

# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY

## Challenges we are living in



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### PROGRAMME

| Time (CEST)   | Monday, 13 June                            | Tuesday, 14 June  | Wednesday, 15 June  |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| 10:00 – 10:30 |  | <b>Welcome and introduction</b><br><b>Opening prayer</b>  | <b>Welcome to the day</b><br><b>Morning prayer</b>  |
| 10:30 – 12:00 |  | <b>Session 1:</b><br><b>Theological perspective of the current ecological challenges</b><br><i>Speakers:</i><br>Archbishop K.G.Hammar (Church of Sweden)<br>Dr. Ruth Valerio (Global Advocacy and Influencing Director, Tearfund)<br><br><i>Keynote presentations</i>   | <b>Session 4:</b><br><b>Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity - care for creation in the agenda of WCC Assembly 2022</b><br><i>Panel discussion with:</i><br>Athena Peralta, WCC Climate Change group,<br>Beate Fagerli, Church of Norway<br>Dinesh Suha, WCC Assembly planning group<br>Marc Witzenbacher, WCC Assembly planning group   |
| 14:00 – 15:30 |  | <b>Session 2:</b><br><b>Challenges we are living in: What did we learn from the pandemic? How to react to demands of energy security? Growing vulnerability to climate change. Advocacy and dialogue of churches with politics</b><br><i>Panel discussion with:</i><br>Sirpa Pietikainen, MEP (Finland)<br>Martin Hojsik, MEP (Slovakia)<br>Dave Bookless, Director of Theology, A Rocha International<br>Kees Nieuwerth, Moderator of the CEC thematic group on a sustainable future | <b>Session 5:</b><br><b>Announcement of the winner of the Roman Juriga Award 2022;</b><br><i>Announcement of the winner and the presentation of the winning project</i><br><br><b>Climate Justice - A concern of ecumenical youth</b><br><i>Contributions from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe</li> <li>• World Student Christian Federation - Europe region</li> <li>• UK Young Christian Climate Network</li> </ul>  |
| 16:00 – 17:30 |  | <b>Session 3:</b><br><b>Future of ECEN</b><br><i>Discussion with inputs by:</i><br>Jørgen Skov Sørensen, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches<br>Henrik Grape & Stephen Taylor, ECEN<br><br><b>Election of the ECEN Enabling team</b>   | <b>Session 6:</b><br><b>Every part of creation matters</b><br><b>Panel on green theology and projects with engagement of churches in Europe</b><br><i>Contributions from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Season of creation 2022 - Chad Rimmer &amp; Cecilia Dall'Oglio</li> <li>• Sustainable preaching - Hubert Meissinger</li> <li>• Walk for Future - Walk for the Climate; Annika Spalde</li> <li>• Every part of creation matters - a document of the Conference of European Churches: Sofia Larsen-Kure &amp; Adrian Shaw</li> </ul> |
| 19:00 – 20:00 | <b>Open space for sharing and exchange</b> | <b>Open space for sharing and exchange</b>  | <b>Closing of the Assembly</b>  |

# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

13 June, 19:00-20:00 CEST

## OPEN SPACE

### Sharing and exchanging

The Assembly offers a space for an exchange of thoughts, ideas, experiences and best practices with each other.

The evening session before the official opening of the event invites participants to an informal discussion, sharing and getting to know each other.



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# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

14 June, 10:00-10:30 CEST

## OPENING

- Welcome
- Short introduction of ECEN
- Introduction to the Assembly and its programme
- Opening prayer

Moderation: Per Ivar Våje, Moderator of the ECEN Enabling team  
Peter Pavlovic, ECEN secretary



# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

## 14 June, 10:30-12:00 CEST

### SESSION 1

#### ***Theological perspective of the current ecological challenges***

Vulnerability to climate change, as underlined by the last report of the IPCC, as well as impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and newly sparked discussion about energy security, open new perspectives on the challenges in which we are living. The work and response of churches to these challenges is determining not only the character of these changes and the new urgency through which we are speaking, but equally the theological perspective from which churches can address the challenges with specific church instruments.

Ecological concerns and questions of a sustainable future are increasingly loaded with existential concerns. A number churches and faith communities are engaged in practical steps to take care of creation. There is an increasing interest of theologians, as well as non-theologians, in eco-theology.

