



The European Forum (ELF) and the outlook for the Church.

The study meeting of the European Forum for the Laity, held every two years, took place in Sassone-Rome, from June 26 to June 29.

Delegates from 16 European countries met to share and discuss the difficult prospects for young people in Europe, given the lack of job opportunities, youth unemployment, migration within Europe, and experiences of failure.

A study of the lives of young people, a look at the social teaching of the Church, and voices of young people from member countries, provided delegates with a wealth of ideas, suggestions and options to share with their own organisations after the meeting.

An important element of the meeting was to allow young people to speak for themselves and to hear them talk about their own situations.

Members of the Steering Committee had the opportunity for a brief personal meeting with Pope Francis, to present the work of the ELF and to speak on the prospects for increasing lay presence in Church decision making bodies, as Pope Francis himself has repeatedly emphasised.

The results of elections for the Steering Committee were:

Chairman, Peter Annegarn, from the delegation of French-speaking Belgium, was elected for a second term of four years. Other members elected: Caminho Canon Loyes, Spain; Josian Caproens, Dutch-speaking Belgium; Melchior Kanyamibwa, Switzerland; Birgit Klaisle, Germany; Wlodek Mier-Jedrzejowicz, Polish Communities in Europe and Elvira Polynevskaya, Belarus.

The European Laity Forum (ELF) is an umbrella organisation for Catholic National Laity Committees from 20 European countries, recognized by their National Episcopal Conferences. Its goal is to promote the vocation of Christian laity in the Church and in society. www.europ-forum.org.