

Guidelines for the Project policy of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation

The creation of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation is the attempt to set new trends in the Church's reconciliation work while continuing the tradition of the Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk and hitherto ecclesiastical reconciliation and remembrance work. It wishes to tread new paths going beyond the traditional approaches of reconciliation and remembrance work and in this way give a fresh impetus to further develop and update this work. It meets the challenges of Europeanization. Particular importance is attached to the context of German-Polish experiences.

In order to be able to give a fresh impetus, to crystallize and to initiate the Church's reconciliation work, it is important to develop a clear profile and to take a visible position in public. In this respect it is important to explain the connection with the Maximilian-Kolbe-Werk but also to accentuate the Foundation's independent identity so that it does not appear as a mere continuation of the reconciliation fund of the German Bishops' Conference with other means.

The limited resources available for the Foundation's activities call for restrictions and priorities. The emphasis of the activities is on projects realized by the Foundation independently or in cooperation with selected partners. Other projects will not be sponsored.

The projects of the MKF shall meet the following criteria:

1. The projects shall preferably deal with **subject areas of a critical nature in politics and society**. Projects dedicated to touchy subjects related to the respective memory shall be given preferential treatment.
2. The projects shall be designed to be **perceptible as a church contribution** to dealing with a past burdened by violence in the horizon of reconciliation. They shall take the spiritual and theological dimension of our peace work into account.
3. The projects shall have a **European perspective** going beyond the respective national context.
4. The projects shall contribute to address the influence of a history burdened by violence on the present clearly and in an appropriate way. They shall promote dealing

with this influence of violence and strengthen cooperative relations. They are a **concrete contribution to the reconciliation processes necessary in the long run.**

5. The projects shall aim at a **qualified encounter** enabling the participants to open themselves to the perspectives of others and to talk about their own perspectives after careful consideration.

6. As far as their implementation is concerned the projects shall have an **exemplary** and **symbolic value**. The experiences and results gained from the projects shall be introduced into discussions in society, church and politics and encourage and promote such discussions.