

General Assembly 2016



Being Good News People in a Time of Change,
Shaping the Identity
of Our Nations and Continent

Colares, Portugal ■ 10 -13 October



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Dear participants of the EEA General Assembly 2016,

What does Serbian, French, Swedish or Russian identity look like? Has Swiss identity changed in the past years and, if so, why? Is there a core, kind of a hard pit you can pinpoint concerning identity? Or is identity more like an onion with many layers but not really with any core? Can it be formed or is it relatively fluid?

With our EEA General Assembly theme, we are addressing a multilayer issue:

Being Good News People in a Time of Change, Shaping the Identity of Our Nations and Continent

Exponents of National Populism use the term “identity” very often. They aim at people who feel threatened a) by the changes happening through globalisation, b) by the changes in technology, c) by relocation of jobs abroad and associated fear of loss of prosperity, d) by demographic change, and now, on top of all of this, feel threatened by e) mass immigration.

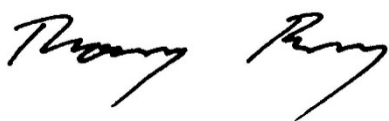
One natural reaction to all of this is retreat and defence. Connected to this, a few political parties demonstrate to us how successful it is to use the cultural identity topic.

It is true that we associate certain traits with certain nations. This helps us to cope in a complex world. But are these traits really forming national identity? Or are they maybe even traits from the past which stick around in people's mind but are vanishing rapidly? Could it be that identity is a relatively fluid thing, be it personal or corporate? Could it be that worldviews have a vast impact on identity? Could it be that knowing of one's citizenship in the Kingdom of God creates the foundation of ones' identity in this world? What does that mean for us? And how on earth can we be Good News People in the midst of all of this? We will be grappling with these thoughts. We will be looking at the past, present and future.

My hope is that through this EEA General Assembly you will have a great time of being stimulated in your thinking. But not only that. I hope you will be enriched by the personal conversations and that you will be able to tap into the vast reservoir of experiences and resources of sisters and brothers present.

I am convinced that, as Evangelical Christians, we can have an influence of Hope and Identity in our neighbourhoods, in our nations, in Europe and beyond. Let's trust God that we will discover more of this together.

Looking forward to being together,



Thomas Bucher
General Secretary



Programme overview

Monday 10 October 2016

Day leader: Thomas Bucher

18.00 Dinner
19.30 Introduction & Worship
20.15 Evert Van de Poll: <i>Europe, ideas and identities</i>
21.00 Fellowship

Tuesday 11 October 2016

Day leader: Jan Wessels

07.30 Breakfast
08.30 Worship & Bible Study with Fred Drummond
09.45 Break + market
10.30 Evert Van de Poll: <i>Christian heritage and the future of European societies</i>
11.40 EEA Staff time
12.10 Midday Prayer
12.30 Lunch & meeting with General Secretaries
14.15 Discussing EEA matters
15.00 Workshop: conversation in groups
15.45 Break + market
16.30 Leen La Rivière: <i>Impact your world – understanding the pillars of culture</i>
17.40 Evening Prayer
18.00 Dinner
19.30 Christel Lamère Ngnambi: <i>National Populism and the Evangelical Witness</i> + Panel discussion led by Jürgen Werth
21.00 Fellowship

Wednesday 12 October 2016

Day leader: Frank Hinkelmann

07.30 Breakfast
08.30 Worship & Bible Study with Fred Drummond
09.45 Break + market
10.30 Matt Bird: <i>The Church Being The Church: How the local church can be good news in its communities and in wider society</i>
11.35 Workshop: groups' reports
12.10 Midday Prayer
12.30 Lunch & meeting with Affiliates
14.15 EEA Members Meeting
15.15 Workshop: groups' reports
15.45 Break + market
16.30 Timo Keskitalo: <i>Living as people of God in Europe, which is being reshaped by Islam</i>
18.30 Dinner (international dinner)
19.30 Social evening organised by the Portuguese Evangelical Alliance

