



## The 2015 Eurodiaconia Award: 'Integrated services, holistic support'

### Description and Entry Procedures

#### **Background of the Award**

In 2007, Eurodiaconia began an annual award programme at the request of its members, to recognise good practice and innovation in diaconal social work. Since then, the purpose of the Award has been to communicate the unique identity of diaconia to European decision makers, to build connections between diaconal organisations, and to encourage good practice sharing across Europe.

Previous awards have highlighted innovative angles in diaconal work (2007, 2008) and explored diaconal organisations' role in promoting social inclusion through poverty reduction (2010), volunteering (2011), active ageing (2012), the inclusion of migrants (2013) and youth inclusion (2014).

#### **Social inclusion through integrated services**

The 2015 Eurodiaconia Award will focus on integrated projects and services that promote social inclusion by *offering holistic support to vulnerable individuals*.

In the wake of the financial crisis, the number of persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion continues to rise across Europe. Many individuals and families are depending on social services, ranging from elementary food programmes and debt aid to psychological counselling and employment training, to break the cycle of disadvantage which shapes their daily lives.

People who have multiple needs usually receive health and social care services from different providers and in different settings. Health and social care providers have experienced that this often happens without appropriate co-ordination or a holistic approach, leading to problems for the service user, the informal carer and the family such as gaps in service provision or inadequate support, as well as increased costs to social systems. Vulnerable individuals can lose sight of the range of services they are entitled to, whilst caseworkers can struggle to get a more comprehensive understanding of their service users' situations –the disconnectedness of services can therefore constitute a major obstacle in realising sustainable social inclusion.

Diaconal organisations are actively involved in overcoming the fragmentation which affects our service sectors. To recognise the importance of a holistic approach, the aim of the 2015 award is to showcase the innovative ways in which our members are providing integrated services and linking fields of expertise to meet their beneficiaries' varied needs.

#### **Why enter?**

- Inspire diaconal organisations in other countries with innovative approaches to delivering integrated services.





- Raise the profile of diaconia among government decision makers and showcase the expertise of diaconal organisations in providing holistic support to vulnerable individuals.
- Strengthen diaconia throughout Europe by demonstrating the value of diaconal work in promoting social inclusion.

A number of entries, including the final recipient of the Award, will be asked to present their projects or services to decision makers in the European Parliament. This will be in the context of a photo exhibition planned to highlight the award entries of diaconal organisations. For this reason, all entries **must be accompanied by a high quality photograph**<sup>1</sup> which reflects the project or service. All entries will be published in a booklet and promoted on the Eurodiaconia website. All organisations will receive confidential feedback on their project from the evaluation committee.

Numerous previous recipients of the Award have said that it has not only proved useful for raising awareness of their work amongst the public through the media, but also encouraged those working in the project or service.

### **Which projects may be entered?**

1. A “project” can be either an ongoing activity or service or a short-term project.
2. The project must have been developed and conducted by *either* a Eurodiaconia member organisation or a member or affiliate of a central/national organisation belonging to Eurodiaconia.
3. The project must be aimed at providing at least two different kinds of services (for example, housing assistance and debt aid, or counselling and educational support) so as to address different needs of vulnerable individuals. It may *also* involve advocacy work, but cannot be limited to advocacy.
4. The project must have been implemented (not just planned) before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

### **How entries will be evaluated**

Each project will be evaluated according to the following five criteria and weighted as follows:

1. Integrated/holistic approach (30%)
2. Impact on fostering social inclusion (20%)
3. Reflection of diaconal values (20%)
4. Originality and innovativeness (15%)
5. Transferability to diaconal organisations in other countries (15%)

Entries will be evaluated by a committee composed of three persons with a solid understanding of Diaconia, integrated services and social inclusion.

### **Entry procedure**

Entries will be accepted until the **30<sup>th</sup> of April 2015**.

Please fill out the official Eurodiaconia 2014 Award entry form and send it by e-mail to [stephan.burger@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:stephan.burger@eurodiaconia.org). Entries will be accepted in electronic form in any EU language. Please

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<sup>1</sup> Between two and five high quality photos (3175 x 4750 pixels 256 DPI, good for a photo format of 40 cm x 60 cm) are required for each entry and should try to portray a project or service that enables the inclusion of people with a migrant background. Please make sure that you have received the authorisation of the photographer to use this photo in the exhibition as well as the permission of the person (or people) who is depicted on the photo to be shown in the exhibition.



note that, although English is the preferred language for submissions, the chosen language will have no impact on the evaluation of your project.

Please attach any additional material about the project and any photos that you would like to be used when we publicize the Award to your application e-mail. Lengthy texts (exceeding the size of 1 A4 page) cannot be translated for the evaluation committee.

All entries will be featured in a Eurodiaconia booklet, illustrating how diaconal actors provide integrated services. Together with the project description and photos, the publication will also include personal testimonies from service users. We would therefore like to encourage you to send in **personal stories** by/about persons who have benefitted from your service or project (100-400 words), explaining (for example) how they were excluded, which difficulties and joys they have experienced during their involvement in your project or service, and how your service or project has supported their inclusion into society. The story should be accompanied by at least one high-quality photo of the users, on the condition that they have given their explicit consent.

*We encourage member organisations to translate the entry form and award information into national languages and to promote the award programme widely among diaconal organisations in their countries.*

## **Questions**

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