



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

PARIS



# INVITATION



*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."*

Matthew 5  
v14&15

## INTRODUCTION

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Eurodiaconia is a network of Christian churches and organizations committed to provide social and healthcare services while also supporting social justice. Through the voice of our 61 members from 33 countries, Eurodiaconia envisions a Europe where everyone is valued, focusing on strengthening diaconal social services and addressing root causes of inequalities, poverty, and exclusion.

Diaconia brings light into darkness, brings hope where it can seem lost and brings transformation through the love of every person as a beloved creation of God. However, it is often the case that when we are asked to measure the changes our services bring and that our advocacy achieves, we are asked to focus on financial savings or number of people reached rather than the quality of the services or the wellbeing of society and individuals as a whole. Measuring hope, or feelings of value and of being loved and cared for just does not give the same 'return on investment' in our current political climate. Yet we should not allow our distinctive Christian approach, our light, be put out. We need to continue to stress impact beyond that which is human-driven but promote that which is also God-driven. Nor can we hide our light and the impact our social action achieves for communities and for people who experience challenges. What diaconia brings to society and to individuals should never be hidden and never be undervalued.

This year's theme is a comprehensive exploration of Diaconia's multiple values beyond just economic statistics, stressing the significance of diaconal work and services to not only the economy, but also to well-being, community involvement, and social inclusion. The programme offers insight into the matter "Changing Societies, Changing Lives: The Impact of Diaconia in Europe" from different angles, discussing both theoretical and practical aspects of impact measuring. Workshops will cover specific topics such as how to successfully convey the impact of services, calculate the economic return on investment, and address the difficulties of non-economically measurable components. The relevance of a person-centered approach will also be discussed, as will the spiritual dimension of Diaconia's impact. The conversations will be focused on members' experience and skills, but they will also include external speakers with expertise in impact measurement.



This year's Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante (FEP). FEP brings together and supports Protestant organisations operating in social, medical-social, and healthcare work in France. Its' 370 members (associations and foundations) provide care and assistance to over one million people in vulnerable situations. The Federation's mission is to contribute to a more just and inclusive society while combating all forms of violations of human dignity. Its spiritual roots and ethical values form the foundation of its work and give it meaning.

The AGM will begin with an evening service on 1st April and conclude with a business session around noon on 4th April. The days in between will include plenary sessions including panel discussions, study visits, workshops and time for networking.

Participants will have time to share experiences and form new relationships with other Eurodiaconia members while experiencing the French culture, by eating local cuisine, and if interested, participate in activities organised by our host, such as an afternoon walking tour to discover the bustling metropolis of France.

This annual event brings us together to foster trust and share knowledge, with discussions based on members' experience about the importance of a person-centred approach and the spiritual dimension of diaconia's impact.



# PROGRAMME OUTLINE

|           | TUESDAY                                    | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   |
|-----------|--|---|--|--|
| MORNING   |  | Registrations & welcome coffee<br><br>Morning Worship<br><br>Welcome session: Setting the scene<br><br>Panel: How do we measure impact beyond economic indicators?<br><br>Coffee break<br><br>Capacity building workshops | Morning Worship<br><br>Plenary: "In conversation with ..."<br><br>Coffee break<br><br>"Going the extra mile" workshops | Morning Worship<br><br>Business session<br><br>Closing blessing<br><br>Closing networking coffee break |
| AFTERNOON | Arrivals<br><br>Supervisory Board Meeting  | Lunch<br><br>Capacity building workshops (continuation)<br><br>Coffee break<br><br>Networking session & regional meetings   | Lunch<br><br>Study visits  | Departures   |
| Evening   | Opening service<br>Welcome drink reception | Optional walking tour (& free evening)  | Dinner   |  |

You can find the detailed [programme here on our website](#).

**Even though most panels and workshops are planned, some details might change in the coming months. Please keep an eye on our website for an updated programme.**



## REGISTRATION

Registration is now open. We encourage you to participate with as many delegates as you wish. Please register as soon as possible [via this form](#).

## ACCOMMODATION

Eurodiaconia will book hotel rooms for invited external speakers and members granted financial support. All other participants are asked to book and pay for their own accommodation. Eurodiaconia has made an agreement with [Ibis Paris Tour Eiffel Cambronne](#) to block hotel rooms for our participants on preferential rates. The hotel is 12 minutes walking distance from the conference venue (located at 2 rue Cambronne, 75015 PARIS, France). The price is 185,53 euros per night for a single standard room including VAT, breakfast and city taxes. While the initial deadline has passed, they might still have rooms available for our participants. If you wish to stay at this hotel, please make sure you reserve it as soon as possible but no later than 4th February. After this date all the rooms not yet booked will be released and the hotel will not be able to guarantee anymore neither availability nor the preferential rates.

