

**EURODIACONIA
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
8- 10 June 2016
Utrecht, The Netherlands
PROGRAMME
INFORMATION**

Wednesday 8th June

Registrations

Registration will start at 8 am at the offices of Kerk in Actie. When you enter, look for the Eurodiaconia signs. When you register you will be asked to sign an attendance list. You will then receive an AGM pack. If you are a voting participant on behalf of your organisation you must come with your signed letter of mandate confirming, you are a voting delegate. Once you have presented this, you will receive your voting card.

All registration fees for the AGM should be paid in advance by bank transfer. If you would need to pay in cash, please contact keziah.cooper@eurodiaconia.org so she can prepare a receipt for you.

Opening Worship Service

This will be held in the Chapel at Kerk in Actie and will be led by the Rev. Karin van den Broeke, Moderator of the Synod of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands. This will begin promptly at 8.30 am.

Focus on the Netherlands

On this day we will start with a keynote speech from Jetta Klijnsma, the Dutch state secretary for social affairs and employment, who will share her perspective on key policy and project initiatives to reduce poverty and social exclusion within the Netherlands. Her presentation will also have a European angle, as the Netherlands are currently the President of the Council of the EU. In this context, the Dutch Presidency is developing Council Recommendations on Poverty Reduction. We will continue with a presentation by Dick Couvée, who is a pastor and director of the Pauluskerk in Rotterdam. The presentations will be followed by a discussion between members on the social state of play in their respective countries and the role of diaconal and other social actors.

Please note that due to the attendance of the Minister, this session will start promptly on the arrival of the Minister.

Study visits

Kerk in Actie is offering five study visits on Wednesday 8th June from 2pm to 5.30pm. Please find below a description of the five projects that can be visited. In the email accompanying these documents there is a link to register for study visits. Please register as soon as possible. Please note - the study visits will take place simultaneously so you can only participate to one. Also, there is a limited number of places available, so registration will be closed once a study visit group is full. Transport to and from Kerk in Actie will be provided.

1) The power and birth of professional foster homes – the story of the Rudolphstichting

On the 8th of June we'll offer you a warm welcome to 'Youth Village' De Glind. We will tell you the story of how – 100 years ago- reverent Rudolph and an association of churches got involved in child care. De Glind became the birthplace of the Dutch professional foster homes. It has now become a breeding ground for new and innovative initiatives in this field. We are involved in a big project with many other organisations to create foster homes instead of children care centers so that children - who need to have a safe environment to grow up and cannot live at home because of different reasons - can grow up with a family life. That is the story of the Rudolphstichting and 'Youth Village' De Glind: 'where youth and future count!'. See for more information www.rudolphstichting.nl

2) Visit to several projects of the Diaconia in Amsterdam

The Protestant Diaconia of Amsterdam develops and supports initiatives across the city, aiming at improving the situation of persons in vulnerable situations, such as undocumented labour migrants, refugees, people experiencing poverty or homelessness. This study visit will present three projects:

- **The 'Wereldhuis'** a center for undocumented migrants where people can meet, share a meal or take part in social activities, speak to a pastor, take a language courses or a training on 'how to survive without papers', etc. The house is open 5 days per week. During the weekend, various migrant organisations organise activities for their 'own' target groups.
- The **'Social Greengrocer'** is a shop selling non-perishable food and non-food products to those facing poverty, putting freedom of choice and self-reliance at the centre. The Social Greengrocer is also a meeting point where people can have a coffee, enjoy a break and participate in activities to help get their lives back on track. The products offered are meant to complement the weekly food packages distributed via the food bank.
- The **Social Start**, is an organisation matching NGOs looking to recruit young people and young people looking to achieve the transition from subsidised work towards social entrepreneurship. This is a win-win situation as young gifted individuals get an opportunity to develop their talents whilst organisations can reduce their dependency on external sources of financing.

3) A quiet place for peace and debt support: the meditation centre and Debt Relief Buddy Project in Utrecht

This center was established by the Sisters of the Eucharist and is today a joint initiative supported by several churches in Utrecht such as the Protestant Parish of Utrecht (PGU), the Catholic Caritas Utrecht (KCU) and Church in Action.

It aims to offer a quiet space right in the commercial 'violence' of the shopping heart of the Netherlands 'Hoog Catharijne'. This meditation center includes a chapel which is opened at weekdays between 9:30 and 16:30 and offers a short sermon, a moment of silence and the singing of a religious songs. Each week the services are provided by a different Christian church from Utrecht. Next to the chapel there is a meeting place where coffee or tea is served and where people can receive pastoral counseling with a trained volunteer.

This center also participates since 2011 in the Debt Relief Buddy project by offering a space for people to meet

with trained volunteers to help them dealing with their debts, and the often complex situations associated to debts.

