

# How to become a member

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*We're a network of Christian NGO's addressing poverty and inequality through relief, development and advocacy actions*



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## Steps for Applicants

If you think that EU-CORD could be the right network for your organisation and you would like to start a formal dialogue with us then:

1. Complete the application form which enables you to assess organisation against our membership criteria. Send the form to EU-CORD Director Ruth Faber ([ruth.faber@eu-cord.org](mailto:ruth.faber@eu-cord.org)) along with a copy of your most recent Annual Report.
2. The Director will then carry out an initial review of your organisation to check basic eligibility against the criteria (at this stage you may be asked for some additional information).
3. A meeting will then be organised, ideally at your office, in order to learn more about each other and to clarify any outstanding questions.
4. If everything goes well, and consultations amongst Members are positive then the final step in the process will be for you to present your organisation at the EU-CORD General Assembly (which is held twice a year).

## Network Concept

We are a member-led network with the actions of the network formulated and implemented by its members, facilitated by a small Brussels based Secretariat.

- The benefits to members of belonging to the network include:
- Participation and linking
- Shared space for exchange, learning and development
- Actions for change: advocacy Diversity of members, but with a common foundation and purpose

Being member-led the value of the network aims to link people together, developing trusting relationships. But this relies on:

- Voluntary participation and commitment of members
- The input of resources by members for the benefit of all

## Vision and Goal

Our *vision*: 'an inclusive world free of poverty and suffering achieved together through shared competence'

Our **goal** as members of EU-CORD is, **‘through mutual cooperation, to make a significant and recognisable contribution towards the eradication of poverty and social exclusion, and to enable the voice of people living in poverty to be heard.’**

### Core Values

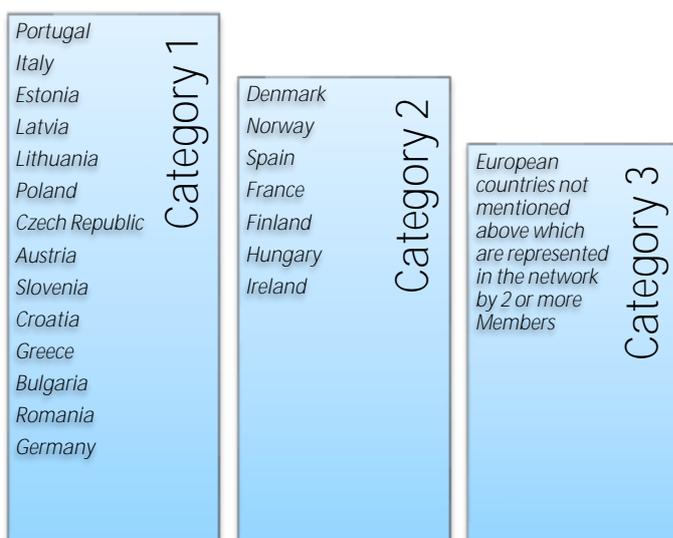
The network is defined by the quality of its **relationships** and the degree to which Members **co-operate**, helping each other to establish good practice and **quality** in all areas of work. This goal will be achieved in a spirit of **servant-hood**, strengthening and supporting each other while respecting **each agency’s specific identity**. The network is committed to working according to **Christian** ethics as well as promoting **integrity; accountability** and a **professional** standard of work that remains rooted in **compassion**. The network is **inclusive** in its approach and we stand alongside those who campaign for social, economic and environment **justice**.

## Membership

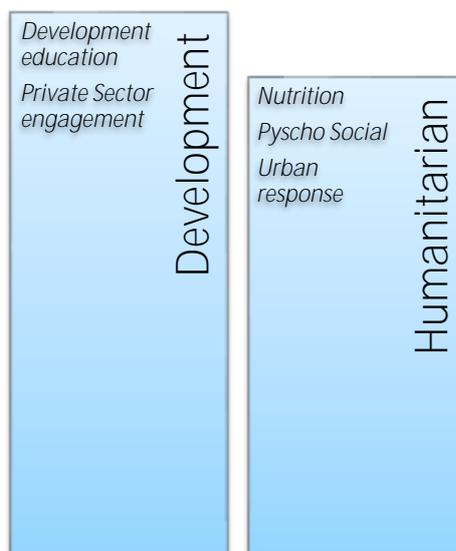
The network should have the right mix of skills and abilities amongst its members in order to achieve its goals. On an annual basis we will review the current membership balance, and based on the network strategy determine whether or not new members need to be identified. New members should enhance the quality and depth of the network, and maintain a good balance of humanitarian, development and specialist agencies.

