



# EURODIACONIA SOCIAL POLICY DAYS

## STRENGTHENING SOCIAL EUROPE

7th and 8th November 2023, Brussels



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**With the European elections in 2024 approaching, Eurodiaconia will hold its first Social Policy Days to bring together its members with representatives of the European Institutions and partner organizations to discuss how to strengthen Social Europe.**

In a time of permacrisis, 93% of Europeans say that the rising cost of living is currently their most pressing concern, and 82% concerned about increasing poverty and social exclusion strengthening social Europe needs to be a priority for legislators current and the future.

The 2024 European Parliament elections will be the 'litmus test' of how people feel institutions and leaders are addressing their concerns and will a challenge of policy and of democracy. We cannot continue with 'business as usual' and together we need to find ways to strengthen social protection systems and services, promote truly inclusive growth, and remove barriers to social wellbeing for all people in Europe.

Initiatives such as The European Pillar of Social Rights provides a strong basis for a more social and just Europe but there needs to be a deepening and completion of its implementation. Investment in social wellbeing needs to be prioritized as well as ensuring adequacy of coverage and value of social protection and services.

In this innovative event of roundtables and discussions we invite you to participate in all or some of the debates on offer.

- Scene setters – *what is needed to strengthen Social Europe? How could the European Parliament Elections in 2024 strengthen or weaken Social Europe?*
- Scene closers – *what collective actions need to be taken by civil society and social actors at national and European level to promote a Social Europe?*
- *A launch of our report and debate on access to housing and homelessness* designed to promote sustainable solutions modelled on Housing First and innovative supporting services.
- Insightful discussions aimed at improving the living conditions and access to adequate housing of the Roma population in Europe.
- In collaboration with Social Services Europe we will have a roundtable *on social and sustainable public procurement*, looking at how to promote and prioritise social considerations when developing and commissioning social services.
- *A roundtable on the challenge of implementing the Green Deal* in the context of social service provision and how investment and rethinking of financing is needed.


# AGENDA

Eurodiaconia Offices  
166, Rue Joseph II  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium



TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2023	
13.00 – 14.00	<p><b><i>Scene Setter – Can the European Elections strengthen or weaken Social Europe?</i></b></p> <p><b>Katarina Ivankovic Knezevic</b>, Director Social Rights and Inclusion, DG EMPL, European Commission <b>Tom Bevers</b>, Head of international affairs and socio-economic studies at the Belgium Federal Public Service (Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue) <b>Heather Roy</b>, Eurodiaconia Secretary General</p>
14.00 - 14.15	Coffee break
14.15 – 15.45	<p><b><i>Prevention is better than cure: Sustainable approaches to prevent homelessness – the presentation of Eurodiaconia's report:</i></b></p> <p><u>Eurodiaconia members' best practices</u> <b>Julio David García Justamante</b>, Nueva Vida</p> <p><u>Reactions from policy-makers and civil society</u> <b>Michele Calandrino</b>, DG EMPL, European Commission <b>Sorcha Edwards</b>, Secretary General, Housing Europe <b>Josée Goris</b>, Head of the Service for International Relations, Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration, Belgium</p>
15.45 - 16.00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17.30	<p><b><i>Unlocking Roma Housing Rights: How can we remove barriers to access essential services and adequate housing?</i></b></p> <p><u>Scene-setting by policy-makers</u> <b>María José Tarreros Martos</b>, Councilor for Labour, Migration and Social Security, Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union <b>Dan Pavel Doghi</b>, Team Leader of the Anti-Racism and Roma Unit, European Commission DG JUST</p> <p><u>Good practices from Eurodiaconia Members</u> Dweller Driven Model – Participatory Housing Upgrading Approach - <b>Slađana Jovanović</b>, Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO) <b>Angela Elmiger</b>, HEKS/EPER The Household Project - <b>Father Cristian Pavel</b>, Director of Fundația Filantropia Timișoara</p>

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1000 Bruxelles  
Belgium

WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2023	
9.30 – 10.00	Welcome Coffee
10.00 – 12.00	<p><b><i>How can we promote Sustainable Public Procurement? A workshop building on experiences at local level.</i></b> <i>This Session is co-organized with Social Services Europe</i></p> <p><b>Valentina Caimi</b>, LinkinEurope <b>Ingunn Moser</b>, CEO, Diakonhjemmet <b>Dr. Friederike Mussnug</b>, Diakonie Deutschland</p> 
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Break
13.00 – 15.00	<p><b><i>Can Social Services really be sustainable? The Green Deal, social services and financing.</i></b></p> <p><b>Karel Vanderpoorten</b>, Policy Officer DG GROW <b>Ingunn Moser</b>, CEO Diakonhjemmet <b>Johanna Gary</b>, Diakonie Deutschland <b>A.Cristina Pizzorno</b>, Fratello Sole <b>Robbie Stakelum</b>, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Social Platform</p>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 17.00	<p><b><i>Scene Closer – How can we work more effectively together for a stronger Social Europe?</i></b></p> <p><b>Luca Jahier</b>, Member, European Economic and Social Committee <b>Namita Kambli</b>, Research Manager, E3G <b>Raluca Radescu</b>, Policy adviser, the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) <b>Alexandra Gerasimcikova</b>, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Counter Balance <b>Clotilde Clark-Foulquier</b>, Deputy Secretary General, Eurodiaconia</p>
17.00 – 18.30	Networking Drinks and partnership building.



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**Eurodiaconia**  Connecting faith and social justice through action



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