4) Visit to a local project working for inclusion of African woman and discover the work of the Hague poverty platform

At the Oasis, the delegation will discover the communal and church-based work in Spoorwijk and the ways in which Kariboe Bibi is engaging with African women. There have been plenty of developments in this area, which makes it interesting for foreign visitors familiar with this work field.

A second part of the visit will focus on the project Sharing behind the Dunes ('Delen achter de Duinen'), a platform of about 60 organisations in The Hague which focus on fighting poverty. It's a broad platform characterised by a huge diversity of organisations, ranging from Caritas to social entrepreneurs, and from large organisations dealing with specific target groups such as the homeless to small and medium social enterprises. They all have a common goal: reducing poverty within the municipality of The Hague. Sharing behind the Dunes emerged in 2012 as a response to the growing realisation that even a prosperous country like the Netherlands is not able to effectively combat poverty. More and more citizens in The Hague are ending up in difficult situations and becoming dependent on services provided by NGOs. These organisations have therefore decided to create a joint platform against poverty. In Sharing behind the Dunes, every person involved contributes to proposals for fairer policies and a fairer society on the basis of his/her own knowledge and experiences.

5) A holiday center for elderly people and people with disabilities: Hetvakantiebureau.nl

Hetvakantiebureau.nl organises holidays for elderly persons and persons with disabilities who, for financial or health-related reasons, no longer can or want to go on holidays by themselves. These holidays are coordinated by volunteers. The initiative covers the entire country.

In early 2016, a fully equipped hotel has been opened on the Hydepark estate in Doorn (central Netherlands) which allows the target groups mentioned above to enjoy a nice and 'warm' vacation. It allows them to enjoy the company of others and to escape the worries they might face at home. Informal carers are also taken into consideration. It is also the 'house of the church' where pastors of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands receive further training. Apart from a presentation on the diaconal aims of the 'Vakantiewerk', a tour will be organised to familiarise visitors with the practical work, which includes a walk around the unique estate.

Bring & share dinner

Thanks to its great success at the two last AGMs we want to continue to celebrate the diversity in our association and we invite you to bring some food and drink from your country to share with other delegates.

Please do not bring food that requires preparation or warming up but foods that can easily be shared (cheese, cold meats etc.). Please also bear in mind that we want to discourage food waste. We will provide some bread but we are relying on you to bring some flavors and tastes of your country. If you have any questions please contact keziah.cooper@eurodiaconia.org

Thursday 9th June

Business Session

The Business Session will focus on the issues of finance and our strategic plans for the future, as well as report on the 2015 activities. There are 7 documents plus two annexes that provide the information on the various agenda items and these have been sent to all delegates at the AGM and to the primary contacts for all members.

A focus on Europe

We will be joined by our second keynote speaker, Professor Johannes Eurich. He will share his thoughts on the social situation in Europe today, looking at the key challenges which Diaconia is facing across Europe. This will be followed by discussions with members.

Workshops

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of Eurodiaconia will run, as customary, a series of workshops reflecting members' activity and interests. The aim of workshops is to share experience and good practice among members, review members' work and offer a space for joint reflection. The range of topics addressed in the workshops should mirror the overarching nature of our members' work. Moreover, they are an opportunity to expand the thematic focus of the AGM beyond the event's main topic (in this case, 'hospitality'). You can register now online or at the AGM.

Each workshop will begin with the presentation of a project run by the member organization responsible for the workshop. The organizers will next ensure that advocacy and identity elements are discussed both in relation to the project presented and, especially, the broader framework of the topic of the workshop.

To ensure the **outcome-orientation** of workshops, the organizers of each workshop will see that concrete messages/conclusions are drawn from the discussion. These will be written down on flipcharts and shared with the wider Eurodiaconia membership on the Friday.

Participants will be able to attend two workshops – one in the first round and one in the second round. In the email accompanying these documents there is a link to register for workshops. Please register as soon as possible. Please note - there is a limited number of places available in each workshop, so registration will be closed once a workshop is full.

Workshop Title	Member(s) responsible
FIRST ROUND	
1. Unaccompanied Minors and children of irregular/undocumented migrants	Bräcke Diakoni (Sweden), City Mission Stockholm (Sweden)
2. Dementia	Diakonie Österreich (Austria)
3. Persons away from labor market	Aufbaugilde Heilbronn (Diakonie Baden-Württemberg, Germany)
4. Roma	HDI (Finland), Reformed Church (Hungary)
5. Youth & Agriculture	Diaconia Valdese (Italy)
6. Syrian refugees outside the EU	ART (Armenia)
SECOND ROUND	
7. Being a Hospitable Church	Kerk in Actie (NL)
8. Diaconal work vis-à-vis: Governments	Church of Scotland (UK)
9. Diaconal work vis-à-vis: Communities	Diaconia World Federation
10. The threat of far right-wing movements for hospitality in Europe	Diakonie Deutschland (GER)
11. Mental Health	Slezska Diakonie (Czech Republic) and Diaconia Poland.
12. Hospitality as a value of Diaconia	YMCA (Denmark)

AGM dinner and celebration

More information on this will be given at the AGM however this will be a night of celebration in the heart of Utrecht!

