

Eurodiaconia Annual General Meeting

14 – 17 May 2024

Bucharest, Romania

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Welcome to Bucharest! Your next couple of days will be filled with plenary debates, study visits, workshops, capacity-building sessions and time for networking. This practical information was imagined as a help for you to organise your trip, enjoy it, and take from it as much as possible with as little hassle. We have prepared everything you need to know during your stay in Romania at the AGM.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2024 Eurodiaconia Conference and Annual General Meeting here in beautiful Bucharest! Our hosts Foundation Filantropia have ensured a gathering that will bring up opportunities to meet both formally and informally through worship, through workshops, through walking together and through debating together.

We meet in interesting times. Within the European Union we are at a time of many elections – regional, national and European. With elections can come changes of direction, changes of values and changes of outlook. These European elections may have unexpected results and much is made of who might be elected. It is important to also look at the why. Why do many in Europe feel unheard or ignored? Where are the spaces where people can share and discuss challenges in a way that does not become a binary fight?

On the edges of the European Union the war in Ukraine continues with no real end in sight. People in Ukraine are left in limbo, unable to make decisions on their future as long as the war continues. In Armenia refugees and internally displaced persons try to find a new normal after much loss and conflict over land and identity, yet often silenced in the political debate.

That is why at this AGM we want to lift up the theme of Diaconia and Democracy. What role do we have to play in providing spaces for people's voices to be heard and space for good discussion to take place? How does new technological approaches affect participation in political and social life?

Our Lord gave voice to the voiceless – so that they too could be heard, and their views and their beliefs taken into account. Are we doing the same in our Diaconia? This is just one of the questions we will be exploring.

Have a great AGM!

Olli Holmström and Heather Roy

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Tue 14/05	15:00 - 18:00 Registration (at Hotel)	18:30 - 19:30 Opening service	
Wed 15/05	8:30 - 9:00 Morning worship	10:00 - 11:00 Panel on Poverty & Democracy	12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
	8:30 - 9:30 Registration (at venue)	11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break	13:30 - 17:30 Study visits
	9:30 - 10:00 Welcome session	11:30 - 12:30 Panel on Empowerment	19:00 - 21:00 Dinner
Thur 16/05	8:30 - 9:00 Morning worship	11:00 - 12:30 Parallel workshops	15:00 - 16:30 Thematic networking café
	9:00 - 10:30 EU Elections plenary	12:30 - 13:30 Lunch	19:00 - 21:00 Dinner
	10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break	13:30 - 15:00 Capacity building sessions	
Fri 17/05	09:00 - 09:30 Morning worship	09:30 - 11:30 Business session	11:30 - 12:00 Closing networking coffee

ACCOMMODATION, REGISTRATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

Accommodation

Most participants including invited speakers and members granted financial support will stay at [the Novotel Bucharest City Centre \(Calea Victoriei 37B, Bucuresti 010061, Romania\)](#).

Phone [+40 21 308 8500](tel:+40213088500)

Even if you booked your accommodation elsewhere, please note this address as this is where participants will be brought back to after the study visits and where the walking tour on Friday will start.

Registrations

The registrations will take place in the lobby of the **Novotel Hotel from 15:00-18:00 on Tuesday 14th May**. After signing the attendance list, you will get your badge with your name, organisation and chosen sessions on it, including a QR code to the programme. If you don't make it on time, you will be able to register **at the venue at 8:30-9:30 on Wednesday 15th May**.

Directions from the airport

About the currency and public transport

Please note that Romania uses a Romanian leu as a currency and Euros are not accepted. Make sure you exchange money as needed.

Public transport tickets (buses, trams, metro) cost 3 lei (about 0,60 euros) in one direction and are valid for 90 minutes. Please note that you need to buy different tickets for buses and metro. Tickets you can buy for public transport during the AGM are therefore:

1-trip ticket: 3 lei (about 0.6 Euros) – valid for 90 minutes

2-trip ticket: 6 lei (about 1.2 Euros)

Daily ticket: 8 lei (about 1.6 Euros)

Metrorex is the company running the metro in the city and you will need a special metro ticket. Metro tickets, cards or passes can be bought from any metro station. Please keep in mind that you cannot use tickets for surface travel in the metro or vice-versa.