The network is currently looking for members who are able to contribute the following:

Geographic Balance: the network is actively seeking Members from Category 1 (no current representation) and Category 2 countries (currently only 1 Member). Applicants falling into Category 3 would only be considered if they brought a specific technical expertise to the network.



Thematic Balance: agencies with expertise in the following areas are currently prioritised by the network.



## Criteria for Membership

### Final Decision Making Criteria

The final decision on accepting new members into the network is taken by the membership at the General Assembly (G.A). In addition to reviewing the basic criteria for membership, the G.A also considers the following factors, that:

- The applicant will enhance the quality depth of the network
- The network maintains a good balance of humanitarian, development and specialist agencies
- The quality and depth of the relationship between members can be maintained/supported
- There is a broad geographic spread of its members both within Europe and country programming

### Criteria for Membership

1. Independent Christian agencies with an international agenda whose primary aim is the eradication of poverty and social exclusion through activities relating to international development, emergency relief, advocacy and development education.
2. European (not restricted to Member States of the EU).

The issue of European identity is of fundamental importance to the EU-CORD network. Whether or not an agency satisfies the requirement of having a European identity will be determined by a combination of the following factors:

- i. *Minimum 25% of their funding derives from the European public and European Governments (so creating accountability within Europe)*
- ii. *Whether a majority of their Board members are European*
- iii. ***Whether the organisation's Head Office is situated in Europe***

*The decision as to whether a prospective member has adequately demonstrated a European identity rests solely with the members of EU-CORD meeting in General Assembly.*

3. *Committed to*
  - ***Christian ethics and values as shown in the organisation's mission and vision statements***
  - *Helping other members to achieve best practice*
  
4. *Demonstrates a commitment to quality and accountability by:*
  - I. *Signing the EU-CORD Statement of Quality Assurance which holds Members accountable to minimum standards in the delivery of development, humanitarian action and communications activities.*
  - II. *Presenting their approach to quality management*
  
5. *An independent organisation that is able to demonstrate that it:*
  - i. *maintains its own operations to address poverty rather than simply acting as a fundraising subsidiary of a parent organisation*
  - ii. *has its own independent governance structure (Board of Trustees or Directors)*
  - iii. *does not have exclusive agreements restricting its operations to a certain family that is not within the EU-CORD network*
  
6. *An agency that has other affiliations must accept that membership of EU-CORD is exclusive to itself and does not confer any rights on any affiliates. If any affiliated agency wishes to benefit from membership of EU-CORD, they must apply in their own right and on their own merit.*
  
7. *Has a good reputation among other EU-CORD members especially peer agencies from their own country.*

## EU-CORD Statement of Quality Assurance

We agree to adhere to the following standards in our work.

### Development

- [Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness](#),
- [NDGO Charter](#): Basic Principles of Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs in the European Union

### Humanitarian

- [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#)
- [The Sphere Project](#): Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards

### Communication

- [Code of Conduct on Messages and Images, CONCORD](#)

We are committed to the principles of the following:

- [People in Aid](#) Code of Good Practice in the management and support of aid personnel in areas of health and safety, diversity and equality.
- [Humanitarian Accountability Partnership](#)

All activities of member organisations will therefore be undertaken with respect to these principles.

As members of EU-CORD we recognise that to realise our goal of making a significant and recognisable contribution towards the eradication of poverty and social exclusion we must invest time and resources in promoting quality in our work. We have a responsibility to be informed about current good practice in the sectors in which we work. As part of our membership of EU-CORD we make a collective commitment to becoming quality organisations providing evidence of:

- Quality in results
- Quality in processes
- Quality in monitoring and accountability
- Quality in relationships and communications

In this respect we are each committed to learning from our work to ensure a process of continuous improvement in all that we do.

- Finding ways to share our learning with each other so that all members of the network have the opportunity to improve the effectiveness of their work
- Being accountable and transparent towards our beneficiaries, supporters, donors and staff.
- Providing mutual assurance to each other to ensure that the reputation of EU-CORD for manifesting quality in the work of its members is enhanced

Thus we ensure that our Christian ethos is outworked in a framework of good practice.