

EURODIACONIA ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2022



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MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL AND CHAIRPERSON

"But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength. They will
soar on wings like eagles; they
will run and not grow weary, they
will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31

At the beginning of 2022 it might have been the case that many diaconal service providers and advocates thought that they had come through the COVID-19 pandemic and were looking forward to a period of returning to or rebuilding their work. Then the invasion of Ukraine happened and once again what was planned changed.

From February 2022 the members of Eurodiaconia were immediately engaged in supporting those fleeing Ukraine and those remaining in Ukraine. Our member, 'Living Hope' based in Odessa, provided updates on the daily living conditions of people experiencing poverty at a time of war and the psycho-social impact that was having. Members in neighbouring countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Czechia and Romania welcomed many displaced persons and refugees with very little notice but soon had reception centres, day centres, travel support and communications support available to everyone who came. As people progressed to other countries in Europe to join families and friends Diaconal organisation started to provide language and social inclusion support, support with school and training and helped with access to housing and employment.

Being able to pivot so quickly to provide this support – and still be providing it as we enter the second year of the war, shows that even after such an exhausting and dramatic period such as the pandemic, there is hope and strength in our members. They continued to soar, bring about new approaches and adapt existing ones – they continued their work and did not grow weary.

As a network, we will not grow weary of our advocacy for social justice in Europe.

Building on our members experience we have been active in calling for better conditions of reception and integration for all refugees and migrants entering the European Union. We have increased our work on access to employment to have a greater focus on young people and used the European Year of Youth in 2022 to profile how diaconal work support young people to find their place and voice in society.

Our work on addressing barriers to inclusion, much of which are structural discrimination based on identity, was recognised through our invitation to join several projects and platforms that seek to end discrimination in all forms. We joined forces with over 25 other social service organisations to develop solutions to the lack of sustainable funding for providers by piloting a funding help desk and worked with the European Commission to see how social services fit into the future vision of our welfare state.

We also have an increasing recognition of the need to merge the 'green' and the 'social' – not only because it is often people who experience poverty who are hit the hardest by climate change – but because as providers of social services our members want to look at how this can be done in the most sustainable and climate neutral way.

By the middle of the year it was inevitable that a cost of living crisis was affecting many in our societies and the launch of our first 'State of the Social Union' report was a way to give voice to what our members were seeing every day. With this, as with all our other work we want to shape policies that affect people across Europe.

Sometimes it can be slow to see impact, other times it can be fast, but there is no doubt that as a network we are strengthened by our hope and spirit that comes from our shared faith. We run, we walk – but always towards the same goal- a Europe where all are valued, empowered, heard and included. Thank you for running and walking with us and enjoy reading about our impact in 2022.

Heather Roy

Olli Holmstrom

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Who we are?

Eurodiaconia is a prominent European network of churches and Christian NGOs devoted to providing social and healthcare services, as well as advocating for social justice. With 58 national and regional organizations in its membership, we represent the needs and unique experiences of a diverse range of communities.

Our network has a strong identity and is committed not only to helping the most vulnerable, but also to tackling the underlying structural causes of social exclusion and building a fairer and more inclusive society. We achieve this goal by strengthening diaconal service provision, ensuring that affordable, high-quality, and accessible social and healthcare services are available to as many people as possible.

Moreover, we leverage our collective voice within the EU institutions to advocate for social justice, addressing the root causes of inequality, poverty, and exclusion. By doing so, we strive to create a more equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Mission

At our core, we believe in achieving transformative social change across Europe that benefits everyone, without exception. Working in collaboration with our Members and Partners, we strive to ensure that no one is left behind.

Our approach is straightforward yet powerful. By combining our expertise and resources, we tackle the most pressing social issues facing our communities, and we are committed to creating meaningful and lasting change. Together, we work towards building a more inclusive, equitable, and just society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Vision

Our vision is to create a Europe that upholds the principles of social justice and dignity for all individuals, including those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. At the heart of our mission lies our Christian faith, and our unwavering belief in the inherent God-given worth of every person.