Friday 10th June

Elections to the Supervisory Board/ AGM declaration/ workshop outcomes

Following the morning prayer and an energizer, there will be elections for the Supervisory Board. While the votes are being counted, a representative from the Board will present the draft declaration of the AGM, which incorporates the input received from an ad-hoc working group of volunteers. The declaration will explore the topic of 'hospitality' from a diaconal perspective and outline key actions of the network, based on its central pillars of advocacy, praxis and identity. Following the adoption of the declaration, participants will have a chance to learn more about the key outcomes of Thursday's workshops by looking at the different flipcharts for each workshop, which will be displayed in the main conference room.

Strategic planning 2018 and onwards

As Eurodiaconia is embarking on the development of its new strategy from 2018 onwards, it is essential to engage members to contribute to the process. Setting clear priorities for Eurodiaconia remains pivotal and should be based on a solid analysis of what goes on around us in a rapidly changing world as well as on how we see our roles to contribute to address social injustice within a faith-based European context. The process and its milestones will be presented during this session.



Keynote speech by Dennis de Jong: 'Living Apart, Living Apart Together, or Living Together?'

Dennis de Jong, a Member of the European Parliament on behalf of the Dutch Socialist Party, will share his perspective on the current situation of hospitality in Europe, and reflect on the role which diaconal organisations can play in the alleviation of poverty and social exclusion in the years to come.



Looking forward: Eurodiaconia in 2017 and beyond

This session will draw on the insights offered by Dennis de Jong and other keynote speakers to discuss what topics and actions Eurodiaconia should be focusing on in 2017 and beyond. Participants will break out into working groups and discuss ideas for future work, which will be taken into account when writing the 2017 work plan.



	<p>Jetta Klijnsma <i>Dutch State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment</i></p> <p>Jetta Klijnsma is a member of the Dutch Labour Party (Partij van de Arbeid). After studying economic and political history, she was elected to the municipal council of The Hague in 1990, and became the city's vice-mayor in 2006. From 2008-2010, she was State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment in the Cabinet Balkenende IV. From 2010 to 2012, she served as a Member of the Dutch Parliament focusing on culture, seniors and persons with disabilities. Since 2012, she is (again) State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment, dealing with long-term unemployment, poverty, equality and health & safety.</p>
	<p>Dick Couvée <i>Pastor and director, Pauluskerk Rotterdam</i></p> <p>Dick Couvée is a pastor and the director of the diaconal centre of the Pauluskerk, a modern church located in the heart of Rotterdam. After studying international law, he worked at the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure for several years before switching to theology. Dick Couvée has worked at the intersection of pastoral care and social justice advocacy for many years. His church serves as a safe haven welcoming and connecting persons from all walks of life, breaking down boundaries between the rich and the poor, native residents and refugees. It provides food, counselling and spiritual support to those in need, and raises governmental awareness of social inequality and injustice.</p>



	<p>Dennis de Jong <i>Member of the European Parliament</i></p> <p>Dennis de Jong has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2009, representing the Dutch Socialist Party (Socialistische Partij). Having studied law and political economy, he obtained his doctorate in 2000 on the topic of 'freedom of religion or belief' and served (amongst others) as an adviser at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs on human rights and good governance for several years. He chairs a parliamentary group called 'Friends of the European Social Charter' and a key proponent of poverty reduction within the European Parliament.</p>
	<p>Johannes Eurich <i>Professor for Practical Theology/Diaconal Sciences</i></p> <p>Professor Eurich studied Evangelical Theology in Switzerland and the USA and received a PhD from Heidelberg University in Practical Theology (2000). He wrote his habilitation thesis on "Justice for People with Disabilities". In 2009, he became professor for Practical Theology and Diaconal Sciences at the University of Heidelberg. His research focuses, amongst others, on the Theology of Helping, Social Innovation & Inclusion, and Diaconia in transforming welfare states. Prof. Eurich is a member of the ReDi Executive Board and co-editor of the <i>Diaconia Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice</i>.</p>

Checklist of AGM documents

Document 1	Proposed Agenda and Programme
Document 2	Draft Minutes of the Business Session 2015
Document 3	New Members
Document 4	Activity and Financial Report 2015
Document 4 Annex 1	Auditors Report and Annual Accounts
Document 5	Operational and Financial Plans 2016 and Draft Budget 2017
Document 5 Annex 1	Membership Fees and Solidarity Contribution 2017
Document 6	Elections to the Supervisory Board
Document 7	AGM statement
Letter of Mandate for voting members	

Please note that all documents will be available on the AGM webpage with the EXCEPTION of Document 6 for data protection purposes.