

PRESS RELEASE

April 24 2023

EURODIACONIA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING GATHERS EUROPEAN DIACONAL ACTORS THIS WEEK IN HELSINKI

Eurodiaconia's Annual General Meeting will take place in Helsinki from April 25-29, 2023. The theme of this year's meeting is **Horizons of Hope - Building a Europe of Trust, Solidarity and Diversity through Diaconia**. It will be hosted by the Deaconess Foundation a respected institution providing social welfare and healthcare services in Finland for over 155 years. The meeting is expected to attract around 100 participants from across Europe, representing Eurodiaconia's 58 members in 32 countries.

The annual meeting allows Eurodiaconia's members to unite around their common cause, collaborate, and exchange best practices to build a more inclusive and diverse Europe. The theme of hope will guide the speeches, discussions, and workshops throughout the three-day event, with topics including social justice and human rights, fight against poverty, immigrant integration, the role of diaconal organizations, and social innovation. Attendees will also have the chance to learn about diaconia projects in Helsinki and engage with experts and participants involved in these activities.

Eurodiaconia's General Secretary, Heather Roy, highlights the importance of this meeting: *"Eurodiaconia's Annual General Assembly is a chance for members to come together and celebrate the vital work they do in their communities and across Europe. By collaborating and sharing best practices, we can build a more trusting, inclusive, and diverse Europe and find sustainable solutions to today's social challenges."*

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Olli Holmström, Chairman of the Board of Eurodiaconia and **CEO of the Deaconess Foundation** shares his vision: *"Diaconia work brings hope to communities and people all over Europe. The common voice of diaconia practitioners can promote positive change and help address today's significant social challenges."*

Eurodiaconia's members are at the forefront of supporting vulnerable individuals and communities while advocating for a more just and equal society. With their active engagement in various service activities, they have become leaders in promoting social justice and inclusivity at all levels.

The upcoming Eurodiaconia Annual General Meeting in Helsinki, with the theme "Horizons of Hope," represents our shared commitment to a more just and equitable society. We are excited to exchange innovative social and healthcare practices that can foster social justice, inclusion, and solidarity across Europe. This vision is one of possibilities and serves as a reminder that a brighter future is attainable through collective action and collaboration. By coming together and working in harmony, we can create a better tomorrow for all.

Note to editor: Eurodiaconia is a European network of churches and Christian NGOs providing social and healthcare services and advocating social justice. Together our membership represents the needs and unique experiences of 58 national and regional organisations in 32 countries.

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