We firmly believe that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and compassion, and we strive to make this a reality in all aspects of our work. Our commitment to creating a fairer and more equitable society is unwavering, and we will continue to champion the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized among us.



ph: Fedtekælder

Our values

Our network's work is rooted in the values and attitudes that stem from our shared Christian faith, which serve as the foundation and driving force behind our mission

HOPE



We believe there is light amid darkness

CARE



We provide services for all God's children

LOVE



We show God's unconditional love for each person

DIGNITY



We believe that each person has equal worth and value

COURAGE



We speak out where we see injustice

MUTUALITY



We bear responsibility for the wellbeing of each other



ph: Skaverup Sommerlejer

How we work



ph: Børnehjørnet Herning

01 Social Justice

We are committed to advocating for social justice by addressing the underlying causes of inequality, poverty, and exclusion.

02 Network identity

Our goal is to establish a robust network with a distinct identity that is easily recognizable and well-defined.

03 Strengthen diaconal social services

We strive to enhance diaconal service provision, ensuring that a greater number of individuals can benefit from accessible, affordable, and high-quality social and healthcare services.

04 We value diversity

We strongly believe that a diverse and multicultural workplace fosters excellence and has a positive impact. Our commitment is to provide a safe, inclusive, and diverse environment every day, where individuals are free to express themselves and grow their careers to their full potential.

Impacts 2022:

Roma Inclusion and Anti-discrimination



Working towards Roma Inclusion and Empowerment

- Assessment of the National Roma Strategic Frameworks
- Publishing and disseminating reports
- Hosting and co-hosting conferences and events
- Consultation and amendments at EU level



ph: Roma Inclusion Network Meeting



Access to Employment for Roma

We developed and disseminated two reports addressing the Barriers for Roma Access to Employment and Assessing the National Strategic Frameworks. We strengthened our position and raised awareness on the goals and implementation gaps of the European and National Strategic Frameworks, as well as the challenges our members face when implementing projects to enable the access to quality training and employment of Roma. .



Strengthening our consultative role at EU level – sharing our expertise for EU policymaking

Eurodiaconia contributed to EU policymaking by providing input and amendments to the Racial Equality Directive, an EP motion for a resolution on the inclusion of Roma living in settlements in the EU, or regarding access to education of Roma youth, where we ensured that issues such as structural racism, intersectionality, data collection, educational segregation, labour and housing market discrimination and the impact of crises on ethnic minorities have been included in the final texts.



Key civil society partner advocating for Roma rights

Eurodiaconia established itself as a key civil society partner on Roma inclusion by signing on joint statements, establishing positions on key topics before consultations with the European Commission, and by co-hosting 1 event on the intersectional discrimination against Roma woman, and 1 webinar on Roma Child Poverty

Impacts 2022:

Social and health care services



ph: Diakonie Polska

- ☒ We successfully brought together 14 Eurodiaconia members in an event to identify measures to mitigate demographic change in Europe. Building on the input from 16 Eurodiaconia members, we produced a report on demographic change in Europe and the future of long-term care. The document was shared with policymakers in the EU institutions.
- ☒ Together with a cross section of member organisations we contributed by means of consultation to the first ever long-term care initiative- the **European Care Strategy** released by the European Commission. Eurodiaconia was quoted 13 times in the Commission's staff working documents.
- ☒ We provided input to foster assessment of **Recovery and Resilience Plans** across a few Member States. This assessment provided members reflections on investment in Social Services in their respective countries.
- ☒ We partnered with 14 other European level organisations to start the implementation of the first ever EU-sponsored Helpdesk project for EU funds for social services. The project aims to support social services in accessing and using EU funds (ESF+, ERDF, and ReactEU in particular).

Impacts 2022:

European Semester and Social EU



- ☒ We brought together over **50 representatives** of EU-level civil society, Eurodiaconia member organisations and EU policy makers from the European Commission and European Parliament to discuss the most urgent social concerns the European Union is currently facing in the first edition of our flagship Conference on the State of the Social European Union.
- ☒ Based on input of more than **20 member organisations**, we have stressed the most urgent social concerns within the European Union in our Report on the State of the Social European Union. The Report was shared with EU Institutions and in particular the European Commission, ahead of the State of the European Union speech.
- ☒ In the context of our work on the European Semester, we **facilitated the participation of 5 members in the European Semester seminar organised by the European Commission**, which allowed members to share their views on the social situation in their countries. As follow-up to this, we also shared member's written assessments with the relevant country desk officers of 6 Member States.
- ☒ We contributed to the **European Semester autumn package** with a letter to Commissioner Schmit and Dombrovskis, highlighting our key social concerns and referring to our Report on the State of the Social European Union.

