

EGCC Memo of Understanding

The logo for EGCC, consisting of the lowercase letters 'egtc' in a blue, sans-serif font. The 'e' and 'g' are connected, and the 't' has a unique shape with a curved top.

EUROPEAN GREAT
COMMISSION COLLABORATION

www.egcc.eu

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God is doing something special and significant in Europe these days. Europe needs to meet Jesus again, and we are persuaded that Christians who have been financially blessed in order to be a blessing for the movement will play a very important role in God's plans. It is no accident that you live in this time and place in history.

And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? Esther 4:14

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1) The EGCC Story

The idea to start the European Great Commission Collaboration (EGCC) initiative was a response to the needs of one Czech businessman, Adam Walach. Adam and his brothers started a business from scratch directly after the fall of Communism in the Czech Republic. Their company grew into one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in Central and Eastern Europe. Years later, after selling the company, Adam received a calling to be a giver who serves other givers and Kingdom investors who share the vision of re-evangelizing Europe.

A small group of global funders with a focus on strategic ministry sectors in Europe met in August 2015 to pray, discuss, and brainstorm about Adam's idea and vision. They identified a need to meet like-minded investors in God's Kingdom, which resulted in a kick-off event in Prague in May 2016. The expected outcomes of the meeting are to build a relational network of givers, identify the strategic steps for fulfilling the Great Commission in Europe, and craft the vision of the EGCC.

The founding EGCC members beside Adam Walach were representatives of the Maclellan Foundation, the Lloyd Trust, the Cornerstone Foundation, and the Domanada Foundation.

2) What is the EGCC?

The EGCC is a network of like-minded, strategic, high-capacity givers. It is an idea rather than a legal entity. The intention is to create a healthy environment for collaboration between global funders, through sharing experience with giving and learning from one another. The EGCC wants to connect Kingdom investors with strategic ministries and projects in Europe. The EGCC is not focused on the *why* behind giving, but on the *what* and *how* of giving. The EGCC is governed and driven by givers and provides all services at no profit.

The EGCC is an organization by founders, for founders in a free and safe environment with no pressure or solicitation to give to projects or ministries.

3) Why EGCC?

Why EUROPEAN?

The EGCC recognizes the significant role Europe has played globally. Since the Middle Ages, Europe has been a trend-setter in science, philosophy and

theology. Christianity in Europe is now in freefall. In 1900, 68% of all Christians were in Europe. By 2000, that estimate had fallen to 26% and is expected to fall further to 16% by 2050. Moreover, many European “Christians” have never actually heard the Gospel.

Why GREAT COMMISSION?

The EGCC wants to encourage European Christians to help fulfill the Great Commission through supporting outreach, discipleship, community and church development. The EGCC believes Jesus is the change agent for Europe’s people, nations and regions.

Why COLLABORATION?

Together we can accomplish more than by working independently. We believe that donor-to-donor and donor-to-ministry collaboration creates favorable conditions for a movement of God in Europe.

4) Vision, Mission, Goals and Values

Vision:

Europe transformed by people who come to Christ and are disciplined in a local church.

Mission:

The European Great Commission Collaboration (EGCC) exists to glorify God through an alliance of like-minded global funders who believe that by working cooperatively they can more effectively resource Christianity in Europe.

Goals:

- Empower and model relationship-based collaboration among donors by:
 - “Getting to know each other” by connecting Kingdom donors through events and briefings geared at illuminating, motivating, and socializing like-minded people with similar life experiences.
- Connect donors and ministries in Europe by:
 - Growing a community of global funders that serve key strategic European ministry leaders.
- Enable donors to invest more efficiently in God’s Kingdom by:
 - Sharing knowledge, practices and insight of the collaborators.
 - Identifying and empowering strategic and emerging sectors in Europe
 - Investigating and approving trusted ministries and providing accountability.
- Encourage European grantor interest by:
 - Achieving greater awareness for Christian giving in Europe and increasing the European donor base.
 - Providing access to proven giving opportunities (according to donors’ preferences)
 - Pooling funds for greater impact, as needed.
 - Mutual encouragement in increasing generosity among Europeans.
- Think cooperatively by:
 - Encouraging individual or small groups of EGCC participants to cooperate together regularly and informally on topics of mutual interest.
 - Gathering key European funders annually for fellowship and education about the current needs and strategic initiatives in Europe.

Values:

The EGCC is committed to the following values:

- Theological Agreement – Alignment with the Lausanne Covenant
- Relational Focus – Friendship as an eternal value
- European Core – Collaboration driven by European donors and welcoming to all global donors who want to strategically invest in building God’s Kingdom in Europe.
- Servant Heart – Donors enable and serve, but do not micromanage

The EGCC recognizes that each grant-maker has its own unique calling or sense of responsibility to fund certain kinds of projects. Whether working with youth, planting churches, or caring for the marginalized, the EGCC acknowledges that even though

we work collaboratively, we have our own individual funding interests which may or may not align with others in the collaboration. What unites the EGCC is the shared commitment to building God’s Kingdom in Europe today.

