

Impact of coronavirus on our work

Easy to read version

Easy to read is a way to make information accessible so people with intellectual disabilities and all people can understand it.



Who we are

We are **Eurodiaconia**.

We are an organisation in Europe that works to help people who are in need or left out.

We want things to be fairer for all people in Europe and no one to be left out of the community.

This is the symbol we use when we talk about Eurodiaconia.



We have many members in different countries.

These are churches and organisations that work to make things better for all people in need.

We are all Christians.

This means that we believe in Jesus Christ.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

We try to follow his words and help people in need.

We want all people to have the same chances in life and nobody to be left behind.



What this booklet is about

We wrote this booklet to talk about coronavirus and its impact on our work.

'Coronavirus' is a new disease that can pass easily from one person to another. We also call it 'COVID-19'.



Sadly, too many people in the world are now ill from coronavirus. Most of the people recover, but many people die from it.

Coronavirus can pass very easily from one person to another in the air from coughs and sneezes. That is why we must be very careful and stay at home as much as possible.



If we need to go out of the house, we must keep a safe distance from other people and wear face masks to cover our mouths and noses. We must not go to places with many other people.

To stop the coronavirus from passing from one person to another, many places stay closed. For example, schools, shops and restaurants. Many people who worked at these places lost their jobs and they do not have enough money to support their families.



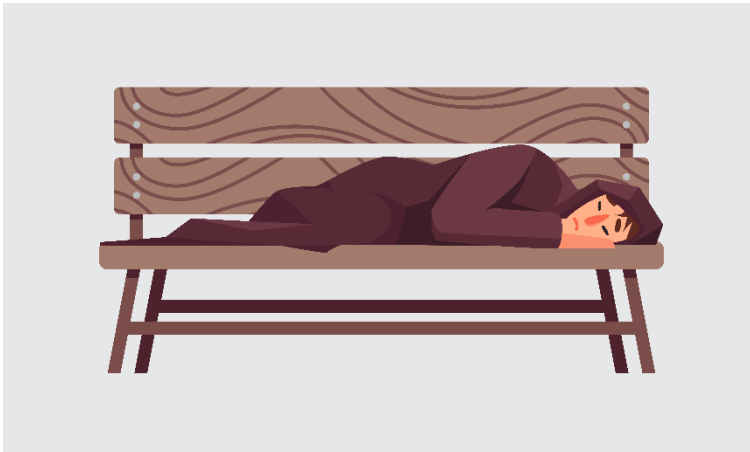
Other people work from home instead of going to the office. Also, many children study at home instead of going to school with their friends.

Things are much harder for some people who were already left out, such as:

- **Very poor people**
Many more people than before are now in need of food and support.



- **People without a home who live on the street**
Those people have nowhere to go to protect themselves from coronavirus or get help if they get sick.



- **Refugees and migrants**
Refugees and migrants are people who left their countries and their homes because it was not good or safe for them to live there anymore. In recent years, many migrants have come to Europe hoping for a better life.

Sadly, too many of them are kept in centres until it is decided where they will go. In these centres, it is impossible to keep a safe distance from each other because there are too many people in one place. Often they do not even have soap to wash their hands. They may not be able to see a doctor and get help when they are sick.



- **Roma people**

Roma people are a group of people who in the past used to live in India and other places.

Today many Roma people live in Europe.

Some of them live in one place and others travel from place to place.

Sadly, too many Roma people are very poor and left out of the community.

For example, many Roma families do not have a house, water or toilets.

So they are at higher risk of getting coronavirus and being sick.

Also, many Roma people lost their jobs during the coronavirus and they cannot support their families.



- **Children**

Children can feel scared or confused with all the changes in their lives due to the coronavirus. They must stay at home and not meet their friends. Their schools are closed and they must now study from home and talk with their teachers on the computer. Even worse, children from poor families may not have a computer at home and may be left out. Things can be hard also for children with disabilities. At home, they may not have the support they need to be able to study for school.



How our members try to help

In these times, our members work even harder than before to help people in need.

Most of them used to work close to people in need, offering them food, a place to stay and other things they needed.

With coronavirus, being close to people is not possible anymore, as we must all stay at home and avoid meeting other people.

But our members cannot do their job from home.
Giving food and other kind of help cannot be done from distance.
They need to be out there helping people.

To be able to do their work safely,
they have to spend a lot of their money
to buy face masks, gloves and other things.
Working in these conditions
can be really hard for our members
who may end up feeling anxious or exhausted.



Some of our members
run restaurants, hostels or other shops
to help people in need.
With coronavirus, those shops had to close
and all people who worked there
are now without a job.



In these hard times for everyone, our members do their best
to help as many people as possible.
For example:

- In Austria, our members continued giving hot meals and drinks to people who live on the street.



- In Slovakia, our members organised concerts in balconies to keep people in good spirits as much as possible.



- Our members in Austria and Slovakia collected money to buy tablets for people to be in contact with their families and friends while they are staying at home.



- In Finland, our members gave Roma people who did not have a home, a place to stay and be safe.

- In Ukraine, every week our members give food to people who lost their jobs and do not have enough money to support their families.



- In Spain, our members organised a workshop to teach people in difficult situations, like refugees, how to make face masks for protection against the coronavirus.



- In Greece, our members paid for computers and internet for Roma families so their children can study from home.



How the European Union can help people in need

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe that came together to make things better for their people.

In these hard times, we think that the European Union should put people in need first. For this to happen, the European Union should:



- Understand the big impact that coronavirus has on people and especially people at risk of being left out. For example: very poor people, people who live on the street, refugees and migrants, Roma people, children, older people and people with disabilities.
- Make sure that all people have a chance to get a job and earn enough money to support themselves and their families.
- Understand the big cost that coronavirus has on our members and other organisations that continue helping people in need in those hard times.
- Give enough money to organisations who help people in need so they can continue their important work.
- Make sure that **no one is left behind**.



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.