Impacts 2022:

Children and youth



ph: Picture of access to Employment Network Meeting



We successfully brought together 15 members to Latvia to discuss about youth access to employment. In the meeting, we heard some testimonies from youngsters.



We made the voices of youth heard at the European Parliament, on the occasion of our event about youth unemployment. Youngsters from Finland and Austria spoke at our roundtable, expressing their views and struggles.



We interviewed several members to build our preliminary study on access to inclusive education, as a first effort to monitor the implementation of the Child Guarantee.



ph: Young people who spoke in our event at the European Parliament

Impacts 2022: Integration of Migrants



Advocating for the integration of migrants and refugees

- EU level advocacy through report dissemination and events
- Integration and anti-discrimination policy monitoring
- Consultations and amendments of relevant legislation and resolutions
- Enhancing cooperation among member organisations



ph: ddlt refugee services project glik



Eurodiaconia members' response to the conflict in Ukraine

Eurodiaconia disseminated our members experience and best practices for the reception and integration of war refugees from Ukraine and their observations and concerns regarding the implementation of the TDP. This was done through attending various EU level meetings, and in particular through the publication of a report gathering our members views. We facilitated dialogue between our members and Members of the European Parliament and Commission representatives by hosting an event to present our report.



Reinforcing cooperation and mutual learning of the Migration Network

12 member organisations representing 12 European countries participated in our Migration Network Meeting 2022 to discuss the reception and integration of refugees from Ukraine. The meeting not only reinforced cooperation and mutual learning among faith-based organisations on the integration of migrants and refugees, but also shaped our policy work to effectively represent our members realities.



Reinforcing our consultative role at EU level civil society forums

Eurodiaconia actively participated in the Anti-Racism Permanent Civil Society Forum, and recently joined the EUAA Consultative Forum, by engaging in high level discussions which help to bridge the gap between civil society and European institutions and influence policymaking on anti-discrimination, integration and reception policies.

Impacts 2022:

Extreme destitution



ph: Extreme destitution Network Meeting

Members' involvement

We brought together more than 30 Eurodiaconia members for a network meeting in Stockholm, to discuss the topic of Homelessness: Prevention, integrated interventions and housing-led solutions.

We held an event in December with many members joining for a rich discussion on how to make Housing First work to eradicate homelessness. In this same occasion, we kicked off the Eurodiaconia Homelessness Experts' Group, a permanent working group within our membership.

Capacity Building

Around 12 members participated in a Webinar on the Child Guarantee, and we started the Child Guarantee Monitoring Group, with the aim of building capacity amongst our members to follow the implementation of the Child Guarantee.

Influencing Policy

We became full members of the European Platform for Combatting Homelessness.

We participated to the European Commission's consultation and strategic dialogue on the Minimum Income Recommendation.

We released a joint statement together with Caritas Europa and EAPN as a reaction to the Minimum Income Recommendation, which was published by different media. We also held meetings with political advisors and MEPs to influence the Parliament's resolution on the subject.

Our joint press release with Caritas EU on the cost-of-living crisis and its impact on people and social services, was published by several media.

Impacts 2022:

Social Europe Academy Pilot Year



In 2022 Eurodiaconia launched its new Social Europe Academy, designed to bring together all training initiatives for our members under one umbrella. Therefore, a new Logo was created and an online hub on our website was launched to gather all information and training materials in one place.



In its pilot year, the Social Europe Academy, supported over 20 members in building their capacity on advocacy, in particular related to the European Semester and European Pillar of Social Rights, through 4 training webinars.



Regarding funding, our new Basic and Advanced EU funding trainings, allowed to build over 34 member's capacity to apply for EU funding through in-person and online trainings.

