



ROMA INCLUSION NETWORK

MEETING 2024

7-8 November 2024, Budapest (Hungary)

BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



7-8 November 2024



Synod Office, 1146. Budapest Abonyi utca 21

We are pleased to extend an invitation to you for the upcoming 2024 Roma Inclusion Network Meeting, organised in cooperation with our members **the Reformed Church in Hungary (RCH)**. The event will be take place in the city of Budapest, Hungary, from **November 7th to 8th, 2024**.

The RCH extend their mission and social outreach beyond the walls of the church, aiming to create an inclusive community, actively advocating and supporting marginalised groups and persons in situation of vulnerability, as well as committing to social transformation and mutual solidarity. Through their Roma Ministry and national coordination, the RCH supports congregations who work with Roma to advance on national reconciliation and social inclusion. The RCH contributes to the improvement of Roma's quality of life, particularly in the social, ecological and infrastructural realms.

Despite access to quality and inclusive education being a decisive element for transcending poverty and fostering social development, less than half of Roma children participate in early education and care, and only a quarter of those aged 20-24 have completed upper secondary education. Roma learners face a substantial gap in educational achievement and accessibility when compared to the broader population. Indeed, inclusive educational systems are still far from becoming a reality for all students in Europe. Particularly, this is the case for many Roma, who are subject to the effects of structural anti-gypsyism, as well as spatial and educational segregation. The former creates the ground for inequality, exclusion, and lack of trust of Roma families with educational institutions, hindering future civic engagement and participation in society.

In the view of this background, the upcoming Network Meeting will delve into the opportunities of Roma to access inclusive education, on which the RCH has first-hand experience through their educational institutions. In addition, we will discuss about the role of social service providers on tackling anti-gypsyism and building trust within communities through inclusive educational environments.

In addressing these issues, the meeting will serve as a key platform to reinforce the existing network of faith- based organisations working for and with Roma communities. Additionally, it will facilitate the creation of partnerships and aligning our advocacy at EU level with your national realities.



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Who can participate?

The meeting is open to anyone working in Diaconia who is part of a network or organization that is a member of Eurodiaconia. Those who are likely to find it most interesting are those who work in the provision of services for Roma particularly in the area of education, after-school activities or/and vocational training, as well as directors of institutions or organisations interested in developing their work in this area. Please register via this online form by (add link). Please do not book any flights or accommodations before the final confirmation from Eurodiaconia Secretariat. Travel must be arranged by the participants.

Financial information

Eurodiaconia members from Central and Eastern Europe and from minority churches are eligible to apply for financial support via the registration form. Due to limited financial capacity, if you would like to request financial support, we kindly ask you to let us know by (add date).

For further information, please contact our Policy & Membership Development Officer Andrea Sánchez Caballero.

[Please read carefully the Financial aid guidelines](#)

[PLEASE REGISTER HERE BEFORE](#)



AGENDA
THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2024

9.00 – 9.30	Registration
9.30 – 10.15	<p>Welcome and opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by host and devotional • Presentation of the agenda • Introduction of participants
10.15 – 10.45	<p>Keynote speech - Theory and practice of inclusive pedagogy</p> <p><i>Bettina Baranyi</i>, School Principal of the Magyarcsanád Reformed Primary School, Mentor of the Inclusive School Program</p>
10.45 - 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 – 13.00	<p>Presentation of the Reformed Church in Hungary & the Roma Ministry</p> <p><i>Rev. Szabina Pena-Sztojka</i>, Leader of Roma Ministry <i>Andrea Milák-Ignácz</i>, Leader of Congregational Programs</p> <p>Inclusive Schools: Training for teachers working for Roma Inclusion</p> <p><i>Margit Ignácz</i>, Trainer of the Inclusive School Program</p>
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00 – 15.00	<p>Sharing best practices - Inclusive education & Community building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurodiaconia members tbc <p><i>Discussion with members</i></p>
15.00-18:00	<p>Study visit: Morning Star After School Program (Tanoda) - Kecskemét</p> <p>The Tanoda Program started informally from Church funds and later joined the state funded after school system in 2019. The afterschool is located in the area of the city where many families in vulnerable situation, offering a secure and inclusive environment where children can build friendships and develop a sense of community.</p> <p>The program focuses on developing social skills for children and offering school support, including tutoring, orientation, homework support, etc. The common goals of the program is to share Christian values and to strengthen the relationship of Roma and non-Roma communities in the congregation of Kecskemét. The members of the Roma team provide this service from a diaconal perspective, founded on equality and partnership.</p>

AGENDA
FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2024

	<p>AGENDA FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2024</p>
9.00 – 10.00	<p>Social Europe Academy - Capacity-building workshop “Tackling anti-gypsyism in diaconal service provision”</p> <p><i>Bianca Irina Cristea, Kirkens Bymisjon (Norway)</i> <i>Daniel Tesfa Salole, Kirkens Bymisjon (Norway)</i></p>
10.00-10.40	<p>Social Europe Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU• EU Policy & Funding update <p><i>Eurodiaconia</i></p>
10.40-11.00	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
11.00-13.00	<p>Co-creating recommendations & future priorities of the Roma Network</p> <p>Based on the debates of the meeting and members’ expertise, participants will work in groups on how to move forward on addressing anti-gypsyism and the role of diaconal organisations in fostering inclusive communities.</p> <p>We will also discuss about the policy priorities for the Roma Network in the upcoming year.</p> <p><i>(Facilitated by Eurodiaconia)</i></p>
13.00-14.00	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
14:00	<p>OPTIONAL VISIT: City of Budapest <i>(Facilitated by the RCH)</i></p>



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Eurodiaconia  Connecting faith
and social justice
through action



Funded by the European Commission under the ESF+ programme 2022 – 2025
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