Why become a member and how to do it?
Who we are

Eurodiaconia is a European network of over 40 social and health care providers based in the Christian faith and working for social justice.

We create a platform for diaconal actors in over 32 countries and territories in Europe, which facilitates 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.

Eurodiaconia works from the principles of diaconia. Diaconia is a Greek for service and in the biblical sense, this means service for and with people in need. Diaconal organisations expressed a desire and need to work together to develop their services and impact social policy at European level to enable inclusion for the most vulnerable.

Today, as the leading network for diaconal work in Europe, we look to develop dialogue and partnership between members to examine social needs, develop ideas and influence policies impacting poverty and social exclusion, social and health care services and the future of social Europe.

Our mission

Eurodiaconia is a network of churches and Christian organisations that provide social and health care services and advocate for social justice. Together we work for just and transformative social change across Europe, leaving no-one behind.

Our vision

Driven by our Christian faith, our vision is of a Europe where each person is valued for their inherent God-given worth and dignity and where our societies guarantee social justice for all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalised.
How we work

As a leading European network of diaconal health care and social service providers, we want to enable inclusion, care and empowerment of the most vulnerable and excluded and ensure dignity for all. We seek to achieve a positive change through three strategic tools: Praxis, Advocacy and Identity. To be able to work in these three directions, network meetings for members are one of our main tools. Through our networks, we bring together the expertise of our members, partners and external experts, equipping our members so they can impact social policies and develop their services through praxis. Our networks cover different policy areas enabling advocacy at EU and national level, such as marginalisation and social exclusion, healthy ageing and elderly care, Roma inclusion, etc. We also provide opportunities for reflection on the role and identity of diaconia and Christian social practice in Europe today.

Praxis
Enabling membership engagement and partnerships

Our members are experts in social service provision. We provide them with opportunities to exchange their expertise and facilitate partnerships.

Advocacy
Creating a network of competence to impact social policies in Europe

Our members want to bring about positive change and impact social policy to empower the most marginalised in our society. We give them the tools to do so.

Identity
Supporting reflections on Diaconia in Europe today

Our members are provided with opportunities to reflect on the role of faith in social care and together we develop resources to support the relationship between Diaconia and the Church, and Diaconia and the wider society.
“Through its advocacy work and continued dialogue with policy actors Eurodiaconia supports our efforts in the fight for social justice by addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality. Thanks to its work, our organization is often engaged in both development and implementation of policy proposals at EU level, making us proud to work within the network and as a partner to give social justice a higher priority in Europe. We can safely say that Eurodiaconia helps us to make our voice in Europe stronger!”

Major Mike Stannett, The Salvation Army EU Affairs Office (EU)
Our values

Our work as a network is underpinned and driven by the values and attitudes that come from our shared Christian faith:

**Care** – we provide support and services for all God’s Children

**Courage** – we speak out where we see injustice, sharing our voice with those who may not be heard

**Dignity** – we believe that each person is created in the image of God and has inherent, equal worth and value

**Hope** – we believe there is light amid darkness and the promise of transformation

**Love** – we show God’s unconditional love for each person

**Mutuality** – our lives are connected to each other and we bear responsibility for the well-being of each other.
“Over the years, the thematic network meetings organized by Eurodiaconia have been a great opportunity for our employees to address the most pressing issues on the agenda and exchange best practices with diaconal actors from all over Europe. During the meetings our social workers were also provided with a background on the wider EU context on different topics. I can safely say that these events have not only stimulated our employees to exchange tools, techniques and expertise with other Eurodiaconia members but have also been the chance for us to strengthen our professional relation with other diaconal organisations in Europe.”

Maria Loheide, Member of the Executive Board in charge of Social Policy of Diakonie Deutschland (DE)
Our members

Members are at the heart of everything we do. They set the strategic direction of the organisation at our Annual General Meeting and our Elected Supervisory Board develops our vision. Our Secretariat leads the implementation of the strategy through engaging with the European institutions, with our members and with our partners. Together we try to influence EU developments that impact the lives of the most vulnerable in society. We bring our member together to reflect on their work and to develop partnerships that will enhance their working methods and their advocacy for socially excluded people at European, national and local level. Members are brought together by its shared values of solidarity equality and justice.

