



2nd EURODIACONIA CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF THE SOCIAL EUROPEAN UNION

20th September 2023, 9.30 – 13.30, Bruxelles



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*L42 Business Center – Rue de la Loi 42,
Brussels*

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SEPTEMBER 2023](#)

Just a few days after the State of the European Union speech, by Commission President von der Leyen, Eurodiaconia's 2nd Conference on the State of the Social European Union will provide the opportunity to reflect and discuss current social challenges within the EU. On this occasion, Eurodiaconia will also launch its 2nd Report on the State of the Social European Union reflecting its member's view on social issues currently affecting most their countries and the people they are working with.

Over the last years Europe has been going through several overlapping crises, the COVID-pandemic, the war in Ukraine with a high influx of refugees, and the following cost-of-living crisis have kept leaders in crisis mode. To this can be added the ongoing environmental crisis, migration crisis, demographic change and a care crisis, among others, leading to the term perma-crisis being used increasingly.

You are invited to join us for discussions with representatives of EU Institutions, partner and member organisations how they see the current state of the social European Union and how to overcome the perma-crisis and build a more socially resilient EU.

This will be followed by three parallel workshops aiming at discussing challenges, opportunities and recommendations to EU decision makers. The workshops will be addressing key social issues that have been identified by our members: Social protection, social services and barriers to social inclusion.

To close the conference, we will have the chance to discuss the current social situation in the EU and outcomes of the workshops with Stefan Olsson, Deputy Director General of DG EMPL, European Commission.

	AGENDA
9.30 – 9.45	Registration & Welcome Coffee
9.45 – 9.50	Welcome by Heather Roy, Secretary General of Eurodiaconia
9.50 – 10.00	Presentation of Eurodiaconia Report on the State of the Social European Union 2023 <i>Anne-Sophie Wislocki, Head of Advocacy</i>
10.00 – 10.45	<p>High-level panel discussion – The current state of the social European Union.</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeanette Bauer, Director of Kirkens Korshaer, Denmark, Eurodiaconia member • Bruno Ribeiro Barata, Counsellor for Social Policy, Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU • Rute Guerra, Chair of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) • Katrin Langensiepen, MEP, Greens/EFA • Klaus Heeger, Secretary General, CESI • Laura de Bonfils, Secretary General of Social Platform • Think Tank representative (tbc) <p><i>Moderator: Heather Roy, Secretary General of Eurodiaconia</i></p>
10.45 – 11.00	Discussion with the audience
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.15	<p>Workshop 1 – Adequate & Sustainable Social Protection</p> <p><i>Key-note by Professor Bea Cantillon, University of Antwerp</i></p> <p>Years of austerity policies, the ongoing environmental crisis and the more recent social aftershocks of the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis have put extra pressure on welfare state systems in Europe. In this workshop, we will identify the biggest challenges and ways forward for the strengthening of sustainable and adequate social protection systems accessible to all.</p>

AGENDA

Workshop 2 – Quality Social Services

Key-notes by Professor Anton Hemerijck(tbc), Romana Belova, Deputy Director for social work, Slezska Diakonia.

Social services play a vital role in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, they occupy a central role for delivering on the political commitment of the EU to promote social inclusion. As such, It is crucial in the current permacrisis that quality social services are not compromised. In this workshop, we will discuss challenges intrinsic to the sector relating to quality and look at measures to tackle these challenges.

Workshop 3 – Barriers to social inclusion

Keynotes by Dan Pavel Doghi, Team Leader Non-Discrimination and Roma Coordination Unit, European Commission; Laetitia Thissen, Senior Policy Analyst on Gender issues, Foundation European Progressive Studies (FEPS); and Elisa Gambardella, Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator, SOLIDAR Foundation

The on-going crises shaking Europe during the last decade have been driving us away from achieving an inclusive society in which no one is left behind. Inclusion can only take place if all the citizens are treated as equal and are given the same opportunities, without any form of discrimination. On this workshop, European policymakers along with representatives from the academia and Civil Society organisations, will identify the biggest challenges for the establishment of an equal, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable society, through the promotion of the sense of belonging, embracement of diversity, and equal opportunities for all.

12.15 – 12.50

Conversation with Stefan Olsson, Deputy Director General DG EMPL, European Commission

Moderator: Heather Roy, Secretary General of Eurodiaconia

12.50 – 13.00

Closing remarks

13.00 – 13.30

Networking lunch

Limited financial support is available for Eurodiaconia members to cover transport and accomodation. If you would like to benefit from financial support, please contact our Head of Operations Andrea Witt, under andrea.witt@eurodiaconia.org.



Rue Joseph II 166 – 1000 Bruxelles – Belgium

Tel.: +32 (0)2 234 38 60 Email: office@eurodiaconia.org

Fax: +32 (0)2 234 38 65 Web: www.eurodiaconia.org



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and social justice
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