



Eurodiaconia is looking to recruit a Full Time Economic and Social Policy Officer.

Closing date for applications is 5pm CET 26 February 2018

Eurodiaconia is a European network of churches and Christian NGOs providing social and health care services and advocating social justice. Together our membership represents the needs and unique experiences of 46 national and regional organisations in 32 countries.

Diakonia is Greek for service and in the biblical sense, this means service for and with people in need. Members' activities facilitate social cohesion and inclusion through diaconal education and provision of social and health services to young and old, people experiencing marginalisation, exclusion and poverty and situations of abuse.

Eurodiaconia creates a platform for diaconal actors to facilitate trans-national networking. It also creates a link between the regional, national and European levels, developing ideas and feeding into policies to combat social exclusion; in creating more just societies and in securing dignity for every human being.

The Job is a new post in our team and an opportunity to really lead our work on economic policies. We have identified a need to address economic policies for their social impact and to better understand economic policies in the context of social inequalities, social rights and social development. The job will have a particular focus on European Economic Governance and the various instruments and tools that implement economic policy and their social connections. You will also lead our work on social investment and work with other colleagues on issues such as the European Semester.

We expect you to be a social economist who is enthusiastic about being part of the Eurodiaconia team working for social justice in Europe. You should be able to relate to and sympathise with our vision and mission and understand the traditions that unite our membership. You should appreciate the diversity of our membership and the various cultures that they represent. The post holder should be highly organised, proactive, able to work autonomously and be comfortable in initiating contacts with institutional stakeholders and other partners. Our day to day working language is English but you should be able to communicate well in French/Dutch and other languages, especially German, would be an advantage. A full job description and person specification is attached.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits, generous holiday allowance, a supportive and dynamic working environment, an international environment including regular travel and the opportunity to share in the development of our vision of a socially just Europe.

How to apply Please send a CV and cover letter to recruitment@eurodiaconia.org. Cover letters should be no more than 2 pages in length. Please do not send any additional documentation such as references, certificates etc. Applicants should have the right to live and work in the European Union.

Due to the high level of applications anticipated we will not be able to reply to each application. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.





Economic Governance and Social Policy Officer Full Time

Job Description

Purpose of job: *to lead Eurodiaconia and its members engagement in European economic governance. Contribute to developing European Economic Governance as a tool to achieve social policy goals.*

Main tasks:

- To liaise with members and contribute to their active engagement in the work of Eurodiaconia as concerns European Economic Governance
- Provide an economic viewpoint on issues affecting social development and investment in social policies including the development of the EMU, the Stability and Growth Pact, the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure, the European Semester, , relevant benchmarks and scoreboards, Europe 2020; human capital investment strategies including the European Fund for Strategic Investments.
- Develop contacts with key economic actors in the European Parliament (e.g. ECon, EMPL) and relate them to our core work of social inclusion and social policy development.
- Develop strong relationships with relevant units/Directorates in the European Commission in SEC GEN EMPL and ECFIN and others as identified as well as working with intergovernmental structures such as the Social Protection Committee and the Employment Committee.
- Organise capacity building tools and trainings for members on the European Semester and other Economic Governance tools.
- Work with members to provide content for European Commission processes such as the Annual Growth Survey, Country reports; Country Specific Recommendations, Social Protection Performance Monitor, Social Scoreboard and relevant Parliament opinions.
- Support members to link to national Semester Officers, EC Country Desk officers, Social Partners and other Stakeholders to develop common approaches on the European Semester in their country.
- Work with members and staff to develop input on specific issues for the European Semester such as implementation of key areas of the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Work with members and partners to promote increased policy coherence between the European Semester and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Other tasks:

- Develop research projects in identified areas of work.
- Support and where necessary facilitate agreed Eurodiaconia meetings and activities.
- To be a contact point for an agreed group of members and develop the organizations' knowledge about their work and projects and provide relevant and timely communication.
- To provide relevant and up to date content on relevant topics for Eurodiaconia communication tools as well as regular information briefings
- To provide information on Eurodiaconia and its work to outside groups/individuals when necessary
- To share in the organization, support and follow-up of meetings, seminars etc. when appropriate
- To contribute to developing an effective team approach with other staff based in the secretariat.
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PERSON SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and Experience

Essential:

- Knowledge of EU Economic Policy – equivalent to Masters Level or above or demonstrable experience of at least four years at national or international level including relating economic policy to social policy
OR
Knowledge of EU Social Policy – equivalent to Masters Level or above or demonstrable experience of at least four years at national or international level including relating economic policy to social policy
- Experience of working with the European Union Institutional context either in the European Commission or the European Parliament or from a national to EU perspective.
- Knowledge and experience of the European Semester and other European Economic Governance processes.
- Knowledge and experience of the engagement of non-governmental stakeholders in EU policy processes
- Experience of building partnerships across sectors and interests e.g. with Social Partners, NGO's, Think Tanks etc.

Desirable:

- Knowledge of national policy-making processes
- Knowledge of social inclusion policies
- Knowledge of not for profit social services
- Knowledge of social justice and its practical policy approach
- Knowledge of Diaconia in both practice and theory

Skills/abilities

Essential:

- Strong inter personal skills
- Strong commitment to the goals of Eurodiaconia and to the principles of Diaconia
- Excellent organization and coordination skills with an ability to manage multiple projects and tasks at one time
- Research methodologies and data capture systems
- Ability to analyze and synthesize social and economic policies
- Ability to develop effective advocacy strategies and to promote active participation
- Ability to draft, design and deliver capacity building materials for members and other stakeholders on complex processes.
- Sense of initiative and ability to be self-supporting
- Excellent ability to communicate in writing and orally (in English) to a variety of target audiences
- Fluency in English, knowledge of other languages an advantage
- An ability to contribute to teamwork
- Sound understanding of working methods in membership-based organizations
- Ability to travel