓ Willingness to document experiences
- ✓ Participation in presenting and discussing the results at the Katholikentag 2028 in Paderborn

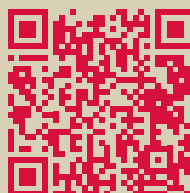
Contact

Bonifatiuswerk der deutschen Katholiken e. V.
Kamp 22 | 33098 Paderborn
www.bonifatiuswerk.de

David Gorny
david.gorny@bonifatiuswerk.de
Phone: +49 (0) 5251 2996-27

Travel and accommodation expenses,
as well as participation in the
2028 Katholikentag in Paderborn,
are fully covered by the programme.
Participants are only responsible for their
own meals and personal expenses.

Find out more and apply now!



SPiRiT EXPO|SURE GERMANY



A pastoral diaspora exchange programme
connecting Germany, Northern Europe
and the Baltic States

Diaspora connects. Experience inspires.

What happens when we step out and (re)discover what sustains the Church in different places? Wherever Catholics live as a minority, creative and often unexpected responses emerge to the pastoral challenges of our time.

With **SPiRiT EXPO|SURE**, the Bonifatiuswerk is creating a space for learning, encounter, and shared experience across Germany, Northern Europe, and the Baltic States.

A total of 28 participants from Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden will take part in **SPiRiT EXPO|SURE**. Each tandem brings together one participant from Germany and one from Northern Europe or the Baltics, who will visit one another for one week each. They will experience local church life and exchange insights from their diaspora contexts. The programme is about real encounters, new perspectives and learning from one another. By bringing together these experiences, SPiRiT EXPO|SURE aims to inspire new approaches to missionary, synodal and people-centred pastoral work.

Application Deadline:

AUGUST 31, 2026

www.bonifatiuswerk.de/en/en/exposure



Picture: Martin Geistbeck

What to expect?

As part of a tandem partnership, you will be paired with a participant from Germany who shares similar responsibilities in the church. Each partner will spend one week experiencing the pastoral reality of the other's local church and their lived practice of faith first-hand. Whenever possible, accommodation will be arranged with host families or within parish communities.

Between **November 2026** and **February 2027**, you will spend one week in your partner's home region in Germany, gaining direct insight into parish life, pastoral practice, and the social environment. In the second phase, between **March** and **October 2027**, you will welcome your tandem partner to your home diocese and introduce them to the pastoral life, community faith, and daily realities of your local church.

Possible programme elements

- Visits to pastoral projects and institutions
- Dialogue with pastoral staff and local volunteers
- Meetings with diocesan representatives
- Insights into family, youth, and social ministries
- Participation in christian celebrations
- Reflection on the opportunities and challenges of the diaspora as a universal church

Seeking Common Answers

What gives me support and guidance in my personal faith? How can we pass on the faith's content in a world where the church is no longer taken for granted? What sustains communities that are spread across large geographical distances? And how can different languages, cultures, and traditions become a source of unity? **SPiRiT EXPO|SURE** explores the lived experiences of Catholic diaspora communities and seeks to identify practical pastoral insights for the future. Particular attention will be given to themes such as communicating the faith, liturgy, supporting volunteers, and ecumenical cooperation. This is guided by the overarching question: How can we, as a global church, bring the Gospel into today's world in a relevant and meaningful way?

The insights and experiences from the programme will be presented and discussed at the German Catholic Convention (Katholikentag) 2028 in Paderborn, Germany.



Picture: Manfred Müller