Impacts 2022: Social Economy



To advance our Social Economy work, we closely monitored the progress of the Social Economy Action Plan and collaborated with Social Services Europe to organize a workshop. The aim of the workshop was to discuss how the action plan could best cater to the needs of non-profit social services. This workshop was conducted during the French Presidency conference on Social Economy and was supported by the European Commission. As a result of our efforts, we were able to make a direct impact on the discussions surrounding the action plan, as representatives from the European Commission actively participated in the workshop.



Impacts 2022: Funding and Projects



Throughout the year 2022 we were able to support our members in the writing process of application forms and in scouting for the right funding opportunities.



ph: Basic EU Funding And Project Development Training



ph: Basic EU Funding And Project Development Training



Trainings

Using a variety of trainings, including Basic EU Funding Training, Advanced EU Funding Training, and two Project Development Training, we helped the upskilling of 34 members.



Eurodiaconia Funding Toolkit

We published the Eurodiaconia Funding Toolkit to help our members learn more about the EU funding programmes and the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027. In addition, we released the Eurodiaconia Private Foundations Toolkit to provide our members with the best opportunities in terms of funding opportunities.



Funding Newsletter

We distributed 18 newsletters throughout the year to provide our members with the most recent information about EU calls for proposals, regional calls for proposals, and EU and non-EU external donors.

Impacts 2022:

Communication and Identity



Developing Eurodiaconia Brand Identity through:

- Weekly Members Update
- Social media outreach
- Coordinated Campaigns
- Website development
- Institutional Video



Website

The Eurodiaconia website saw an increase of users, new users and returning visitors which means we were able to reach a larger audience. Namely, there was an increase in the number of sessions (+4.5%), users (+5.53%), new users (+4.32%), returning visitors (+11.74%) and the bounce rate (+1,012.32%).



Social Media

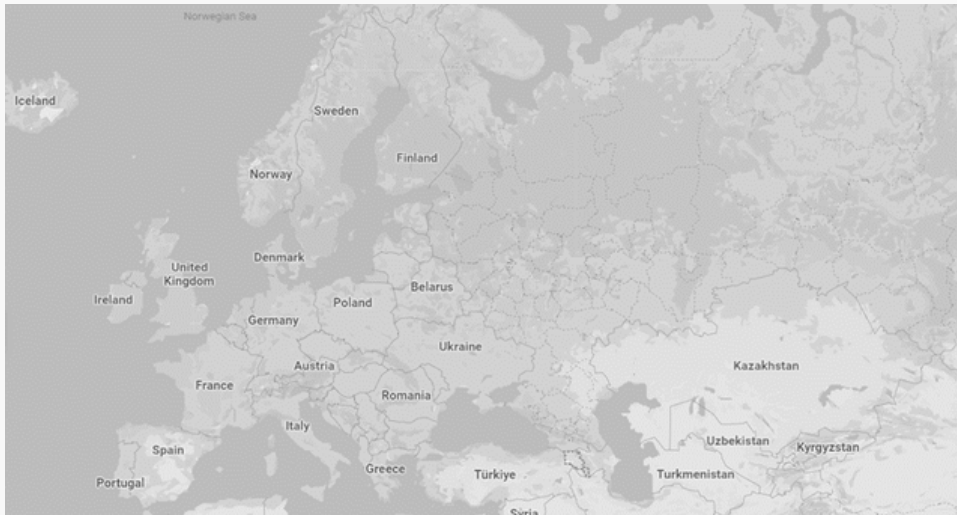
Overall, the reach of Eurodiaconia's social media platforms (Twitter +44%, Facebook +96,7% Instagram +376,7 and LinkedIn +964,5%) has grown giving Eurodiaconia and our members an increased visibility and awareness .



European Year of Youth Campaign

In 2022, we launched a digital media communications campaign centred around the European Year of Youth. We created a social media toolkit and shared it with our members while also developing a European Year of Youth Hub on our website. All the information that we gathered throughout the year was used to compile our report, "Eurodiaconia & The European Year of Youth," which highlighted our collective work and policy efforts to help young people overcome social and employment challenges.

