

Invitation to Participate!

International Peer Learning Programme Finding tangible hope in demanding times

For social, diaconal and youth workers working alongside affected people and communities

Invitation

Across Europe and beyond, many practitioners are working in communities affected by poverty, exclusion, loneliness, migration, conflict, polarisation, social pressure or fatigue. The contexts may be different, but many of the questions which arise are similar:

- How do we stay hopeful when the work is demanding and when contextual changes affect us in our role and in our personal life?
- How do we remain open, humane and creative in situations of pressure or conflict?
- How can our everyday practice of engagement with marginalised people become a place where dignity, solidarity, peace and hope are made tangible?

This international peer learning programme offers a small, reflective and supportive space to address these questions in a dialogical learning with practitioners from other countries. Through experience sharing we will aim to explore how hope can become concrete in everyday relationships, in communities and through action.

Why this programme?

Practitioners often work close to people whose lives are shaped by uncertainty, vulnerability or injustice. In such contexts, hope cannot remain an abstract idea. It needs to become visible and tangible in the way we listen, accompany, build relationships, organise, resist and care.

This programme invites participants to pause, reflect and learn together. It creates space to step back from daily pressures, to be resourced by others, and to discover new language and imagination for practice.

The programme is based on the idea of **tangible hope**: hope that is rooted in lived experience, shared practice and concrete relationships. It also explores **imaginative peacebuilding**: the small but meaningful ways in which people co-create dignity, reciprocity, compassion and transformation in everyday life.

Who is this Programme for?

Programme Participants should be:

- committed to working with people who directly with people and groups who are marginalised,
- searching for new ways of meaningful presence and relationship building in local practice,
- open to challenging questions and exploring new forms of professionalism.

What will you gain?

By taking part, you will have the opportunity to:

- meet and learn with practitioners from different countries and contexts;
- recognise shared questions and concerns across different social, diaconal, pastoral and community practices;
- reflect on your own personal and professional journey as a source of resilience and hope;
- explore how tangible hope can take shape in your daily work;

- connect everyday practice with themes of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, human dignity and social change;
- share questions, ideas, imaginative practice and resources with a supportive peer group;
- strengthen your own resourcefulness, self-compassion and spiritual grounding in demanding times.

How will we work?

The programme uses a participatory peer learning approach. Each session will include short thematic input, personal reflection, dialogue and small-group sharing. Participants will be invited to bring their own practice, questions, experiences and co-shape the learning process.

Between sessions, there will be small practice-focused tasks to support reflection and learning.

The programme will pay careful attention to creating a safe and confidential learning environment. The group will agree together how participants want to interact, listen and share with one another. Self-compassion, mindful self-care and spiritual reflection will be part of the learning process.

What themes will we explore?

The programme will include reflection on:

- personal biography as a source of perspective on resilience and hope;
- tangible hope in everyday practice;
- imaginative and everyday peacebuilding;
- conflict transformation and human dignity;
- compassion and self-care overcoming fatigue;
- participatory practice and transformative social change;
- rebuilding reciprocity and solidarity in local communities.

Programme Leader:

The programme will be led by **Oksana Prosvirnina**. Oksana is currently employed as a teacher within the staff team at Luther King College in Manchester and is nearing completion of a higher degree in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester.

She is a coordinator of the CODE Forum Webinars on International Diakonia. Oksana has extensive experience in leading and facilitating participatory learning programmes with international groups of local practitioners.

Practical information:

The programme consists of eight weekly online meetings, beginning on **1 October 2026** and continuing on the following dates: October 8th, 15th, 22nd, November 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th.

- ✓ The session length is maximum 2 hours including a short break.
- ✓ Regular attendance is expected, as the programme is based on trust, continuity and peer learning.
- ✓ The programme will take place online via Zoom.
- ✓ The language of the programme is English.
- ✓ The programme is offered free of charge, thanks to funding from the Susanna Wesley Foundation.

If you have questions, please contact Oksana Prosvirnina at: oksana.prosvirnina@outlook.com

Applications:

To apply, please complete the registration form before **September 25th** here:

<https://forms.gle/LXUqVWuTdnanZ7Nk6>