



**Eurodiaconia**



*Connecting faith  
and social justice  
through action*



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# WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF EURODIACONIA AND HOW TO DO IT

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March 2025



Eurodiaconia is a European network of churches and Christian NGOs providing social and healthcare services and advocating social justice.

## ORGANISATION VALUES



## OUR MISSION AND VISION

Eurodiaconia is a network of over 60 churches and Christian organisations that provide social and health care services and advocate for social justice. Together we work for just and transformative social change across Europe, leaving no one behind.

Driven by our Christian faith, our vision is of a Europe where each person is valued for their inherent God-given worth and dignity and where our societies guarantee social justice for all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalised.

## WHO WE ARE

Eurodiaconia is a European network of churches and Christian NGOs providing social and healthcare services and advocating social justice. Together, our membership represents the needs and unique experiences of over 60 national and regional organisations across 33 countries and regions in Europe, representing over 30,000 health and social service providers with more than 1 million employees. Diakonia is Greek for service, and in the biblical sense, this means service for and with people in need.

Our story began in 1997, when several diaconal organisations in Europe came together to tackle the issues and policies of the European Union and their impact on diaconal organisations. Since then, we have been registered as an NGO in Strasbourg, France, and transferred our legal entity to Belgium in 2008 as a not-for-profit international association (association internationale sans but lucratif).

## WHAT WE DO

**Strengthen Diaconal Social Services:** Strengthen diaconal service provision so as many people as possible have access to affordable, high quality and accessible social and healthcare services.

**Social Justice:** Fight for social justice by addressing the root causes of inequalities, poverty and exclusion.

**Network Identity:** Building a strong network with a clear identity.



Funded by the European Commission under the ESF+ programme 2022 – 2025.  
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## HOW WE WORK



We are a leading European network of diaconal social service and health care providers dedicated to fostering inclusion, care, and empowerment while promoting dignity for all. Through Praxis, Advocacy, and Identity, we drive positive change.

Our network meetings facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among members, partners, and experts, empowering them to shape social policies and enhance services through practical action.

We tackle critical issues like marginalisation, social exclusion, healthy ageing, elderly and long-term care, migrant and Roma inclusion, advocating for a more inclusive and equitable society at European and national levels.

Reflection on the role and identity of diaconia and Christian social practice in contemporary Europe is an integral part of our work. By adapting to evolving societal needs, we strive to make a meaningful impact and improve lives. members are churches, non-statutory welfare organisations and NGOs in Europe rooted in the Christian

## OUR MEMBERS



Our members are churches, non-statutory welfare organisations and NGOs in Europe rooted in the Christian faith within the Reformation, the Anglican and the Orthodox traditions. For more information on our members, please visit the [Eurodiaconia website](#).

Our members are the foundation of Eurodiaconia, and they play a pivotal role in shaping our organisation. They set the strategic direction at our Annual General Meeting, while the Elected Supervisory Board develops our vision. Together, we work to influence EU policies that impact the most vulnerable. Through reflection and partnerships, our members enhance their methods and advocate for socially excluded people. Solidarity, equality, and justice unite us, driving our collective efforts to create positive change and improve lives.

## WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF EURODIACONIA?

As a member of Eurodiaconia, you gain access to valuable resources and opportunities for your daily work. Our dynamic network focuses on putting the people you serve and your services at the centre of our initiatives and programme. Join our community of motivated diaconal actors to strengthen your work, contribute to the dialogue, and enhance diaconal efforts across Europe.

### We Advocate for Social Justice



Through our policy work in Brussels, Eurodiaconia advocates for social justice and empowerment by linking members' experiences and concerns with EU policies, representing the voice of social and health care service providers through a people-centred approach to policy-making and economic governance.

We cover various topics, such as extreme destitution, access to essential services, migrant inclusion, Roma inclusion, elderly and long-term care, quality social services, greening social services, and economic architecture in Europe. We also advocate for our members' interests in advancing sustainable, adequate, predictable, and accessible EU funding that addresses social cohesion and inclusion.

Your input as a member is crucial for our policy work, ensuring the voices of vulnerable populations are heard.

### **We Empower Members to Understand and Access EU Funding**

Our goal is to empower diaconal organisations and amplify their impact on social development across the continent.



The Social Europe Academy is Eurodiaconia's capacity-building programme, which builds the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of members on relevant EU policy developments and funding programmes. We support members in accessing European funding through tailor-made trainings, members' briefings, project information data-gathering, and project partnerships. We also facilitate matchmaking between members to form project consortia and provide timely information through newsletters and notifications.

### **We Facilitate Opportunities for Mutual Learning and Cooperation**

Our members provide crucial services and social innovation and have gained expertise through their rich and long experience in social economy, cohesion, and inclusion. At the same time, European society is rapidly changing, with new needs and social demands alongside technological developments that necessitate innovation and new ways of working. We provide spaces and opportunities for members to learn from each other and explore ways to adopt, scale-up, and innovate social services and health care provision.



### **We Support Diaconal Identity in a Changing Context**

Diaconia in Europe today blends traditional care values with modern social advocacy, striving to promote human dignity, social justice, and solidarity across increasingly diverse societies. Eurodiaconia supports members in retaining their diaconal identity in an ever-changing context such as pressures on funding, sustainability of services and having a much more diverse staff profile.



Additionally, we support academic and theological research in diaconia by looking into Christian churches' approach to social action and justice and how faith shapes social engagement such as through the "International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice" (ReDi) and through close cooperation in the publication of the academic journal "Diaconia: Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice".

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF EURODIACONIA

The Association is open to any general diaconal organisation and/or to any individual who has an interest in diaconia. There are three (3) membership categories in Eurodiaconia: 1) Full Members, 2) Associate Members, and 3) Individual Supporters.

### Application Process

Joining Eurodiaconia is a simple and transparent process.



1. The criteria for membership and rights and duties of members are stated in our Statutes, which you can access here. Our Statutes are complemented by our Internal Rules to support the day to day running of Eurodiaconia. Please read them carefully.

2. Once you have confirmed that your organisation meets the membership criteria for a particular membership category, you can request a copy of the application form from the Secretariat via [office@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:office@eurodiaconia.org) or [communications@eurodiaconia.org](mailto:communications@eurodiaconia.org).

3. The Secretariat may ask for an initial meeting to discuss the application process with you. You may contact Eurodiaconia's membership officer if you have questions on the information being asked in the application form or for further guidance.

4. You can then submit your filled out application form to Eurodiaconia's **Membership Officer** if it is electronically signed (legally binding) or send it via post to the Eurodiaconia office: **Rue Joseph II 166, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.**

5. Upon receiving your application, the Secretariat will review it and may contact you for additional information.

6. A recommendation will then be presented to the Supervisory Board of Eurodiaconia for decision.

7. Throughout the process, potential members will be kept informed, and a decision can typically be expected within three to four months from the date of application.

### Membership Fees

According to Article 8 of the Eurodiaconia Statutes, each member is required to pay a yearly membership fee. The amount of the annual membership fee is determined by the General Meeting based on a proposal from the Supervisory Board. The current membership fee is set at EUR 1 600 and is adjusted based on the region's GDP per person, using GDP statistics obtained from the European Union Eurostat service.



In case a member is an umbrella platform that brings together multiple organisations, an additional levy is imposed on the umbrella organisation for each of its component organisations. For example, if an organisation has five (5) members, it will pay the membership fee adjusted by GDP, along with an additional levy for each of its component members. a member of Eurodiaconia, you gain access to valuable.