- What are critical parameters in the link between ecological and theological concerns?
- How can eco-theology help to inspire concrete work of churches in care for creation?
- What language should the theology of 21st century use to offer inspiration and a sound theological basis for engagement of Christians in care for creation, and addressing these concerns in cooperation with civil society partners and in a dialogue with politics?

#### ***Keynote speakers:***

- Archbishop K. G. Hammar (Church of Sweden)
- Dr Ruth Valerio (Global Advocacy and Influencing Director, Tearfund)

Format of the session: Presentations of keynote speakers followed by the discussion and reactions to questions from audience.

Moderator: Stephen Taylor, Church of England



# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

## 14 June, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### SESSION 2

#### ***Challenges we are living in: What did we learn from the pandemic? How to react to demands of energy security? Growing vulnerability to climate change - Advocacy and dialogue of churches with politics***

Impacts of the pandemic reveal new accents on our vulnerability, the sudden outbreak of the war in Ukraine and consequences on energy security and energy poverty, as well as new volumes of the IPCC report that highlight once again human vulnerability to climate change and the urgent need to upscale the efforts for adaptation and open new perspectives on the challenges in which we live. Growing climate concerns and addressing an increasing number of people are now understood in a new light with increased urgency. In view of this, questions such as: what have we learnt from the pandemic?, how to react to growing vulnerability to climate change? reveal lessons which should not be overlooked.

Churches in many parts of the continent are intensively engaged in addressing climate justice and climate-related questions. How can the dialogue of civil society with politics move forward an effective way to address of these concerns?

The aim of the session is to focus on concerns related to the new IPCC report, outcomes of COP26, European Green Deal, impacts of the corona pandemic, and different aspects of a dialogue between churches and politics and science in addressing climate change.

- How to react to growing vulnerability to climate change? How to address energy security and energy poverty?
- What concrete measures in the European Green Deal are enabling participation of citizens and advancing their inspiration for the project?
- Can Christian values enrich the ambitions of the European Green Deal?
- What would politics expect from civil society, churches and faith communities on the way to a sustainable future?

#### ***Speakers:***

- Sirpa Pietikainen, MEP (Finland)
- Martin Hojsik, MEP (Slovakia)
- Dave Bookless, Director of Theology, A Rocha International
- Kees Nieuwerth, Moderator of the CEC thematic group on a sustainable future

Format of the session: Inputs of panellists followed by the discussion and reactions to questions from audience.  
Moderator: Peter Pavlovic, ECEN Secretary



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# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

## 14 June, 16:00-17:30 CEST

### SESSION 3

#### ***Future of ECEN and Election of the ECEN Enabling team***

The decision of CEC to end its cooperation with ECEN in the current format raises a number of challenges for the future of ECEN, as well as for the future shape of the ecumenical work on care for creation. ECEN is facing questions that will determine its future existence.

On the one hand, in over 20 years of its existence, ECEN has been instrumental in initiating and inspiring work on care for creation in many churches across the continent. ECEN has offered a platform for sharing, exchanging experience and mutual support - especially for minority churches and churches in the south and east of the continent. Through its work on green theology, support of Season of Creation, and feeding into the churches' work on advocacy, ECEN has significantly contributed to developing churches' sensitivity and concrete work in addressing climate justice and the impact of climate change.

On the other hand, a growing number of churches in Europe are now in a position to develop work on care for creation on their own.

- Is there still need for ecumenical networking on care for creation?
- How can ECEN continue to serve churches in Europe?
- What do they expect from ECEN?
- Is there a continuing commitment of churches in supporting ecumenical work on care for creation, climate justice and a sustainable future?

Inputs for the discussion will be offered by

- Jørgen Skov Sørensen, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches
- Henrik Grape & Stephen Taylor, ECEN

Discussion will be followed by the election of the ECEN Enabling team leading ECEN in the next period of time.

Format of the session: Presentation followed by the discussion in small groups and in the plenary. In the second part of the session elections.

Moderator: Martyn Goss



# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

14 June, 19:00-20:00 CET

## OPEN SPACE

### *Sharing and exchanging*

The day concludes with an open space where we welcome you to come and share and exchange your thoughts, ideas and best practices with each other.



# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

15 June, 10:00-10:30 CEST

## WARM UP & MORNING PRAYER

- Welcome to the day
- Morning prayer prepared by ecumenical youth





# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

## 15 June, 10:30-12:00 CEST

### SESSION 4

#### ***Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity - care for creation in the agenda of WCC Assembly 2022***

The ECEN Assembly will be an opportunity to relate the work of European churches in ecology and care for creation to the 2022 Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe. Partnership and close cooperation between ECEN and WCC has been successfully developing for years. The WCC Assembly in Europe, the first in Europe in more than 5 decades, offers a unique opportunity to manifest a close link and the support of European churches to the Assembly in many ways. ECEN has an ambition to emphasise this link by highlighting joint efforts of churches in Europe and WCC in works on care for creation and ecological justice, and contribute to a meaningful way leading to the WCC Assembly 2022 through this conference .

The aim of the session is:

- To offer information about care for creation in the agenda of the WCC Assembly 2022
- To express an expectation of churches in Europe by addressing these concerns in the WCC Assembly
- To demonstrate engagement which can be offered as an inspiration and contribution to the WCC Assembly.

#### **Panel discussion with:**

- o Athena Peralta, WCC Climate Change group
- o Beate Fagerli, Church of Norway
- o Dinesh Suna, WCC Assembly planning group
- o Marc Witzenbacher, WCC Assembly planning group

Format of the session: Inputs from panellists followed by the discussion and reactions to questions from audience.

Moderator: Henrik Grape, Church of Sweden



# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

## 15 June, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### SESSION 5

#### ***Announcement of the winner of the Roman Juriga Award 2022***

*Announcement of the winners and the presentation of the winning projects*

The Roman Juriga Award was set up by ECEN to highlight the best efforts in churches' projects in the care for creation. The session will be an opportunity for announcement of the winners of the 2022 Award and for the presentation of the winning projects.

#### ***Climate Justice - A Concern of Ecumenical Youth***

Climate change and climate justice are closely related to concerns about a sustainable future and overall concerns of youth. The session is the result of a close cooperation of ECEN with ecumenical youth organisations. EYCE, WSCF-E and UK Young Christian Climate Network will share their experience of work on climate justice. The voice of youth will be an opportunity to get into a conversation with participants of the event on re-engaging the conversation about the emergency situation in which we live and how to keep hope in spite growing tensions and challenges.

#### **Topics:**

- What is your experience from engaging on climate justice that you would want to share with others?
- What is missing in big political initiatives addressing climate change and the need for transition?
- What is missing in churches' engagement in addressing care for creation and a wish for a sustainable future?
- How would you increase the engagement of youth?

#### *Contributions from:*

- Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe
- World Student Christian Federation - Europe region
- UK Young Christian Climate Network

Format of the session: Presentation of the winning projects of RJA 2022 and inputs from panellists representing ecumenical youth organisations, followed by the discussion.

Moderator: Per Ivar Våje, Church of Norway and Eszter Kodácsy-Simon, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary



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# 2022 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

15 June, 16:00-17:30 CEST

## SESSION 6

### ***Every part of creation matters - Panel on green theology and upcoming projects with engagement of churches in Europe***

Climate justice, care for creation and our engagement for a sustainable future are long-term engagements. What are challenges ahead of us in coming weeks and months that will shape our attention? What can we expect from them? And can we contribute to them - as individuals, as members of our churches and parishes? How can we improve our cooperation in sharing and expressing our common concerns?

The ECEN Assembly will offer a space for an exchange on several of these challenges in order to discuss their relevance for everyday life, as well as a possibility how to get engaged.

- **Season of Creation 2022** - Care for creation along with invitations to action, invitation to prayer and worship. Ecumenical initiative on Season of Creation invites us to join specific prayers for creation from 1 September - 4 October.  
Speakers: Chad Rimmer, Lutheran World Federation and Cecilia Dall'Oglio, Global Catholic Climate Movement
- **Sustainable preaching** - A successful project helping people to change their lifestyle and mentality from consumerism to respecting limited earth resources and respecting the premise of long-term sustainability:  
Speaker: Hubert Meisinger, Sustainable preaching project
- **Walk for Future** - Walk for climate! How far are you prepared to go for a sustainable planet? An inspiration from a walk in international journey.  
Speaker: Annika Spalde, Pilgrim's walk for future
- **Every part of creation matters** - A document from the Conference of European Churches.  
Speaker: Sofia Larsen-Kure and Adrian Shaw, CEC Thematic group Economic and ecological justice and sustainable future

### **Closing of the Assembly**

Moderator: Per Ivar Våje, Church of Norway



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