



## *Pursuing the Engaged,* **YET UNREACHED PEOPLES OF EUROPE**

ACROSS EUROPE, THOUSANDS DIE DAILY WITHOUT CHRIST. THE BIBLE IS AVAILABLE IN THEIR LANGUAGES, AND THEY HAVE ACCESS TO GOSPEL MEDIA. THERE ARE EVEN SOME LOCAL BELIEVERS AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES. DESPITE THIS, GENERATIONS OF EUROPEANS DO NOT KNOW THE SAVIOR. THEY ARE THE ENGAGED, YET UNREACHED PEOPLES OF EUROPE.

### **Believers Work to Engage Generations of Post-Christian Europeans**

Many people assume that European countries are similar to the United States. Languages, food, architecture, and the arts are different, but many might think that Europeans' thoughts, worldview, and religion are similar to those in the U.S. This assumption is far from the truth.

Among the 300 million residents in Europe's four most populated countries (Russia, Italy, Germany, and France), less than 1% are evangelical believers. That statistic does not include immigrants. Before the pandemic, around 10,000 people died in just these four countries every day without knowing Jesus as their Savior.

With such a rich tradition of Christianity, how have Europeans come to this state of lostness? Although there are numerous reasons, the driving force is the neglect of teaching the next generation. They have disregarded the directive from Ephesians 6:4b (HCSB), "Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

There are now generations that have never heard the gospel. There is a lack of knowledge of biblical history, an ignorance of the foundations of belief, and an absence of teaching the Bible in a relevant and applicable way. Despite this tragedy, IMB missionaries, Great Commission Christian (GCC) partners, and national believers are working to share the gospel message.

Pray for the less than 1% of evangelical believers in Europe to boldly witness to the lost and disciple them. Pray for a harvest of equipped leaders to start and lead reproducing churches. Petition God to send laborers to pursue the engaged, yet unreached people groups of Europe.



Sacré-Cœur in Paris, France

**1 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Estonia has been referred to as the “least religious” country in the world. Religion does not play much of a role in people’s lives. Pray for a new couple who has been called to Estonia as they prepare to move there and engage the Estonian people with the gospel.



**2 GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGIES NETWORK.** Cities are home to the poor, refugees, and marginalized. The Lord desires redemptive relationships with all walks of life, and cities offer access to these people. Pray that health strategists will have the creativity and determination to reach them with the gospel.

**3 N’DJAMENA, CHAD.** “Praise the Lord for the completion of the Chadian Arabic Bible,” writes the Chad Team. “For the past years we have only had access to the New Testament.” Pray that these Bibles will reach local churches soon so that they will be strengthened in the Scriptures.

**4 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** More Russians die every day without Christ than any other unreached people group in the world. Russia is almost twice the size of the U.S. and spans 11 time zones from the Black Sea to the Sea of Japan. Pray for the people of this large, diverse, and beautiful country.

**5 COFFEE PEOPLE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Ronny\* is an artist in an unreached area, serving the Lord through his profession. He used his artwork profits to give out 15 food bags, in partnership with Send Relief. Pray for Ronny as he discipled two new people who have professed faith.

**6 CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS, EAST ASIA.** As persecution spreads in an

East Asian country, church leaders face many threats and dangers. Some churches have been ordered by local authorities to remain closed. Pray for believers to stand strong in the Lord and for their faith to mature in spite of opposition.

**7 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** Some Bedouins in Syria live in tents and move around depending on the time of year. Others have settled in villages, yet all have been affected by a decade of war. Pray for the Bedouins in Syria to hear about God’s love for them and receive healing in their souls.

**8 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Madrid, Spain is home to over 300,000 college students, 99% of whom are lost. The University of Madrid numbers 86,000 students. Lift up two IMB representatives as they search for ways to reach the student population and plug them into two church plants in the city.

**9 BHOJPURI OF SOUTH ASIA.** Anamika\* is a pastor’s wife who recently started sharing the gospel and discipling believers. She has been a believer for years but just learned how to study God’s Word. Please pray that she will be faithful to daily abide in God’s Word and equip others to do the same.

**10 DEAF PEOPLES.** Matthew Walker’s\* friend, Mark,\* has been recording Bible videos to share with the Deaf in his predominantly Muslim, Southeast Asian country. Pray that Mark’s videos will be biblically sound, for the good news to spread through them, and for many Deaf to follow Jesus.

**11 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** The Republic of Ireland is 0.5% evangelical. Pray that God will embolden Irish Christians to reach beyond their comfortable church traditions and Christian bubbles to share the gospel with those around them who have little access to the saving message of Jesus.

**12 DUSTY CITY, CENTRAL ASIA.** An increase in divorce in Dusty City has brought many women to remarry, but their new husbands do not want the children from the first marriage. Left without a home, they turn to the streets and to crime to survive. Ask the Father to send people to love these children.

**13 AMERICAN PEOPLES.** Pray for Costa Rican churches who gave up their building leases during the pandemic due to financial constraints. Ask God to guide them to new places where they may gather. Pray for favor with the government officials who grant permission for the use of those buildings.

**14 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** With over a million people and only four Baptist churches, the need is great in Ufa, Russia. A national pastor and his church hope to plant a church in the city center. Pray that God will bring people to join them and minister to the Bashkir and Tatar peoples.

**15 SOUTH ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** The Phil people, or Phri, are a micro people group located in the districts surrounding Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. They are a low-caste people group with no known believers. Pray for nearby believers to share the gospel and for the Phil people to hear and believe.

**16 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Pray for IMB representatives, their various ministries, and their impact in Ukraine. Ask for God’s guidance and wisdom as they teach at seminaries, hold English language outreaches, and lead a church planting school. Pray for fruit that makes His name known in Ukraine.

