

Dear members,

I am happy to invite you to Eurodiaconia's 2016 Roma Network Meeting, which will take place on 13-14 October in Uppsala, Sweden.

The focus of the Network Meeting will be on a topic which is increasingly recognised as a core obstacle to achieving sustainable societal inclusion for Roma: Anti-Gypsyism, similar to antisemitism, refers to the systematic pattern of tacit prejudice, overt discrimination and violence which Roma people are facing across Europe.

### **Why address Anti-Gypsyism as diaconal actors?**

Social inclusion and anti-discrimination measures are increasingly recognised as two sides of one coin. Equal access to housing, employment, health or education cannot be effectively guaranteed without addressing the root causes of inequality. Harmful narratives and stereotypes about the Roma have existed for a long time, also within the church, and continue to undermine the political willingness to act.

The 2016 Roma Network meeting explores what role diaconal actors can play in combating Anti-Gypsyism. Which means do they have at their disposal as providers of basic services? How can they effectively advocate for positive change within church communities and political settings? Based on their own experiences and on the input received during the meeting, members will jointly draft 'Guidelines for diaconal actors on combating anti-gypsyism' for internal and external use.

### **Who can take part?**

The meeting is open to all organisations which are members of Eurodiaconia.

### **Financial Information:**

For budgetary reasons, financial support can only be allocated to participants coming from either Central or Eastern Europe or from minority church diaconal organisations. Applications for financial support should be made when registering for participation in the meeting. However, no tickets or other reservations should be booked until the staff member responsible for the event has confirmed that financial support can be given.

### **How to Register:**

Please register on our online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/pfNKxP4fnW0rkds72>

**For further information or for any questions, please contact Stephan Burger at the Eurodiaconia secretariat [stephan.burger@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:stephan.burger@eurodiaconia.org)**