



WELCOME TO BUCHAREST!

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

14 - 17 MAY 2024

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



# JOIN US AT THE 2024 AGM

*let each one of you speak the truth with their  
neighbour, for we are members one of  
another.*

*Ephesians 4:25b*

Eurodiaconia is a network of churches and Christian organizations that provide social and health care services and advocate for social justice. As a network of 58 members in 32 countries, we work together for just and transformative change across Europe, leaving no one behind.

2024 is an exciting year: More people than ever before can turn their voices into votes. The upcoming European Parliament elections will have impact beyond the European Union and influence on national, regional and local democracies. Nevertheless, we know that democracy is based on more than elections. Democracy is a constant commitment to basic rights, a daily dialogue, and societal respect for each other. It is about who speaks – who is given space and who is listened to. Diaconal organisations have contributed to this work for decades yet still today there are unheard voices, tensions in our democracies and conflicts in our neighbourhood where democracy is being challenged. Therefore, given the unprecedented challenges we face today, the theme of this year's Annual General Meeting is Diaconia and Democracy.

Our theme centres on a multifaceted examination of democracy, firmly grounded in diaconal theology, with a focus on meaningful participation, equitable representation, and the pursuit of justice. Through our collective engagement, we intend to shed light onto the intersection of Diaconia and Democracy, providing



**DIACONIA AND  
DEMOCRACY**



## DIACONIA AND DEMOCRACY

valuable insights and strategies to navigate the evolving landscape of governance and social responsibility. This theme aims to foster a deeper understanding of the intersection between Diaconia and Democracy, highlighting the critical role that faith-based organisations and people can play in promoting a more inclusive, responsible, and resilient democratic society.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Filantropia Federation, a non-governmental organisation that operates with the blessing of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Founded in 2007, it is the only federative organisation in the Romanian Patriarchate. This organisational form provides a unity of action for all members on a national level but also allows each member to keep their own identity and programme at the local level. The 24 members work together to support the Church in its social-philanthropic work for people and their communities, all connected in the spirit of Christian teaching.

The purpose of the Federation is to increase its members' impact and efficiency of its social actions and the social structures of the Romanian Orthodox Church by integrating them into a united, coordinated, and coherent response to current social challenges. In the future, the Federation aims to become an element of cohesion for non-governmental organizations that operate with the blessing of the dioceses and to be the channel through which the social action strategy of the Romanian Orthodox Church can be put into practice.

We will start the AGM with an opening service on the evening of the 14th of May and close it following our business session around noon on Friday, the 17th of May. The days in between will be filled with insightful plenary debates, study visits, workshops, capacity-building sessions and time for networking.





## DIACONIA AND DEMOCRACY

The programme sheds light on the theme “Diaconia and Democracy” from different angles: High-level panels will debate the linkage between poverty and democracy, church organisations will take us through their grassroots approach to community engagement, and former Members of the European Parliament will discuss the future of social affairs in the European Union. The study visits give the opportunity to experience the daily work that our host dedicates to the communities of Bucharest, from childcare to palliative care, providing people with social, educational, and medical support and our workshops highlight different aspects of accessibility in democracy, such as ethical challenges to artificial intelligence in social services, user involvement, or how to support participation of vulnerable people.

Participants will also have time for networking, exchanging experiences, and building new partnerships with fellow Eurodiaconia members. To explore more of the Romanian culture, we will enjoy local food and if you have the chance to stay a bit longer, our hosts organise a Friday afternoon programme to discover the vibrant city of Bucharest.

Our annual gathering gives us the opportunity to meet each other, share knowledge, and build trust. Based on this exchange and our Diaconal work, Eurodiaconia will further continue to shape social policy and democracy in Europe!

## Programme outline

	Tuesday 14.05	Wednesday 15.05	Thursday 16.05	Friday 17.05
morning		<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>Registrations (at the Venue)</b> Welcome: Diaconia and democracy Panel: Are there links between poverty and democracy? <b>Coffee break</b> Panel: Empowerment through community mobilisation	<b>Morning Worship</b> European Elections - What is next? <b>Coffee break</b> Parallel Workshops – Accessibility in Democracy	<b>Morning Worship</b> <b>Business session</b> <b>Closing networking coffee break</b>
afternoon	<b>Arrivals</b> <b>Supervisory Board Meeting</b> <b>Registrations (at the Hotel)</b>	<b>Lunch</b> Study visits	<b>Lunch</b> Capacity building sessions for democracy Thematic networking café	<b>Optional afternoon activity</b> <b>Departures</b>
evening	<b>Opening service</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	

**You can find the detailed programme [here](#).**

Please note that even though most panels and workshops are planned, some details might change in the coming months. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for updates!

## Registration

Registration is now open. We encourage you to participate with as many delegates as you wish. Please register as soon as possible [via this form](#).





### Conference Fee

The conference fee is 350 Euros. It includes attendance at the Annual General Meeting, the study visits, and all meals as specified in the programme. It does not include accommodation and travel costs. A request for the payment of the fees will be sent by the Eurodiaconia office shortly after the registration has been received and must be paid by the start of the event.

### Support for Participation

Thanks to the support of the European Union ESF+ programme we can offer reimbursement for travel and accommodation to a limited number of members. This will follow the usual Eurodiaconia policy of supporting participants from Central and Eastern Europe and minority church members, based on their financial capacities.

If you would like to receive financial support to attend the conference, please indicate your needs (accommodation, travel) in the registration form. We will contact you after your registration. Please do not book the hotel or flights before talking to the Eurodiaconia Secretariat about your needs for financial support.

### Conference venue

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Patriarchal Palace of the Orthodox Church, in Bucharest, Romania. This is a remarkable historical site built in the 17th century. The venue is a 25 minutes' walk from the hotel, located at Alea Dealul Mitropoliei, nr. 25 RO - 040163, Bucharest.

### Accommodation

Eurodiaconia has reserved rooms at a preferential price at [Novotel Bucharest City Centre](#). The hotel is within walking distance of the Conference venue. The price is 135 Euros per night for a single room, including breakfast and city tax.

Unlike in previous years, we ask you to book your hotel room yourself. You can do so by downloading and filling in this [form](#) and send it directly to the hotel by e-mail to H5558-RE@ACCOR.COM. **Please book your room by 28th of March 2024. After this date, the hotel might release the remaining rooms blocked for our participants.**



Once you have booked the room, you can cancel for free up to 14 days before your arrival. For more information, please get in touch with the hotel directly.

**If you plan to request financial support from Eurodiaconia for the accommodation costs, please do not book your room yourself. We will book and pay directly for the accommodation of supported members.**

## Travel

Those traveling by plane to the AGM can fly to Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport. The airport and city centre are connected via the airport bus or a train line.

## Entry requirements to Romania

Nationals from some countries may require a visa to enter Romania. All information on the visa requirements can be found [here](#).

If you need visa, please contact [annika.sparrer@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:annika.sparrer@eurodiaconia.org) at the Eurodiaconia secretariat. We can support your application with the necessary invitation letter. Please note that it is the participant's responsibility to apply for a visa in due time.

## Languages

The Conference language will be English.

## Contact

For further questions, please contact our Membership Officer Annika Sparrer at [annika.sparrer@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:annika.sparrer@eurodiaconia.org) or consult the [conference website](#).







# SEE YOU IN BUCHAREST!

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