Thursday 13 October 2016

Day Leader: Jaume Llenas

07.30 Breakfast
08.30 Worship & Bible Study with Fred Drummond
09.45 Break
10.30 Panel & Closing Statements
11.40 Lords Supper
12.10 Midday Prayer
12.30 Lunch
14.00 Departures & Outing

Programme in detail

Bible Study with Dr. Fred Drummond

- **Tuesday: What Kind of Church? (Acts 2:42)**
Are we spending time doing a lot of things that are not core to us as the church? Do we get values and praxis mixed up? As we look at what God is calling us into as his people we need to be sure of what it means to be church. Based on Fred's booklet and films this is a basic examination of the core values of the people of God.
- **Wednesday: Liminal living (Luke 5:33)**
We live in interesting and challenging times. God is calling us to be both faithful and creative at the same time. However, many of us are finding our position in society moving further to the margins. What are the qualities we need to live as a mission body in a changing environment? What does it mean to live on the threshold?
- **Thursday: Sing a new song (Psalm 137)**
As an old order of security and safety changes to a new order of fluidity and uncertainty, we face many emotions and questions. Some are easy to answer, others will help shape our future reality. The key one is: 'How do we sing a new song in a strange land?'



Dr. Fred Drummond is both national director of Evangelical Alliance for Scotland and U.K. Prayer director. He is an ordained Church of Scotland minister and pastored a city centre church before planting a church in an area of social deprivation. He studied for a Doctor of Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary on the subject of New church developments and the spirituality of growing churches. He has written two books and several booklets.

Fred loves sports, movies, music and reading detective novels.

He is married to Caroline and has two grown up sons.

Monday, 10 October 2016

Europe, ideas and identities

Evert Van de Poll

In this talk we will briefly deal with the following points:

- What is the idea of 'Europe' and when/where/how did it originate?
- Ideas of 'Europe' today
- European and national/regional identities
- The relation between the idea of Europe and (non)religious identities
- Four crises calling in question the idea and identity of 'Europe'

Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Christian heritage and the future of European societies

Evert Van de Poll

In this talk we will briefly deal with the following points:

- The paradox of Europe and Christianity,
- The debate about the roots of European cultures
- Different agendas in emphasising or downplaying Christian roots
- Christian heritage and the basic values of society
- Christian heritage and the communication of the Gospel



Evert Van de Poll (1952) is professor of religious studies and missiology at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven (Belgium).

Since 1998, he and his wife Yanna – both from the Netherlands – serve as pastors in France, with the Fédération des Églises Évangéliques Baptistes. They actually live in Nîmes.

Evert is also involved in the two networks of missiology in French speaking countries (one evangelical, the other ecumenical). As such, he participates in the research group for new evangelism of the Catholic University in Lyon.

His numerous publications include *Europe and the Gospel: Past Influences, Current Developments and Mission Challenges* (London, De Gruyter, 2013). He edited the forthcoming book *Mission intégrale: Vivre, dire et manifester l'Évangile* (Charols, Excelsis, 2016).

www.evertvandepoll.com

Impact your world – understanding the pillars of culture

Leen La Rivière

In this lecture will be explained that the real decision power about any culture lies today in the hand of a cultural-political elite. During the last 300 years the family / tribe, economy, politics and religion got separated in spheres, who all battle for hegemony. The Enlightenment and Modernity were very strong catalysts. So how can we understand the cultural battle of today: pulp culture, high culture, political culture, social culture, folk culture, ethnic diversity... It is like a table with table-legs. Which are those and how does that connect to your personal roots and views on the future? And knowing all of that, how does it apply for ministry and mission?



Leen La Rivière (1946), studied education, culture and theology. He organised the first large scale tour of the US Continentals (Directed by Ken and Nancy Waggoner) in Europe, in 1970. That tour changed his life as there was a combination between faith, contemporary art and real ministry. God used that experience to call Leen to full-time ministry in the arts and culture. Besides Continentals (having tours every year) many projects were started: international tours with artists like Barry McGuire, Second Chapter of Acts, Adrian Snell, etc. In 1981 the International Christian Artists Seminar in Europe was launched, bringing together the absolute top of every arts form and it is still happening annually every year beginning of August. A publishing house was launched, magazines, TV series, books (Leen wrote 28 books about arts, faith, culture, society, youth). In 1989 the national trade union for arts and culture was launched and got influence in the public space. In 1989 Leen became knight in the order of Oranje-Nassau by the Queen of the Netherlands for his contribution to the sector of arts and culture. In 2014 Leen was awarded by the Christian Music Industry of the Netherlands with the first *Silver Dove Life Time Achievement Award* for his 50 years activities in the arts (45 years as professional).