How to get from the airport to Novotel Bucharest City Centre

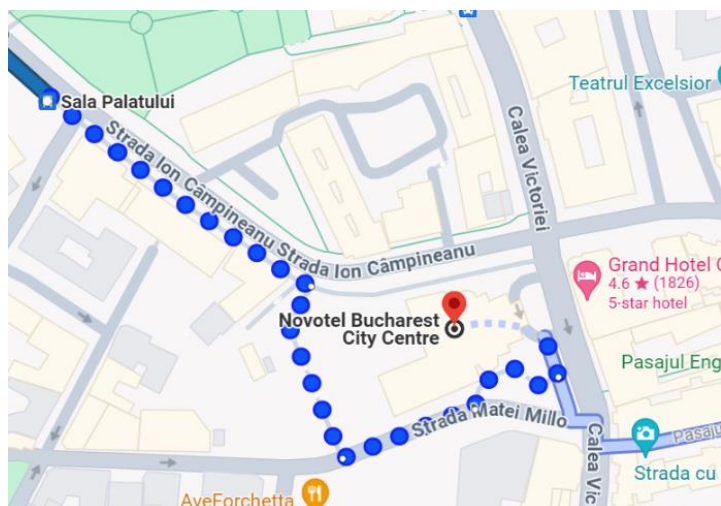
Option 1

- To reach the Novotel Bucharest City Centre, you can take an **express bus number 100** in the direction of Piata Unirii 2
- The bus leaves from front of the Arrivals Terminal
- The price of a 90-minute trip is 3 lei (around 0,60 euros) which you can pay by STB card, contactless credit card, text message „C” (valid for 90 minutes) or „AB” (valid for 24 hours) at 7458, metropolitan cards, Tourist Travel Cards
- The journey takes around 40 minutes, and it goes every 15 minutes
- You can find the detailed schedule of the express bus [here](#)
- On the stop **Piata 21 December 1989 Bus Stop**, you should get off the bus
- From the bus stop you have a 5-minute walk to the Novotel Hotel

Option 2

There is a possibility to **take a train** which connects the Henri Conada Aiport and Bucharest North Station. It leaves every 40 minutes.

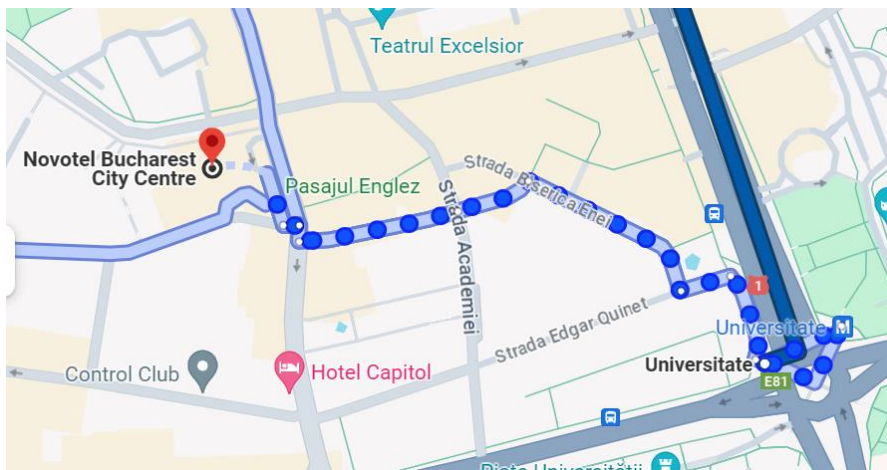
- The train leaves from the Terminal 1 (T1), the train station is called **Aeroport Henri Coandă T1 (Otopeni)**
- Take a train TFC AEROPORT in the direction of **Bucuresti Nord Gr. A**
- The train ride takes approximately 25 minutes, and the train stops at station Patinoar PO, Parc Mogoșoia h. and Bucharest North
- You should get out of the train at the station **Bucharest North**
- From there you will have to transfer to bus **number 178**, stop called **Gara de Nord**, 1-minute walk from the train stop. Take the direction of **Sala Palatului**.
- The bus ride is approximately 10 minutes, and you should get out at the **Sala Palatului** bus stop.
- From here, it is a 5-minute walk to the Novotel Bucharest City Centre hotel (see below).



