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Catalyst of the Network

## Overview and purpose of a church planting consultation

### Introduction:

The National Church Planting Process in Europe ([www.nc2p.org](http://www.nc2p.org)) has observed that a church planting movement has 4 characteristics.

1. It has a **catalyst** or group of catalyst that keep the vision alive.
2. It uses **statistics** to reinforce the need and drive the vision.
3. It engages **systems** to promote training, prayer, coaching, etc.
4. It has some form of a **gathering** or way of meeting.

### Purpose:

**A church planting consultation is a non-threatening way to ignite a collaborative vision to start a church planting movement.** The process that could range from 1 day to 3 days is designed to “take the pulse” of the church planting activities in a given geographical area. Through a series of dynamic questions asked in an interactive way, key regional influencers form a realistic picture of the church planting activity being done in the area. This look at reality tends to lead the group towards increased motivation, clearer vision, greater harmony, and healthier church planting. It should be noted that the consultation is not a training event though a lot is learned in the process.

### Preparing for an initial consultation:

Objective 1: Cast vision

- Empower and challenge influencers to think about a “bigger Kingdom question” than any one part is trying to answer on their own. The Question: “How can the whole Body, take the whole Gospel, to the whole region?” Use statistics.

Objective 2: Identify key influencers

- Identify a catalyst or group (or someone who shares the vision) that is willing to help identify and gather key influencers representing as much of the breadth of the Body of Christ as possible. This person or group needs to be able to convene key leaders. (A catalyst coupled with the use of the Lausanne Logo/Name has proven useful in convening hesitant influencers in many cases.)
- Identify statistics and even better a statistician for the area.
- Identify key systems\* that are being used to promote church planting and encourage them to take part in the consultation by conveying the “big picture” Kingdom perspective. (\*DMM, CPM, Training, Missions, Denom. Etc.)

Objective 3: Determine God’s leading

- Get confirmation from God that the time and concept is right for the area.
- Wait for the agreement of a core group of influencers regarding the need and suitability for such a consultation.

Objective 4: Organize initial Consultation

- Contact Consultation facilitator
- Agree location and logistics
- Convene influencers. (Bigger groups do not mean better)
- Identify local influencers to give 15-minute talks (as agreed with facilitator)

**Possible programs for a consultation:**

- A one-day consultation works if people do not want to commit a lot of time.
- A 2/3-day consultation is ideal as it gives time to connect and think. Example below.

Example of the program of a 2/3 day consultation

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
7:30			
8:30		Devotional - Prayer	Devotional - Prayer
9:00		What kind of churches should we be planting?	What vision is God revealing to you as a group?
11:00		Break	
11:30		What has God put in your hands?	Objectives and Next steps Conclusion
13:00		Meal	End of Consultation
14:00	Welcome, Introductions, Objectives	14:30 Church planting movements and how they work.	
15:00	What does Christian Unity look like?		
16:00		Break	
16:30	What does the whole body of Christ mean in your context?	The Power of vision	
17:30	What is the size of the challenge?	What vision is God revealing to you personally?	
		Meal	
8 - 9	What is God saying to us?	What is God saying to us?	

**After the initial consultation:**

Objective 1: Keep the conversation going immediately

- Send minutes, and or agreements made
- Organize follow-up of any agreements made
- Coach the Catalyst core team towards making a collaborative vision

Objective 2: Convene the next meeting if it was agreed to have one.

- The second meeting will most likely only attract those who see this as strategic. Continue on with them and let the others know how things are progressing. Don't get discouraged or give up at this stage.

Objective 3: Work towards getting all 4 elements of a movement functioning.

- It may take several years to get a movement off the ground.
- Ask for help from other movements.