### Reservation procedure at IBIS

Please reserve your room by sending an email to [h1400-fo2@accor.com](mailto:h1400-fo2@accor.com). Please refer to Eurodiaconia in the message and indicate **this group reference number: 286205**. The hotel will follow up with you by sending you a link to receive credit card details and to proceed with the payment of the reservation. Once the payment is made, you will receive confirmation from the hotel.

Cancellation policy: Once the reservation is confirmed and the payment made, no refund will be possible in case of cancellation.

### How to get to Ibis Paris Tour Eiffel Cambronne

•**Airport: Orly Airport** is 35 minutes away by **RER** and **metro line 6** destination to Charles de Gaulle-Etoile and **CDG Airport** is **1 hour away** by **RoissyBus** and metro line 8 destination to Balard

•**Train: 9 minutes from Gare Montparnasse** (metro line **6**), **30 minutes from Gare du Nord** (metro lines **4** and **8**) and 27 minutes from the **Gare de Lyon** (RER and metro line 6 destination to Nation)

**If you plan to request financial support from Eurodiaconia for your accommodation, please do not book your hotel room yourself. We will book and pay directly for the accommodation of supported members at the venue or a hotel close by.**



## CONFERENCE VENUE

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held at L'Enclos Rey, located at 57 Rue Violet, 75015 Paris, France.

L'Enclos Rey is a service of the Chemins d'Espérance Association, which manages around twenty nursing homes throughout the country and supports more than 1,200 vulnerable elderly people. The site is shared with the Maison Mère des Petites soeurs de l'Assomption, the owner of the premises, the headquarters of the Chemins d'Espérance Association and the Grenelle nursing home, which accommodates 125 residents.

### How to get to L'Enclos Rey

•**Airplane: Orly Airport** is 45 minutes away by RER and metro line 6 destination to Charles de Gaulle-Etoile and CDG Airport is 1 hour away by RER and metro line 10 destination to Boulogne Pont de Saint-Cloud

•**Train:** 15 minutes from **Gare Montparnasse** (metro line **6**), 30 minutes from Gare du Nord (metro lines 4 and 8) and 25 minutes from Gare de Lyon (metro lines 14 and 8)

### Venue of the opening service and the welcome drink reception

On Tuesday 1st April from 18.00 participants are invited to attend the opening service followed by a welcome drink reception at Foyer de Grenelle (17 Rue de l'Avre, 75015 Paris, France). It is 6 minutes' walk from L'Enclos Rey and IBIS hotel.

### Venue of the conference dinner

On Thursday 3rd April from 19.00 participants will be invited to a dinner hosted by FEP, at the Maison Du Protestantisme (47 rue de Clichy, 75009 Paris).

### Conference Fee

The conference fee is 350 euros. It covers attendance at the AGM, study visits, and all meals specified in the programme. It does not include accommodation and travel costs. A request for payment of the fees will be sent by the Eurodiaconia secretariat shortly after the registration has been received and must be paid by the start of the event.

Speakers invited by Eurodiaconia to contribute to a session will be exempted from the conference fee. Local (French) participant can register for a discounted rate of 100 euros.



## Support for Participation

We can provide travel and accommodation reimbursement to a limited number of members thanks to the European Union's ESF+ programme. This will be consistent with Eurodiaconia's usual rules and policies of supporting participants from Central and Eastern Europe and minority church members, based on their financial capacities.

If you would like to receive financial support to attend the conference, please register as soon as possible and indicate your needs (accommodation, travel) in the form. We will contact you after your registration. Please do not book your accommodation or flights before discussing your financial support needs with the Eurodiaconia secretariat.

## Travel

Those traveling by plane to the AGM can fly to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) or to Orly Airport (ORY). Paris is also approachable by international trains. See above how to get to the venues and the IBIS hotel with public transport.

## Entry requirements to France

Nationals from some countries may require a visa to enter France. All information on the [visa requirements can be found here](#).

If you need visa, please contact [konstantina.kinikli@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:konstantina.kinikli@eurodiaconia.org) at the Eurodiaconia secretariat. We can support your application with the necessary invitation letter. Please note that it is the participant's responsibility to apply for a visa in due time.

## Languages

The Conference language will be English.

## Optional walking tour

On Wednesday 2nd April from 18.00 we will organise an optional walking tour in the centre of Paris. Please indicate it in the registration form if you wish to participate.

## Sustainability

We will aim to have a sustainable event, as much as possible. This aspect has also played a role in selecting our event venue, we will take it into consideration when planning the meals, and like in 2024, we will aim to be paper-less, not providing print-outs or displaying printed reports.

## Contact

For further questions about the AGM, please contact our Administration and Events Officer Konstantina Kinikli at [\*\*konstantina.kinikli@eurodiaconia.org\*\*](mailto:konstantina.kinikli@eurodiaconia.org) or [consult the event website here](#).