Option 3

There is a third option in which you can, if you prefer, **combine a bus ride and metro ride**.

- You should take the **express bus number 100** in the direction Piata Unirii 2 from the airport
- You should get off the bus at the bus stop **Piata Victoriei**
- From there you have a 5 minutes' **walk to the metro stop Piata Victoriei** where you should take the **metro M2 in the direction of Berceni** (remember to buy a metro ticket)
- The ride with the metro takes about 5 minutes. Get off at the second metro stop **Universitate**
- From there you have **10 minutes' walk** to the Novotel Bucharest City Centre



Option 4

Taking a taxi is also an option. It is possible to order a taxi directly from the airport.

To do so, you can use the touch screen terminals located in the public area of the Arrivals terminal, 1st floor, South side (on the left side after exiting the baggage belts area).

After the taxi order is made by the passengers, the touch screen terminal issues an order ticket containing identification elements of the taxi car (the taxi car's license plate number and registration number, the estimated time of arrival, the time and date when the order was made, the operating carrier's fare, as well as the phone number of the taxi company/dispatch).

After picking up the order ticket, passengers will move to the assigned area in front of the Arrivals Terminal for boarding. You must board the ordered taxi car and keep the order ticket, also after exiting the taxi in case any complaints regarding the transport occur.

There is also an option **to take Uber or Bolt**. In this case, you will need to have their apps installed on your phone.

Some of the **other options** are:

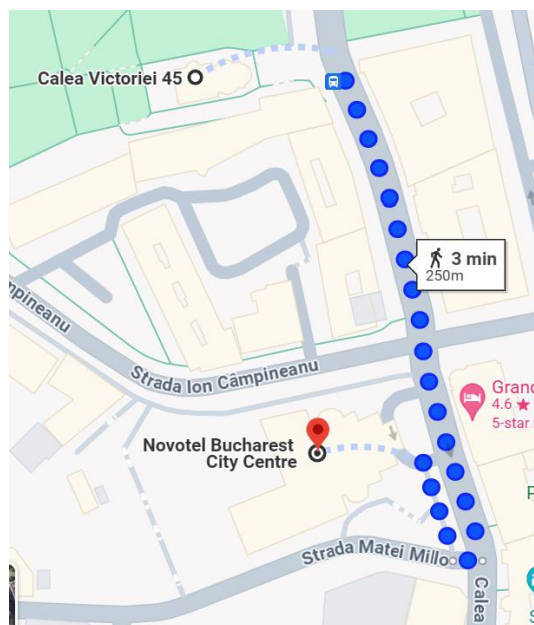
- Taxi Bucharest: 40 722 240 500.
- Black Taxi Bucharest: 40 726 551 248.
- Speed Taxi: 40 21 260 2000.

Please do have in mind that Eurodiaconia is not able to reimburse the costs of the taxi rides taken.

ARRIVAL DAY, TUESDAY 14th MAY

Opening Service

The opening service will be held in the **Kretzulescu Church** ([Calea Victoriei 45, Bucharest, 010062](#)), which is located just 3 minutes on foot from the Novotel Bucharest City Centre, as shown on the map below. The service will **start at 18:30**. Two members of the Eurodiaconia team will be at the hotel lobby at 18:10, walking to the church with participants who will wish to go there together.



Please note that **on Tuesday 14th May the meals are not organised for the participants**, unlike on the other days. However, there are many restaurant options available. Below you can find some recommendations.