Currently Leen is still leading Continental Ministries Europe. He is the chairman of the national music council, has a responsible position in the European Christian trade unions, overseeing trainings programs, publications and such, and is the chairman of Christian Artists International.

Leen La Rivière lives in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and together with his wife Ria they have 3 sons and 4 grandchildren.

National Populism and the Evangelical Witness

Christel Lamère Ngnambi

Populism is a pejorative term to describe politicians (whatever their party) offering simple solutions based on people's emotions. National Populism has been on the rise almost everywhere in Europe for the last 15 years, one of the few movements seemingly to successfully address people's felt needs and fears. The asylum and refugee crisis is a key example of that. This lecture will help us to diagnose the spiritual and existential crisis in Europe, which National Populism is trying to address. Then we will look at what it means to live as a people of hope in our changing world amidst these and other political offers: the key is for the Church to understand its specific identity in society... and act upon it.



Christel Lamère Ngnambi has served the EEA for 10 years. For the last 8 years, he has served as the Brussels Representative of the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA), presented as a pan-European movement representing more than 50 national and international evangelical Protestant organisations in Europe, and 20 million citizens in the European Union. The Brussels office of the EEA promotes active citizenship of its constituency and represents it to the European Institutions. Christel's main tasks as Brussels Representative include monitoring decision-making and political trends within the European Union, developing an evangelical Christian approach to a set of issues and being the voice of Europe's 20 million evangelical Christians. The EEA was founded in 1846 and set the promotion and defense of religious freedom as a high priority, which it has remained since.

His work has included helping draft legislation and teaching or speaking at many Christian events and public venues including official international events in Brussels (European Parliament and European Commission), Vienna, The Hague, Cairo (League of Arab States) and Jeddah (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Saudi Arabia).

Christel Lamère Ngnambi, a Belgian of Cameroonian origin, is a Political Science and International Relations graduate (Saint-Louis University, Brussels and Université catholique de Louvain). Currently he is a Political Science Ph.D. candidate at the Université catholique de Louvain and Université Paris–Sorbonne, France.

Wednesday, 12 October 2016

The Church Being The Church: How the local church can be good news in its communities and in wider society

Matt Bird

Matt Bird will talk about how local churches are serving those people most at need in their communities and as a result changing the way that wider society views the Church. Europe is changing and local churches need to follow Biblical principles so that they continue to change so that they are good news and increasingly relevant in community and society.

He will talk about the Cinnamon Network International's unique approach of helping countries identify their own local church community projects and supporting their replication to national scale. This approach enables hundreds and thousands of local churches to engage relevantly and effectively as good news carriers in their communities and influence wider society.

For example Cinnamon Network UK has identified 30 local church community projects that have now been replicated by 3,500 local churches mobilising 56,000 church based volunteers and impacting 1.4million beneficiaries a year. Their work is regularly reported as good news in the national media and attitudes towards the Church are changing.



Matt Bird is an international speaker, author and broadcaster about how Biblical principles build life transforming relationships in family, business and community. He has spoken in more than 30 countries, is the author of an award winning book, writes in The Times Newspaper and hosts a TV show on TBN Europe.

www.mattbirdspeaker.com

He is the founder of the international charity Cinnamon Network which helps local churches build stronger relationships with their communities to bring about transformation. www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

Matt is also the founder of the international business Relationology which helps businesses drive growth through the power of building effective client relationships. www.relationology.co.uk

Matt lives in Wimbledon, UK with his wife Esther and their three children.

