



The 2010 Eurodiaconia Award: Projects to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion

Description and Entry Procedures

Background on the Eurodiaconia Award:

At the request of its members, in 2007 Eurodiaconia began an annual award programme to recognise best practice in diaconal social work. Its purpose is to raise awareness of diaconia among and communicate the unique identity of diaconia to European decision makers, build connections between diaconal organisations throughout Europe and encourage diaconal best practice sharing across borders.

In 2007 and 2008, this award recognised *innovation* in diaconal work (click [here](#) for more information).

In honour of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the next award, to be given in 2010, will focus on projects and services that *contribute to reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion in Europe*.

Why enter:

Sharing concrete examples of effective diaconal projects helps further the work of diaconia in serving those in need. Specifically, simply by submitting project entries your organisation can help:

- Inspire diaconal organisations in other countries with new ideas for serving people in need with dignity, respect and hospitality.
- Raise the profile of diaconia among government decision makers and showcase the expertise of diaconal organisations in combating poverty and social exclusion. This in turn supports diaconal advocacy work to prevent and reduce situations of need and marginalisation.
- Strengthen diaconia throughout Europe by demonstrating the range and reach of diaconal work throughout the continent.

All project entries will be publicised on the Eurodiaconia website, at the 2010 Eurodiaconia AGM/poverty conference in Edinburgh and at an ecumenical conference on poverty targeting EU





decision makers in Brussels. They may also be compiled into a booklet of best practices in diaconia. Furthermore, all organisations will receive confidential feedback on their project from their peers. In addition, the project that receives the award and all projects that merit an honourable mention will receive additional recognition, as well as media attention for their organisation and work.

Which projects may be entered:

1. A “project” may be either an ongoing activity or service - - or - - a short-term project.
2. The project must have been developed and conducted by *either* a Eurodiaconia member organisation - - or - - a member or affiliate of a central/national organisation belonging to Eurodiaconia.
3. The project must involve direct social work or diaconal work with people in need. It may *also* involve issue or policy advocacy, but cannot be limited to advocacy.
4. The project must contribute to reducing poverty and/or social exclusion within Europe.
5. The project must have been implemented (not just planned) before 1 October, 2009.

How entries will be evaluated:

Each project will be evaluated on the following five criteria:

1. Reflection of diaconal values
2. Effectiveness at meeting stated goal
3. Impact on reducing poverty and/or social exclusion within Europe
4. Transferability to diaconal organisations in other countries
5. Originality

Entries will be evaluated by a committee composed of three members of the Eurodiaconia Social Services Working Group, three members of the Eurodiaconia Social Inclusion Working Group and one diaconal social work expert, all selected to reflect the diversity of diaconia in Europe.

Although all five criteria are important, the committee will give extra weight to the effectiveness and impact of the project, as well as its diaconal values.

Entry procedure:

Entries will be accepted between 12 October 2009 and 5 March 2010.

Please fill out the official Eurodiaconia 2010 Award entry form and send it by e-mail *in electronic form* to laura.jones@eurodiaconia.org. Entries will be accepted in electronic form in any EU language, although English is the preferred language.



Entries will also be accepted by mail in English only and should be sent to Laura Jones, Eurodiaconia, Rue Joseph II, 166, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

We encourage member organisations to translate the entry form and award information into national languages and promote the award programme widely among diaconal organisations in their countries.

Questions:

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