5) What are the benefits of the EGCC?

- Collaboration
 - Building relationships with other donors
 - Fellowship of like-minded peers
- Mutual encouragement
 - Receiving spiritual encouragement at the annual EGCC Summits
- Sharing knowledge
 - An intelligence on existing ministries, knowledge how to give and what to support, how to be a strategic giver
 - Access to the EGCC database of investment opportunities and research
 - Field experience
- Education
- Multiplication
 - Encouraging generosity towards Gods Kingdom
 - Empowering other donors to increase generosity

6) What is expected from EGCC members?

Members are expected to:

- Be born again Christians in alignment with the values of EGCC
- Agree with the EGCC goals, vision, mission and Memo of Understanding
- Participate by:
 - Attending annual meetings
 - Sharing contact info (email, phone) with other EGCC givers to facilitate sharing knowledge
 - Sharing your experience and knowledge (about ministries and projects)
 - Actively contributing to EGCC development, according to your calling
 - Pledging to support ministries in the EGCC database, according to your calling

7) Membership

The EGCC is for givers – Kingdom investors, who have a heart for Europe, recognize the significance of the region, and want to support efforts to re-evangelize Europe –

including individual funders (e.g. professionals and business owners), high capacity givers, and foundations.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the EGCC, please contact Adam Walach at egcc@egcc.eu. A recommendation from any existing EGCC member is appreciated.

8) Key focus areas in Europe

Strategic and emerging sectors in Europe (e.g. church planting, youth ministry, digital media, Muslim evangelism, leadership training) are being discussed at the annual summits and recommended for support to the EGCC members.

9) Due diligence

We believe that trust among the members is key. EGCC encourages its member to share information about the ministries they trust and fund individually.

These recommendations form a list of vetted ministries for other members.

Please see appendix number 1 for the details on the standards of vetted ministries.

10) Governing Structure

The members meet at annual gatherings and vote for a steering committee.

- General Assembly — names the Steering Committee at the annual summit.
- Steering Committee — hires the executive team.
- Executive team — administrative role

Appendix 1 - Standards for EGCC Vetted Ministries

- 1) Great Commission projects and ministries are defined by those with identifiable results in making disciples, developing Christian leaders, and planting or sustaining local churches. It is not enough for a project or ministry to use the words Great Commission. The project or ministry must show progress toward helping to fulfill Christ's command.
- 2) Strategic projects are those with clear goals, ways to evaluate effectiveness over time, and designed to address a compelling need. Some strategic projects can be further leveraged to be broader in scope, serving multiple churches, denominations, or even an entire nation or region of Europe. Ideally, a project does not rely solely on the investment of outsiders or large donors. Instead the majority of the project or ministry's operational funds are generated from within the context. Outside funding is used to grow or accelerate effectiveness. One mark of ministry leverage is the training, equipping and releasing of volunteers at all levels of leadership in the ministry.
- 3) Partnership oriented —The best ministry leaders understand that no one organization can do it all. So, the best ministry strategies are those that employ the strengths of multiple organizations and churches. When those organizations work together in partnership, they share the satisfaction of the impact and they demonstrate the Body of Christ as the Bible describes it.
- 4) Scalable — Ministries and projects that are scalable have two primary things in common: They do not rely on buildings or on paid, professional staff to grow or 'contain' their ministry. Instead they look for *light* models which emphasize training and releasing of volunteers and which utilize mobile technology for *gathering* and encouraging the movement. Buildings and paid staff have their important place but these are used to serve the movement, not to centralize it.
- 5) Leadership (Governance) — Led by strong, proven leadership. Indigenous leadership is critical to long-term effectiveness of any ministry in Europe. Cross-cultural workers and leaders certainly have their place, but that place should be in serving the growth of local movements. Local Christians have the language, cultural and economic resources needed to allow the ministry to find its home in the local church and social context.

- 6) Outcomes mindset — Ministries with an *outcomes* mindset are those that are not content with just ministry activities or outputs. For example, they are not content with simply training evangelists or church planters. They are more interested in what happens as a result of their ministry activities. They design, pray and execute their ministries to assure that people put their faith in Christ and that the fruit of that evangelism is gathered into the church. Wherever possible they strive for measurable Kingdom outcomes.
- 7) Innovative ministry leaders think of new ways to impact the communities and the countries around them. When there is little fruit, they pray, brainstorm and surround themselves with entrepreneurial thinkers. They assume that God is at work in their context and they try many different ways to sow, care for, and harvest the fruit. They may fail often, but they fail quickly and then try something else. All the while they trust in the Holy Spirit.
- 8) Need, Idea, Strategy, Organization — Ministries and projects which are attractive to the EGCC will have a strategic plan including at least these four elements: a clear articulation of the need they are attempting to see met, an idea to meet that need, a strategy (plan, budget, etc.) to execute the idea, and the organizational capacity to carry it through.