Living as people of God in Europe, which is being reshaped by Islam

Timo Keskitalo

Islam is reshaping Europe as a growing number of Europeans are Muslim. Islam is also shaping Europe by forcing non-Muslims to react. We are seeing the freedom of speech re-defined, our freedom of movement restricted, sense of security shaken and political map of Europe redrawn.

In past decades we saw Christianity being marginalised by secularism in the Western culture. What did we do in response? We explained that there never was any Christendom, really. Now as the Syrian refugees flow into Europe, they are seeking shelter in the Christian Europe. Do they see something what we couldn't see? Is there some truth in the Christendom after all, when looking from outside?

We see politicians opening borders with loving kindness to the ISIS elements and then on the other hand we see angry local Christians hating their Muslim neighbours. How could it go so wrong? In the Christian church we have the doctrine of the two realms of governing. Let the authorities carry the sword and use it.

We should look closely what is happening in the spiritual realm of governing. The real spiritual challenge for us is the concept of sacrificial love and martyrdom as testimony. We are treasuring our security and this has become our idol. The church has been domesticated and tamed already before Islam. As we were not ready to suffer, the whole western culture is now being sacrificed.



Rev. Timo Keskitalo studied Theology at the University of Helsinki and was ordained in the Lutheran church. After serving as a pastor in local church setting he worked seven years as a missionary among Muslims in London UK. He then moved back to Finland and served the next seven years as the general secretary of the IFES movement of Finland. At this time he established a network for reaching out to Muslims in Finland. He then moved to serve as the senior pastor of an interdenominational multiethnic church in Helsinki for the next 15 years and saw dozens of Muslims turning to Christ. During this time he also chaired the national Evangelical Alliance.

Presently Timo Keskitalo is serving as a missionary to Muslims in Finland under the Patmos Foundation for World Missions.

Special features in the programme

Group work & Presentations

On Tuesday we have scheduled for you to come together in groups. Each group is focused around a theme and the purpose is to share good practice. You choose the best story to present in the plenary sessions on Wednesday and the other stories can be presented during the breaks.

Market

On Tuesday organizations have the opportunity to present themselves at the market place. The market is there to share your ideas, projects, success stories and questions. Please consult with the conference team on the location of the market.

Lunch Meetings

On Tuesday and Wednesday the General Secretaries meeting and Affiliates meeting are planned during lunch time. They are in the separate dining hall, which you can enter through the main dining hall.

International dinner

On Wednesday we have the international dinner with all the food you have brought. We look forward to having a multicultural meal, make sure to try things you have never tried before!

Worship

The times of worship are led by Marco Martins.

Panel discussion

On Tuesday we will have a panel discussion on the topic of the GA: **Being Good News People in a Time of Change, Shaping the Identity of Our Nations and Continent**. The panel will discuss different local perspectives. The participants will be with some of the speakers and several of the National General Secretaries and it will be led by Jürgen Werth (member of the EEA Board).

Prayer

Each day before lunch and dinner we have set a prayer moment in the programme. We would like encourage you to take a time to pray and reflect on the issues discussed that day, to give thanks, to pray for each other and for our nations, organizations, circumstances...

EEA staff sharing

EEA's goals are to equip, connect and represent. On Tuesday morning the EEA staff will share with you shortly about their work. Also there will be short interviews with a member, a network or an organization that holds a good example for this part of EEA's work. This is a great opportunity to learn about the impact of EEA and its networks in Europe!

Practical information

Address conference centre
Casa de Exercícios de St. Inácio

Estrada do Rodizio, 124
2705-335 Colares

Tel: 21 928 90 20
Email: crsi.rodizio@jesuitas.pt

EEA Conference coordinator: Hester Zoutman +31 (0) 6 2505 8898

Access to internet

You will receive the code for Wi-Fi upon arrival.

Meals and Drinks

All meals are included in the conference fee, during the day you will be offered two breaks with coffee and tea; soft drinks are available at your own cost. In the evenings drinks can be bought at the bar. Make sure you bring small change for this!

Payment and Registration

Room check-in and all questions concerning the facilities and your stay can be directed to EEA helpdesk. Questions concerning the conference, fees, transfer, scholarships or other issues can be directed also to the EEA helpdesk. The helpdesk is available 30 minutes before each session and in the evening till 21.30 h.