- [Manuc's Inn Restaurant - Google Maps](#)
- [Winestone Victoriei 37 - Google Maps](#)
- [Restaurant Bucătăraşul - Google Maps](#)

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 15th MAY

Meeting venue

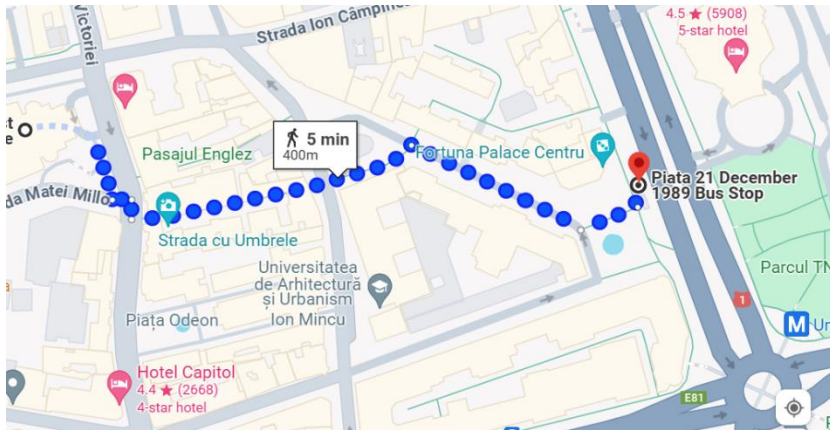
The morning sessions on Wednesday will be held at the **Patriarchal Palace** ([Aleea Dealul Mitropoliei 25, Bucharest, Romania](#)). It is easy to access it from the Novotel Hotel on foot or by public transport. Please see the directions below.

Option 1 - Walking

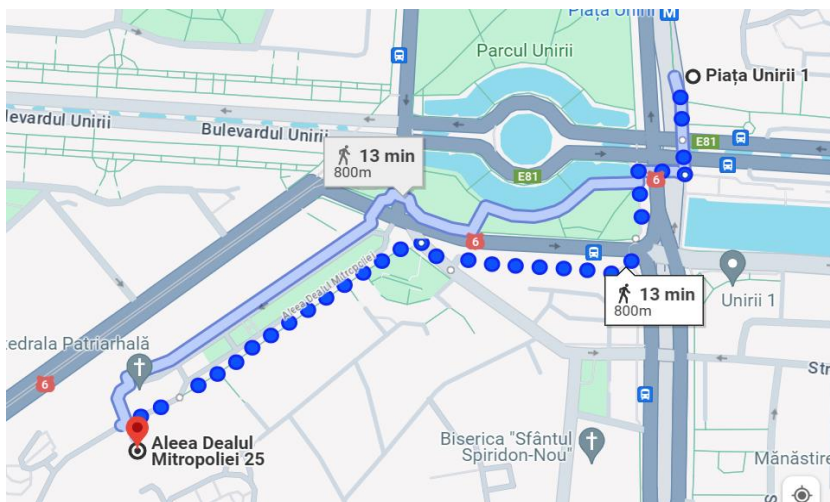
You can take a [walk](#) from the hotel to the venue which takes approximately 30 minutes.

Option 2 – Bus

- You can take public transport with bus [100](#) which goes every 15 minutes.
- To catch the **bus 100**, you should first walk 5 minutes from the hotel to the bus stop **Piata 21 December 1989 Bus Stop** as shown on the map.



- The bus ride takes 6 minutes and the bus goes every 15 minutes.
- You should get off at the next stop, **Piața Unirii 1**.
- From there you have a 15-minute walk until you reach the venue.



Option 3 - Metro

Bucharest also has a metro.

- To reach the venue from the Novotel Hotel, you will have to walk for about 10 minutes (600 m) to reach the metro stop **Universitate**.
- There you will take a **metro M2 in the direction of Berceni**, the ride takes 2 minutes
- You will get out on the next stop called **Piața Unirii**.
- From there you have a 12–15-minute walk to the venue.

Morning worship and registrations

The morning worship is optional and starts at 8:30 at the venue, so have in mind the time it takes to reach the Palace if you are planning to attend. It will be held in the main plenary room (Colloquium). To avoid disrupting the worship, the door of the room will be closed after the worship starts and entering after that will not be allowed.

Registrations will be open at the Palace entrance from 8:30 so if you have not had a chance to register yet, you can do so then.

Morning sessions, coffee break and lunch

All morning sessions will be held at the Palace in the **main plenary room (Colloquium)**. Doors will open for the morning worship at 8:00, be closed for the worship and reopen again at 9:00. The **coffee break** at 11:00-11:30 will be held in the **small room just behind the plenary room**. **Lunch** will be organised at the **lobby on the ground floor** at 12:30-13:30.