**17 LAST FRONTIER.** Offering free English classes provides an opportunity for students to hear a native English speaker, learn grammar, and discuss American culture – including Christianity. Pray for the students to be curious about God, in addition to English.



**18 DEAF PEOPLES.** Praise the Lord for the recent boldness of a South Asian, Deaf believer. Even though following Jesus could cost him to lose his house or job, he recently declared his faith to his boss. Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to empower him to share with his community.

**19 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Located near the Volga River in Russia sits the city of Nizhny Novgorod, where a new church was planted last year. In this city of 1.7 million people, with very few churches, pray that faithful gospel proclamation will bear fruit through this new body of believers.

**20 EAST ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** The Geman Deng, often oppressed by the Tibetans, claim to have lived in their remote corner of Tibet since the beginning of time. These impoverished, Buddhist people offer animal sacrifices to appease the spirits. Pray for the Deng people to discover freedom in Jesus.

**21 HAUSA OF WEST AFRICA.** As students graduate from the Baptist pastor's schools and seminaries, please pray that they will all be able to find locations of ministry and service in churches across West Africa. Pray that they will be protected and effective in their new places of ministry.

**22 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** College students. Businesspeople. Young families. These are some of the most strategic groups in St. Petersburg, Russia that need to be reached with the gospel. Pray that God will raise up Russian believers to creatively identify ways to boldly engage them for Christ.

**23 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES.** Please pray for families getting visas, booking tickets, and preparing to return to the fields where God has called them to serve. Ask that they will rest in His faithfulness and in His plans, even during this unusual season of a global pandemic.

**24 SANTIAGO, CHILE.** "Recognizing the need to disciple new believer Grey\* and several others, Chilean partner Lance\* is starting a midweek discipleship group online," writes the Santiago City Team. "Please pray that the right people will respond, grow in grace, and participate faithfully."

**25 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Despite a rich Christian history, less than 2% of Germans follow Jesus. Pray for German believers to be bold and obedient disciples, acting counter-culturally to share the gospel. Pray for seeds to fall on good soil and for Germans to love God with all of their hearts.



**26 BANGKOK, THAILAND.** The Victory Way job training program seeks to help women who are looking to leave the sex industry by providing a biblical foundation for life and God-honoring employment. Pray that God will open the hearts of these women to His gospel and transform their lives.

**27 CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.** The difficult-to-access, Talysh, are the largest minority people group living in Azerbaijan. Ask that God will open doors for Christians to enter Talysh communities to share the good news. Pray for God to prepare the hearts of the Talysh people to receive Him.

**28 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Despite its iconic cathedrals, France is an unreached country. Pray for wisdom for church leaders and IMB representatives as a new law impacts churches and future church planting efforts. Pray that this law will not affect the spread of the gospel in France.

**29 EMIRATI ARABS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.** Many Emirati Arabs, like the rich ruler in Luke 18, are extremely wealthy, and the cost of following Jesus is great for them. Please ask God to open their eyes to see the truth and beauty of Jesus, that they may follow Him by faith and have eternal life.

**30 CHINESE IN EUROPE.** Europe has seen its share of shameful anti-Asian hate crimes since the onset of the pandemic. Pray for the suffering Chinese immigrants. Ask that believers will be encouraged by Jesus' life and that nonbelievers will learn of their inherent worth as God's image-bearers.

**31 EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Moscow, the largest city in Europe, has a population of almost 20 million people and less than 30 Baptist churches. A local pastor envisions a church near all 250 metro stations in the city. Pray that others will see the desperate need for church planting in Moscow.

## Church Planting Needed Among Italy's Eastern European Immigrants



Eastern European couple

For centuries, peoples from Eastern Europe have migrated to Italy. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the growth of the European Union, there has been a dramatic increase in immigration. In 2019, over three million foreign residents, roughly 6% of Italy's population, were from Eastern Europe. Many moved to escape poverty, some to search for employment, and others to escape persecution.

These immigrants include several unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPGs): the Slovenes, Serbs, Moldovans, Macedonians, Albanians, and over 1.2 million Romanians. These peoples are less than 1% evangelical and have no active church planting among them. Although these UUPGs are localized in specific geographic regions, they blend into existing communities and are therefore difficult to locate.

Pray for God's messengers from Italy, as well as believers from around the world, to declare His glory to these Eastern Europeans. Pray for future church planting efforts among these unreached peoples in Italy.

"That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments." **Psalm 78:6-7 ESV**

## European Peoples

**810**  
MILLION  
PEOPLE



**11%**  
OF WORLD'S  
POPULATION

Living behind Europe's landmarks are the largest unreached people group populations.

**1%** EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN

**55%** OF REFUGEES  
WORLDWIDE

come from three nations: South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria. Of all displaced peoples, 17 PERCENT of them are being hosted in Europe.

**Russian Population**  
**111,310,000**

1 church for every  
**31,346 Russians**



**Italian Population**  
**60,610,000**

**.54%**  
**Evangelical**



**French Population**  
**48,550,000**

1 believer for every  
**183 French**



**imb**

Every church.  
Every nation.

**PRAYERPOINTS** is available as a free email or print subscription. Please go to [www.imb.org/prayer-points](http://www.imb.org/prayer-points) to subscribe, or call **(800) 999-3113**, if you need assistance.

You can also find **PRAYERPOINTS** on the **IMB Pray** app - available for iOS and Android devices. Find more prayer opportunities and resources at **IMB.org/pray** as well as on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

The stats are drawn from Fast Facts and all numbers come from the Annual Statistical Report on 2020 Data.

\*Names changed

CG 14M 8/21 P7483-8