Transfer

You can write down the time you have to be at the airport on the list at the EEA helpdesk. We will arrange with the conference centre for taxis to be available to take you to the train station.

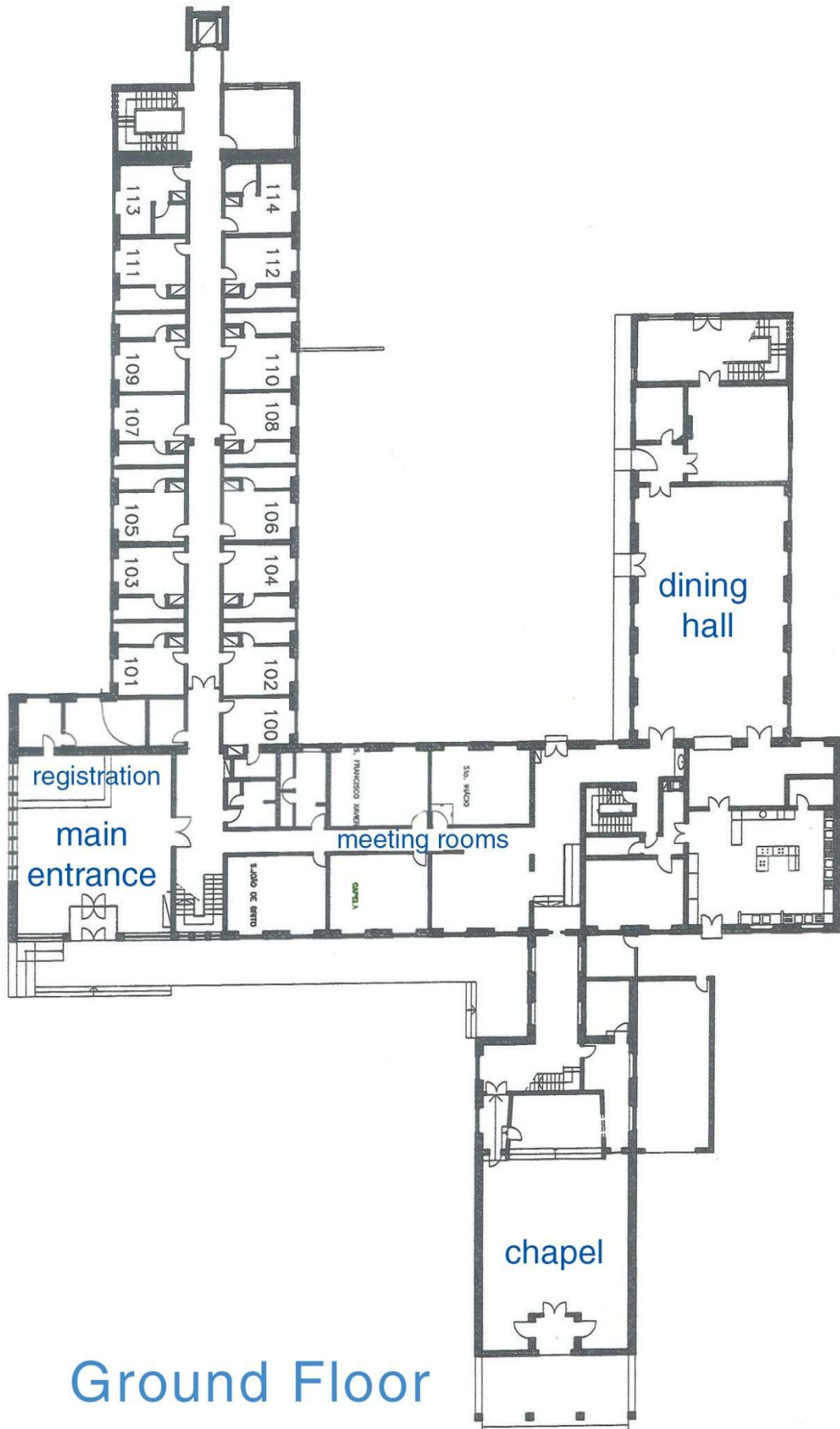