Why become a member of Eurodiaconia

Being a member of Eurodiaconia gives you access to information and analysis, advocacy activities, training, exchange and networking opportunities useful to your daily work. You will be part of a growing, dynamic network that puts the people you are serving and the services you provide at the heart of all its work.

We work on topics from homelessness to migration, from Roma inclusion to diaconal identity. Whatever your interests, you will find other members of the network working on similar topics and you will have opportunities to meet them, discuss your common objectives and develop partnerships.

At the same time, members’ input is essential to our policy work, and you can contribute your knowledge and experience of working with the vulnerable people using your services. Our members are given the opportunity to meet and discuss with major EU actors in the social field. Eurodiaconia members also want to see policies in place at European and national levels that support those at risk of marginalisation and exclusion. They want policies that address the symptoms of marginalisation and social exclusion; ensuring that the structures of injustice have been challenged.

In addition, members are given the opportunity to reflect on their identity and what it means to be a diaconal or-
organisation in Europe today. Discussing this with other members in a diverse and multi-faith network brings new perspectives and new ideas which can encourage further co-operation, dialogue and partnership.

Being a member of Eurodiaconia means being part of a community of diaconal actors who share a common motivation and a common commitment. We believe that working together, discussing together and developing together will strengthen diaconal work across Europe.

Helping members understand & access EU funding

Eurodiaconia supports its members in the area of European funding in several ways: Twice a year we organise tailor-made trainings on EU-Funding and international project management to better equip our members with necessary knowledge and skills to apply for EU-funds and successfully manage them. Eurodiaconia also supports members with writing funding applications and we are a European project partner in several projects led by our members. As a network of diaconal organisations, we offer match-making between our members to support them setting up a consortium of project partners. Newsletters as well as notifications about calls for proposals help our members to prepare and apply for EU-funds. In Brussels, Eurodiaconia is a strong voice to advocate for our members’ interests to secure adequate and sustainable EU-funding for a more social Europe.
“We work with Eurodiaconia in different EU-projects, e.g. Erasmus+ and appreciate its expertise, the network and its advocacy efforts in Brussels to support diaconal organisations acquiring financial support from the EU for our social projects on the ground.”

Zuzana Filipkova, Director Slezská Diakonie (CZ)
How to become a member

Our members are churches, NGOs, service providers, foundations and educational institutes in Europe rooted in the Christian faith within the Reformation, the Anglican and the Orthodox traditions.

Every day, our members support hundreds of thousands of people in poverty (homeless and unemployed people, asylum seekers and migrants, Roma people, etc.) and people with disabilities (dependent older people, people with physical or mental disability, etc.). Members can be professionally or volunteer-led organisations, operating in EU member states or in Europe.

Becoming a member of Eurodiaconia is an open and straightforward process. The application is possible through our website, where the application pack can be found. Once you have checked that your organisation fulfils the membership criteria stated in the application pack, we invite you to complete the form and send it back to our Communications and Membership Officer at the address provided. A membership fee is paid by members each year.

Your application will be assessed by the Secretariat who may contact you for more information. A recommendation will then be made to the Supervisory Board of Eurodiaconia to discuss approval of the application. Potential members will be kept up to date throughout the process, and in general a decision can be expected in approximately three to four months following application.

Membership fee

According to Article 8 of the Eurodiaconia statute each member shall pay a yearly membership fee fixed by the General Meeting, on a proposal of the Supervisory Board. The membership fee is 1500 Euros and adjusted on the basis of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per person in the region concerned. The GDP statistics used are taken from the European Union Eurostat service.

Where a Member is an umbrella platform bringing together 2 or more organisations then an additional levy is applied to that organisation for each of the component organisations. Therefore, if an organisation has 5 members then it pays the membership fee adjusted by GDP plus an additional levy for each of the component members.
“Eurodiaconia consistently promotes opportunities to reflect on our diaconal identity and our contribution to social welfare and health in our country. Eurodiaconia represents for us a primary space to develop partnership with ecumenical stakeholders, as well to develop our Christian identity”

Helle Christiansen, Director Kirkens Korshær (DK)
“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25, 35-36