

Eurodiaconia's booklet on access to work



Easy to read

Who we are

We are **Eurodiaconia**.

We are a group of 51 Christian organisations and churches.

This is our symbol:



We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and we follow his words.
With our work, we try to:

- Stand close to people in need and people who are left out.
- Make sure that all people have the same chances in life.
- Make things fairer in the world.



Most of our organisations work to help people who are very poor or left out of the community.
For example, people who live on the streets because they do not have a home.
Or people who do not have a job for a very long time.



What this booklet is about

We wrote this booklet to talk about how important access to work is. In the next pages, we will talk about:

- Things that make it hard for people to get a job.
- Our ideas on how to make access to work possible for all people.
- The important work our members do to help.



Access to work

At Eurodiaconia, we believe that all people should have the chance to get a job they like. Having a job can help people:

- Be independent and decide for themselves.
- Earn their own money and buy

the things they need to have a good life.

- Work together with other people and be part of the community.



The **European Union** is a group of countries in Europe that work together to make things better for people. Some years ago, the European Union made a plan to help access to work. We call this plan '**the Social Pillar**'. With this plan, the European Union is trying to help all people to have the same chances to:

- Get a job,
- Be treated fairly in their job.
- Be part of the community.



This plan is very important. If this plan happens in Europe, there will be fewer people who do not have a job and are left out.

Things that make it hard for people to get a job

Sadly, there are still many people in Europe who do not have a job. Without a job, people may not be able to:

- Earn their own money.

- Buy things they need.
- Have a home.
- Be part of the community.



Things can be even harder for some groups of people, such as:

- Young people.
- Migrants.
These are people who have left their countries to start a life in new country.
- People with disabilities.

There are many things that make access to work hard for some people. For example:

- **Other people may look down at them and may not trust them to do the work.**
For example, people may not want to give a job to a person with disability because they think they are not able to do it right. This is unfair.
Having a disability does not mean you cannot be good at your work.



- **Countries may not give people the right support services to get a job.**

For example,

migrants may need support to learn the language of the country they moved to, to be able to get a job and live there.

Young people without previous work experience may need support to find the right job for them.

People who are used to living on the streets may need a training to be able to work.

People with disabilities may need a support person to help them with their work.

If countries do not give people the support they need, it will be hard for them to get a job.

- **Many work places make it impossible for some people to work there.**

For example, some work places are not accessible so people with disabilities cannot get a job there.



- **It may be hard for people to adjust to the new needs of jobs.** Today most jobs need people to know how to use technology. Some people may not know how to use technology and may need a training to learn how to do that. Without a training, they may not have the skills needed to get a job. For example, a person who lives on the streets may have never used technology. So they need training to get to know how to do it.



How to make access to work possible for all people

At Eurodiaconia, we believe that all people should have access to work and the chance to get a job they like.

The European Union and its countries should invest on programmes and activities that help people who do not have work.

The more people stay without a job, the harder it may be to get a job again.

So it is important to help them as early as possible to have access to work.

For that to happen, we think that:

- **The European Union should make the Social Pillar happen and help all people to have access to work.**

It should also check what progress is made and make sure it makes a difference in people's lives.

- **Countries in Europe should offer people good support services to help them get a job and be part of the community.**

They should offer them the support they need be able to get a job that matches their skills.

- **People should have access to trainings and programmes that help them grow their skills.**

Today, most jobs need you to know how to use technology.

If you do not know how to use technology, you may not be able to get the job.

So it is important to get training to learn new skills.

But trainings can be expensive

and many people do not have the money to pay for them.

Countries in Europe should help people

to have access to such trainings,

learn new skills and be able to get a job.



- **Work places should be accessible** so that people with disabilities can work like everyone else.



- **The work conditions should be more flexible.** For example, people with disabilities or a single mother with a child should have the possibility to work from home if it is too hard for them to go to the office every day.



- **Countries in Europe should motivate companies to offer jobs to people who are often left out.**
They should make them understand how useful that can be for both of them.
- **Countries and companies should work together with organisations that help people who are left out and do not have a job.**
They should listen to them and work together to make sure that all people have the chance to work and be part of the community.



The work our members do

Our members work to help people in need. Many of them take part in projects and activities that help people who do not have a job.

For example:

- **In Switzerland, our members take part in a project that helps refugees to get ready to get a job.**
Refugees are people who had to leave their countries because things were very hard for them there and their lives were at risk.
Many refugees have come to countries in Europe to start a new life.
This project helps refugees who arrive in Switzerland to grow their skills, learn the language and get ready to find a job in the new country.
- **In Finland, our members take part in a project to help young people who didn't study or do not have a job.**
This project has already helped many young people to go back to school and finish their studies, grow their skills and get a job.



- **In Italy, our members take part in a project that gives trainings to companies.**

Through these trainings, the companies learn more about how they can do things right for the people who work for them. For example, they learn:

- How they can respect the rights of the people who work for them.
- How important it is to give all people the chance to work.
- **In Czech Republic, our members help people with intellectual disabilities when they start a job.**

They go with them in their new job to:

- Make sure the work they do matches well their skills.
- Help them get in touch with their new colleagues and become part of the team.

These are just some examples of the good work our members in different countries do to make access to work possible for all people.

More information

If you want to find more information about Eurodiaconia and our work, you can visit our website at www.eurodiaconia.org. You can also send us an email at office@eurodiaconia.org.