Membership



Our members are comprised of churches, non-statutory welfare organizations, and NGOs throughout Europe who are rooted in the Christian faith within the Reformation, Anglican, and Orthodox traditions.

Every day, our members provide crucial support to individuals experiencing poverty, including homeless and unemployed individuals, asylum seekers and migrants, and Roma people. They also assist individuals with disabilities, such as dependent older people and those with physical or mental disabilities. Our members also actively advocate for the fundamental rights of these individuals at the European, national, and local levels.

32

countries.

58

national and regional
organisations

+ 4

new members



ph: Eurodiaconia AGM 2023

We are growing!



Lahden Diakonialaitos Finland



Lahti Diaconia Foundation supplements and offers alternative educational services and social services in Lahti, Finland. It provides diaconal services in areas of greatest need and with no other sources of assistance and develops services to meet people's social needs.

They have a special focus on services for the elderly (sheltered housing), for young people (employment services, education) and families (health care and wellbeing services). In addition, they coordinate work of over 300 volunteers. They also have developed a unique model for supported volunteering, which helps people with disadvantages to operate as volunteers. Their expertise is mentalisation-based parenting group intervention developed within their family services

Shalom Baptist Association Portugal



The Shalom Baptist Association is a Private Institution of Social Solidarity, founded in the year 2000 by a group of brothers and sisters in the First Evangelic Baptist Church in Setúbal, as a response to some of the social challenges in the poorest areas of the city, including food, housing, employment, and integration.

AB Shalom was founded on the Christian principle of helping those most in need. Indeed, their activities provide a broad scope of assistance from education (nursery and preschool) to food distribution (regularly supports ca. 800 people) and home support services (with a capacity of 40 residents).

Eunoia Portugal



Eunoia is the Portuguese Federation of Protestant Evangelical Social Charities. Constituted in September 2021, Eunoia has three main aims: to demonstrate unity in the name of Jesus, to give visibility to Evangelical social work in Portugal, and create opportunities for cooperation and service.

Eunoia currently has 30 member organizations ranging from all-volunteer to 170 paid staff. Their members' work benefits children, families, the elderly, the socially excluded, the Roma people, the addicted, immigrants, music students and teachers, and people in other countries through international development.

Evangelischem Heimstiftung Germany

The Evangelische Heimstiftung GmbH (EHS) is one of the major providers of social services in Baden-Württemberg. The non-profit company serves 14,190 customers in 171 facilities. These include 11 WohnenPLUS residences, 91 nursing homes, 40 mobile services, 26 day care centers, a rehabilitation clinic, an education center and an integration assistance facility.

As the largest diaconal care company in Baden-Württemberg, EHS employs 10,100 people and 790 trainees. The company is a member of the Diakonisches Werk. Subsidiaries of EHS are ABG (Altenhilfeberatung GmbH) and HDG (Housekeeping Services GmbH).



Our Partners

Eurodiaconia works in partnership with a range of organizations across Europe to advance our mission of promoting social justice and providing essential social and healthcare services to the most vulnerable members of society.

Our partners include faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, and government agencies, with whom we collaborate to address the root causes of inequality, poverty, and exclusion. Together, we work towards creating a fairer and more inclusive society, leaving no one behind.



Eurodiaconia's Response to the Conflict in Ukraine

Eurodiaconia deplores the aggression and conflict in Ukraine and calls for all national and international institutions to find a peaceful end to the war. Furthermore, Eurodiaconia calls on the international community and the European Institutions to quickly mobilize funds to prevent a large-scale humanitarian disaster.

2022 has been marked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which forced more than 12 million persons to flee from their homes, from which more than 7 million have been registered across the European Union. Bordering Member States have been subjected to extraordinary pressure as they have seen their population suddenly increase significantly.

Our members have extensive experience in providing support to persons in need, and promptly responded to the large influx of people coming from Ukraine. They played an essential role, among other civil society actors, in the immediate response to the crisis by providing transportation and accommodation and providing emergency services. Likewise, they have been developing long-term oriented support for the integration and inclusion of refugees coming from Ukraine and facilitating access to social and health care services, education, and the labour market.

Find on our dedicated [website page](#) the full list of our members' work supporting refugees from Ukraine.

