



PRESS RELEASE

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EURODIACONIA CALLS FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO MIGRATION

On the International Migrant's Day, Eurodiaconia calls for an integrated approach to migration and a strong coordination of EU and national level policies to ensure the fundamental human rights and more effective integration of migrants.

Eurodiaconia calls on policy makers to take an integrated approach to migration by strengthening the link between **social inclusion and anti-poverty strategies** and the wider issues of migration management. Determining factors of inclusion such as housing, health, employment and education are highly interrelated and therefore require a mainstreaming of integration objectives into all such relevant policies. In order to achieve this Member States need coordinated and cross-sectoral policies at national, regional and local level that complement each other. At EU level; closer collaboration between different Directorates, particularly DGs Justice, Home Affairs and Employment and Social Affairs will be essential.

In today's Europe, migrants are among the most vulnerable groups in society, often socially excluded through lack of access to employment and social services. Furthermore, the financial and economic crisis and consequent austerity measures and cuts in public funding have reduced the ability of not-for profit service providers to run essential social and integration services. Eurodiaconia therefore calls on the EU and its Member States to invest in comprehensive integration policies and include migrants in the development of social investment strategies, including investment in social and health care services which are vital for the integration of migrants.

"A piecemeal approach to migration will not be effective, we need to ensure that future migration policies have a clear and strong connection with social inclusion strategies as part of the wider Europe 2020 Strategy, anchored in a rights based approach and keeping in mind targets for reducing poverty and social exclusion that Member States have committed to" says Heather Roy, Secretary General of Eurodiaconia.

Eurodiaconia is a dynamic, Europe wide community of organisations founded in the Christian faith and working in the tradition of Diaconia, who are committed to a Europe of solidarity, equality and justice. Eurodiaconia is based in Brussels and currently has 42 members in 22 countries.

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For more information, please contact:

Matilda Brostrom, matilda.brostrom@eurodiaconia.org +32 2234 38 60

