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**T**RANSFORM  
**E**UROPE  
**N**ETWORK

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## TEN TEAMS

Firstly, thanks for your interest in TEN teams!

Short Term mission teams is an initiative of Transform Europe Network, a UK registered charity (1140592), that has been working with churches, organisations, and individuals in Europe since 1965 as they seek to make Jesus known through their words and actions.

We have found that short term teams can make an amazing difference to not only the European partners that they serve, but also the sending church themselves. In fact, it is this 'mutual benefit' that we always seek, and we love to see a team be a strategic part of your churches wider vision for mission.

The core idea is that you take a team from your church - not just a random collection of individuals from all over the UK. This way it not only builds relationships within your church, but also exposes and motivates a greater cross section of your church about mission. Finally, the mission trip becomes a part of the on-going outreach of the church as the relationship builds between your church and the project that was visited.

All that we do at Transform Europe Now is about supporting the local churches in Eastern Europe as they seek to reach their communities with the gospel. It is all about their vision and what God is doing with and through them in those communities. Therefore, the teams go to help with projects that assist our national partners in achieving their goals, as part of what God is doing in that place.

So how does it work?

There are 3 steps to a Team:

Step 1 – Recruitment, Training and preparation.

You can't have a team without team members! Once you as a church/leader decide a team is for you, you need to find and recruit members to it. You'll want people who have something to learn, something to offer, and will be healthy enough to handle the travel and activity.

Sometimes you will need to tell someone the team is not for them. More often, however, we find it's about convincing people that they really do have something to offer!

Like all the good things in life, there are forms to fill in and budgets to put together. It doesn't have to be arduous, and we have a lot of experience in getting teams organised well.

Probably the best advice we can give is to be prepared to get some admin done, and chase people to fill in forms, pay costs etc. If you really push this from the beginning, it will make everything a lot easier.

We will also arrange to visit and train your team. The training will include:

- (a) Background information about the project and place to be visited including a trip pack for each team member.
- (b) An introduction to cross cultural mission.
- (c) Any relevant information and training for the project to be completed.

As you near the trip date you will prepare the team for whatever it is they will be bringing to our Partners. It might be building materials and skills for practical work, or a range of activities for a holiday club. You will undoubtedly be heading to a place where Christians are a real minority and your mere presence will be a real encouragement. On top of this, anything practical you bring will also help. It's good to consider having as wide a repertoire of 'things' as possible – a song, a skit, a craft, a game, a sermon, a testimony, a skill like plumbing or electrics – whatever you bring can be used to really bless those you visit.

## Step 2 - The trip

Transform Europe Now can advise and help you with your travel and accommodation arrangements if required. Once you arrive at your destination you will be met by our trusted national partners who will take care of you and be your guides whilst "in country" working on the project.

At this point, it might just be that all your carefully prepared plans have to be changed as things work out differently to what you had thought. Always be ready for things to change, and to see sudden challenges as an opportunity to shine, go with the flow, and even see God do something different in you and the people you are working with.

Pray together as a team often, and share your thoughts and feelings, always looking out for each other and developing an atmosphere of encouragement. This way you will get the most out of the team and be the greatest blessing too. We can pretty much guarantee that your team members will go home challenged and changed, ready to ignite the rest of the church about mission!

Step 3 - The team debrief: Where do we go from here?

Team members will have had an amazing experience and become dependent on God in new ways during the trip. We want them to take what they have learnt and experienced into their normal lives, and into the life of your church. We also want to see a relationship grow with the project that was visited, as team members often return determined to help the people they have met. We can either give you the tools to run your own debrief, or send a team member to take your team through an evening debrief, usually 4-8 weeks after the trip.

What kind of projects do the team work on?

Depending on the time of year, the projects can vary from helping run a summer camp for children and teens, renovating a home for single mums or distributing humanitarian aid, to name just a few examples from last year. When you get in touch with us, we can discuss what type of project would best suit the gifts of your team, as well as the part of Europe and type of Partner you could visit. We aim to arrange a low-cost, high impact bespoke mission team experience for you and our Partner that will bring lasting change to all involved!

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