

Meet the Regional Secretariat

Region Central Europe West (RECO) of the Salesian Cooperators – September 2026



Sue Cooper

Member of the Regional Secretariat – Great Britain

My name is Sue Cooper. I made my promise as a Salesian Cooperator in 1985, having been inspired by the Salesian spirit which I saw among the communities of SDBs and FMAs in the north and south of England. I currently live in Wokingham, close to Windsor, to the west of London. I belong to the Salesian Cooperators' centre in Chertsey and have been a member of the British provincial council for three years.

The Salesian spirit was important to me throughout my teaching career. I taught Religious Education, Geography and Citizenship to 11- to 18-year-olds in various Catholic schools, but never in Salesian schools. I have been involved in catechetical work in my parish for Baptism, First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. I am currently involved in preparing couples for marriage, and I hope that in this way I can contribute to supporting future families. I also write Gospel reflections from time to time for CAFOD, the Caritas agency of England and Wales, and I volunteer at our local food bank, supporting families in crisis.



Jan Daems

World Councillor for the Region – Northern Belgium / Netherlands

My name is Jan Daems and I have been a Salesian Cooperator since 2006. I was born in Genk (Belgium) in 1969 and grew up in secularised Flanders. My parents had been raised Catholic but were not practising. I was baptised and confirmed and went to Mass from time to time with my mother and grandmother; my grandmother was very religious. While studying to become an architect, I felt that something was missing in my life. In my search, I came into contact with the Sisters of Don Bosco and the Salesian Cooperators in the 1990s. A whole world opened up to me: I became an animator in holiday activities for young people and, together with the FMA, organised meetings lasting several days for the pupils of their schools. I also taught Confirmation classes with the FMA.

The Sisters gave me many wonderful opportunities to dive into our Salesian world and to feel connected across all continents, for example at the Confronto in Becchi in 1999 and at the Youth Forum in 2000. I discovered that the spirituality of Don Bosco and Mary Mazzarello is not only alive in Genk, in Flanders: people all over the world do good in the Salesian spirit. In November 2006, thanks to a very kind Salesian, Fr Walter Van Wouwe, I made my promise at the tomb of Saint Peter in Rome, at the opening of the World Congress of Salesian Cooperators.

Since 2014 I have worked not only as an architect but also as a teacher of adults with little formal education. Our institution focuses mainly on literacy and on teaching digital skills to people with low qualifications, asylum seekers and prisoners. All these experiences have shown me how important it is to stay connected with all the groups of the Salesian Family. At the 2025 Regional Congress in Baumkirchen, I was elected World Councillor for our Region Central Europe West (RECO).



Norbert Fedke

Regional Treasurer – Germany

Hello, my name is Norbert Fedke and I come from Chemnitz in Saxony. I am 64 years old, married and now a grandfather. I have been a Salesian Cooperator since 2014. I work in youth care at the Don Bosco Jugendwerk Saxony in Burgstädt, as a care worker in a residential group of twelve young people, and I am also the coordinator of my local centre. At the 2014 Regional Congress in Benediktbeuern I took over the office of Regional Treasurer, and I was confirmed in that office in Vienna in 2019 and in Baumkirchen in 2025.

So what does the job involve? First of all, I manage the account into which the provinces of the Region Central Europe West (RECO) pay their annual contributions. I take part in the Zoom meetings of the Regional Secretariat and report there on the payments received. I make the bank transfers for the expenses decided at those meetings, such as travel or meeting costs, the Zoom subscription or the hosting of the RECO website. At the Regional Congress, it is my duty to present a financial report to the provinces. These are my tasks as a member of the Regional Secretariat.



Paul Klein

Member of the Regional Secretariat – Germany

Dear Salesian Cooperators! My name is Dr Paul Klein. I am 63 years old and live in Baden-Württemberg, in south-western Germany. I am in an ecumenical marriage and worked as a biologist in the pharmaceutical industry. I came to know the Salesians of Don Bosco decades ago through my civilian service, an alternative to military service. I made my promise as a Salesian Cooperator in 1993 in Augsburg (Bavaria); then, for work reasons, I moved close to the Dutch border for a few years and so became a member of the provincial council of the former Northern German province from 1995 to 1997.

From 1995 until this summer, I was one of the editors of our bulletin “SMDB unterwegs...” (“Salesian Cooperators on the way”), which enabled me to follow closely the development of the Salesian Cooperators in Germany for 30 years, even though I live about two hours’ drive from my local centre. Since retiring at the end of 2019, I have nevertheless taken on the role of local coordinator, to relieve the other members who live closer by, some of whom suffer from age-

related illnesses. From 2020 to 2026, I was again a member of the provincial council, now covering the whole of Germany, as provincial secretary. In my private life, I help with after-school care at our local primary school. I look forward to a fruitful exchange of ideas with you from all the provinces about the future of the Salesian Cooperators.