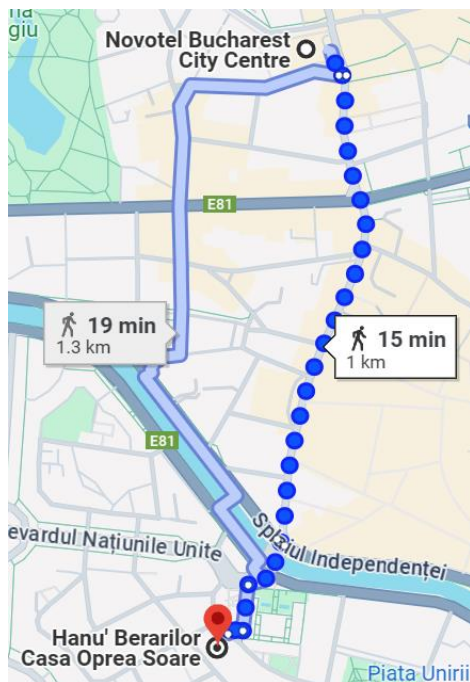
Study visits

On Wednesday 15th May at **13:30 participants should gather in front of the Palace** (Aleea Dealul Mitropoliei 25, Bucharest, Romania).

On your event badge you will find which study visit you were allocated to. If you haven't chosen your study visit, please tell the organisers at the registration desk and you will be assigned to one. Follow the signs or ask the organisers to find your group. The organisers will bring participants to the study visits with minibuses and bring them back to the **Novotel Bucharest City Center** around **17:30**.

Dinner, Wednesday

On Wednesday we will take participants to a traditional restaurant **Hanu' Beraililor**. To reach the dinner venue from the Novotel Hotel, there is approximately a 15-minute walk, as shown on the map. It will **start at 19:00**. Two members of the Eurodiaconia team will be at the hotel lobby at 18:30, walking to the restaurant with participants who will wish to go there together.



If you prefer not to walk, there are local taxis available.

DAY 2, THURSDAY 16th MAY

The day will again start at the Palace with a **morning worship** at 8:30, after which a the **EU election plenary session** will take place in the same plenary room (**Colloquium**) at 9:00-10:30.

After the **coffee break** organised in the **small room just behind the plenary room** at 10:30-11:00, **workshops** will start at 11:00 **on the first floor**, followed by **lunch** at 12:30-13:30 at the **lobby** on the ground floor. At 13:30-15:00 the **capacity building sessions** will be held at the **first floor**.

Your chosen **workshops and capacity building sessions** will be indicated on your badges. If they are missing, it means you haven't chosen them, but you are free to attend any of the parallel sessions.

At 15:00, in the lobby on the ground floor, a **thematic networking café** will be held where you will have a chance to connect and discuss new ideas with other participants. You will have some **free time from 16:30**. You are free to go back to the hotel, rest a bit or explore the city as you wish.

[Dinner, Thursday](#)

On Thursday, our hosts will organise **dinner at the Palace** ([Aleea Dealul Mitropoliei 25, Bucharest, Romania](#)). The dinner will **start at 19:00** so if you are coming from the Novotel Hotel, do take the travel time to the Palace in consideration.

DAY 3, FRIDAY 17th MAY

After two days packed with workshops, study visits and networking, the last day of this AGM will be calmer. The **morning worship will start at 9:00** (instead of 8:30). It will be followed by **the business session at 9:30-11:30**. All our registered members will have received [the agenda and documents of the business session](#). It will be held in the Colloquium plenary room, followed by a relaxed closing **networking coffee break at 11:30-12:00** which marks the end of our official programme.

Please note that we are not providing lunch after this so if you signed up for a walking tour after the programme ends, please make sure you have something to eat before this.

[Walking tour](#)

Those of you who you signed up for a guided walking tour in the old town of Bucharest will be picked up at the lobby of the Novotel Bucharest City Centre at 13:00. The tour will end at the Hotel by 15:00.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

[Eurodiaconia staff](#)

- Andrea Witt, Head of Operations: +32 477 65 23 64

[Ambulance and police](#)

- General emergency number: 112