

Statement by Eurodiaconia on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17.10.2021



The course for a sustainable social and economic model that protects the natural environment and counteracts poverty and inequality must be set now.

On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Eurodiaconia calls on the European Institutions and Member States to increase their efforts in ending poverty, ensuring that “no one is left behind” in view of building a more cohesive and resilient society in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and to work harder for ambitious and socially just climate protection in the EU and beyond.

Eurodiaconia welcomes this year’s theme of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, “Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet”, as it reflects well what our members across Europe are working for. The theme shows the importance of adopting a human rights perspective when addressing poverty, to maintain the human dignity of each person experiencing poverty or social exclusion and working together towards their empowerment. Eurodiaconia and its members see the great global challenges of the 21st century and, based on our Christian values, want to contribute to ensuring that our world is and remains worth living in for all people of this and future generations. Strengthened and motivated by our common values, we want to approach this task with the necessary confidence and perseverance.

We remain committed to a full implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan and continue to advocate for a comprehensive socio-ecological change that puts the wellbeing of all people and the protection of our planet first. The course for a sustainable social and economic model that protects the natural environment and counteracts global poverty and inequality must be set now. At Eurodiaconia, we’ve been advocating for the European Commission to ensure that the EU has a Green and Social Deal – where policies and strategies aimed at boosting our economy and creating a greener and more sustainable Europe are intertwined with protecting the most vulnerable communities and preventing them from being left behind.

Eurodiaconia is a dynamic, Europe-wide community of social and health care organisations founded in the Christian faith and working in the tradition of Diaconia. It represents more than 50 members working in over 32 countries, including churches, not-for-profit welfare organisations and NGOs.