

Protestant Church and Oikocredit are going to cooperate

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Oikocredit Netherlands and the Protestant Church in the Netherlands have made an affiliation contract. This renewed cooperation means that the Protestant Church and Oikocredit Netherlands together provide information on the Oikocredit loan model to local diaconal boards, congregations and church members. The purpose is to produce as many investments as possible in Oikocredit, one of the largest micro-credit organizations worldwide.

The Protestant Church thinks it of the utmost importance that churches invest money in the ecumenical development cooperation Oikocredit. Oikocredit has worked for 34 years on sustainable poverty reduction by making funds of churches, private persons and organizations available by means of loans available to poor entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Micro-credit

With micro-credits, loans of often no more than 100 euros, people in developing countries can set up their own business. This way they get the chance to obtain their own income and build a better existence. That way they regain their dignity and confidence in their own ability. Oikocredit invests in people and sees to it that they can work themselves up out of poverty. The Protestant Church wholeheartedly wants to support this mission on national and local level.

Cooperation

The Church Ministries of the Protestant Church already manages the investments in Oikocredit of 550 congregations and diaconal boards. The cooperation between Oikocredit and the Protestant Church builds on an agreement of 1999 between the "Samen op Weg-churches" and the forerunner of Oikocredit Netherlands.