Finances

Every year we are grateful to members for their continued support through membership fees and solidarity contributions. Thanks to our growing membership our revenue from this source has slightly increased. These fees and contributions allow us to access additional funds from grants.

In late 2021 we signed a four year Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission under the European Social Fund+ programme. This FPA lasts for 4 years and provides essential operational funding for our network, enabling us to increase the value of each Euro given by each member – 1 euro from members enables us to access 86 euros from the European Commission. Our FPA project – known as SPARE (Social Policies and Rights in Europe) had its first year in 2022.

We continue to try and diversify our income through projects and in 2023 we became a junior partner in a project to create a helpdesk for social service providers to access EU funds (SESK project) and completed our involvement in social innovation education (SIED).

Due to careful budgeting, we ended the year with a budget surplus of 33.656 euros which will offset some small losses in previous years. At the end of 2022 our reserves stand at 201.514 euros against the 2021 reserves level of 167.858 euros

The 2022 accounts were successfully audited by DGST and partners, Reviseurs d'entreprise, of Brussels, Belgium. Our auditors were appointed at the 2022 AGM for the period 2022 – 2024. Copies of the full accounts and audit report can be requested from the Eurodiaconia office.



Income and Expenditure 2022

	Budget	Actual	2021 actual
INCOME			
Solidarity Contributions and membership fees	160.347€	157.919 €	155.525€
Conference Fees	6000€	21.600 €	0€
Other Income including European Commission SPARE Grant	768.603€	775.085€	592.903€
Total Income	954.950€	954.604€	748.429€
EXPENDITURE			
Staff Costs	680.000€	666.791 €	612.296€
Travel, Accommodation and Activities	117.900€	101,565 €	7001€
Services	57.420€	32,813 €	25.481€
Administration	99.430€	119,778 €	106.084€
Total Expenditure	954.750€	920.947 €	750.862€
surplus/deficit	200€	33.656 €	-2.433€

Abbreviated Balance Sheet 2022

ITEM	2022	2021
Furniture and Equipment	5.873	5.823 €
Sub total	5.873	5.823 €
Cash at Bank	745.014	105.026 €
Debtors	529.251	214.235 €
Prepayments and accrued incomes	483	2.170 €
Sub total	1.274.748	321.430 €
Creditors	34.321	10.274 €
Accrued Charges and deferred income (income carried forward)	863.634	97.774 €
Accrual for holiday pay and taxes/social security/VAT	117.888	51.043 €
Other creditors	63.265	304 €
Sub Total	1.079.107	159.395 €
NET ASSETS		305.342 €
Represented by		
Association funds – equity	85.000	85.000 €
Restricted funds	15.187	15.187
Accumulated Surplus	67.671	70.104 €
Surplus (deficit) for year to date	33.656	-2.433 €
Reserves	201.514	167.858 €

Our Board Members



Olli Holmstrom
Diakonissalaitos,
Finland
Chairperson



Victoria Munsey
Diaconia Valdese,
Italy
Vice-Chairperson
In memorium



Rollaug Waaler
Harolds plass
Foundation,
Norway



Iwona Baraniec
Diakonia Polska,
Poland



Cristian Pavel
Filantropia Timișoara,
Romania



Stephanie Scholz
Diakonie Deutschland,
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**Vasileios
Meichanetsidis**
Apostoli,
Greece

Our Team



Heather Roy
Secretary General



Anne-Sophie Wislocki
Head of Advocacy



Vera Nygard
Head of Membership
Services, Projects &
Engagement



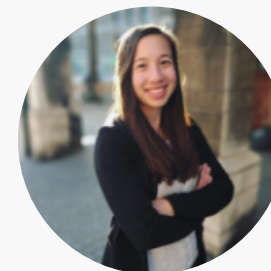
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Office Manager



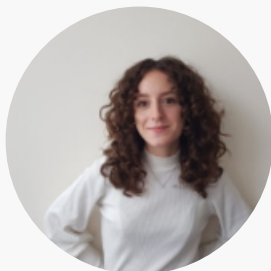
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Thank You



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Eurodiaconia  Connecting faith
and social justice
through action



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