Personal Notes

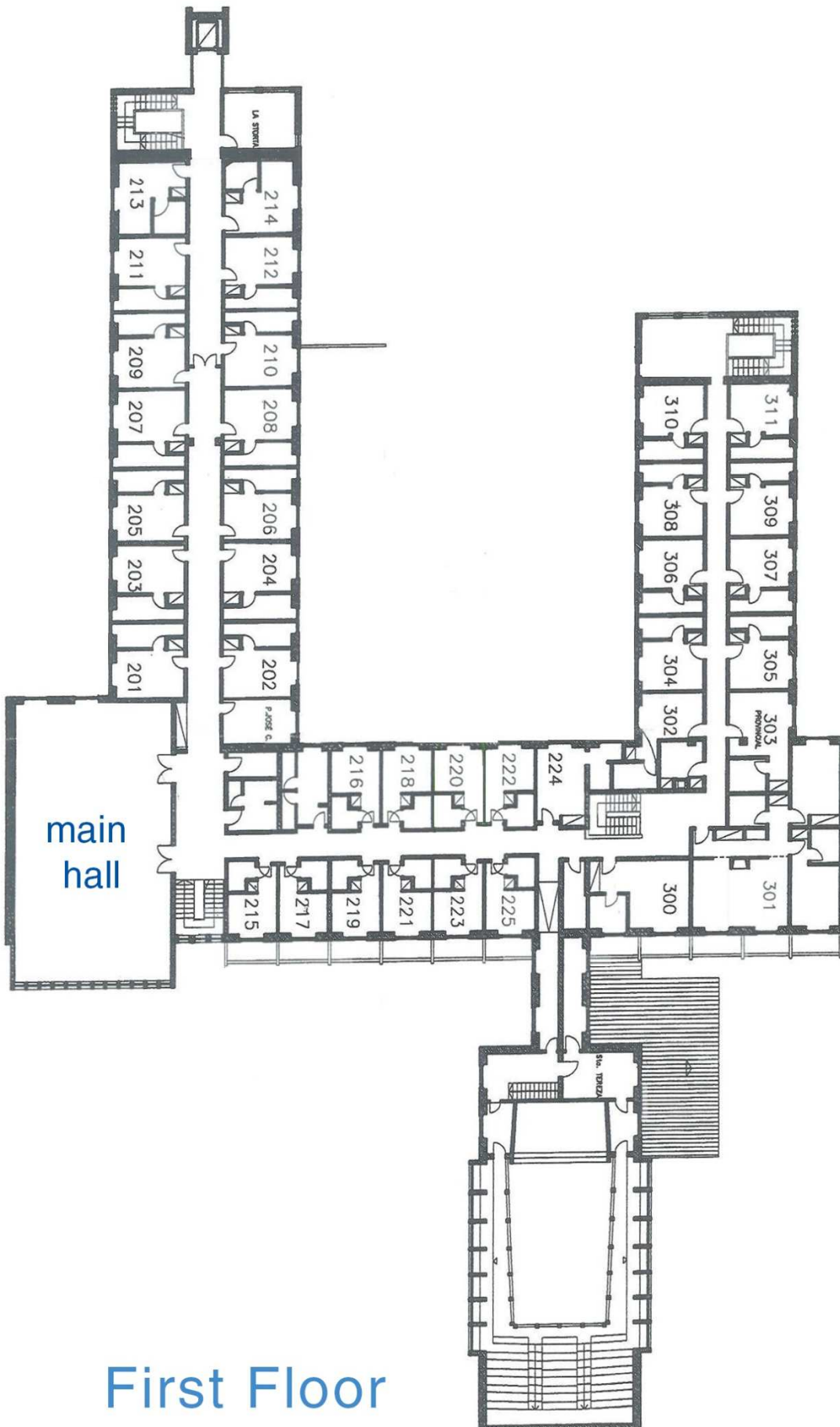




Map of the building



Ground Floor



First Floor

www.eearefugees.org



www.europeanea.org



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