

Become an EU-CORD Member



Contents

Network Concept.....	2
Vision and Goal	3
Membership Options.....	3
Criteria for Membership	4
EU-CORD Statement of Quality Assurance	5
Membership Agreement.....	6
Financial Obligation	9

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 your organisation against our membership criteria. Send the form to EU-CORD's CEO Ruth Faber (ruth.faber@eu-cord.org) along with a copy of your most recent Annual Report.
2. If there is good alignment, a meeting will then be organised, ideally at your office, to learn more about each other and to clarify any outstanding questions.
3. Following this meeting, there will be a recommendation made to the Administrative Council (executive body of the General Assembly)
4. If the decision is to go ahead, the applicant makes a formal presentation of their organisations to the membership-taskforce or the Administrative Council either in-person or virtually.
5. The Membership Taskforce will present recommendations to the Admin Council (e.g. to accept as a member, affiliate, associate or observer) with or without qualifications. The Admin Council agree on a position to be proposed to the General Assembly.
6. The Membership votes whether or not to accept the position.
7. The applicant is accepted as a member (or associate, affiliate, observer) in the network and presents themselves in that capacity at the next General Assembly meeting.

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**: 'a world without poverty, where people are no longer excluded and all have a voice in shaping the future.'

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. The network is **inclusive** in its approach to potential members with clearly defined criteria and applicant process.

Membership Options

There are four type of membersip: Member, Associate Member, Affiliate Member and Observer.

- The standard membership option is that of **Member** this is an organisation that fulfils the membership criteria and is subsequently approved by the General Assembly.
- An **Associate Member** is an organisation that shares a similar mission and vision and adopts similar strategies as Members but does not strictly meet the criteria to become a Full Member.

Associate Members, have equal status to Full Members, but have no General Assembly voting rights and are not electable into the Administrative Council (AC). The Associate Membership fee is equal to the Full Membership fee. Associate Members have access to the General Assembly as well as to all thematic working groups and other meetings.

- An **Affiliate Member** is an organisation which is an affiliate of an EU-CORD member. The largest (€) of the family should be the EU-CORD Member. Any organisation retains the right for membership of the network in its own right and potential affiliates should discuss the right approach internally before approaching the Secretariat. There may be different approaches for different affiliates. The affiliate makes a flate-rate contribution to EU-CORD's budget of either €250 or €500 per year;

has full access to all working structures but does not have voting rights and cannot sit on the Administrative Council.

- An **Observer** is an organisation that has a different mission and vision and core business as Full Members but has valuable contributions to make to the mission, vision and strategies of the network's members.

Criteria for Membership

Final Decision-Making Criteria

The final decision on accepting new members into the network is taken by the membership. In addition to reviewing the basic criteria for membership, the following factors are also considered, 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).

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.

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

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
5. 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.
 6. 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 as appropriate given our mandate:

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](#)
- [Core Humanitarian Standard](#)

Communication

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

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.

Membership Agreement

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

The network is defined by the quality of its relationships and the degree to which Members cooperate, 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.

As a member of EU-CORD we:

- Contribute to the development and outworking of the EU-CORD vision through the theory of change and strategic plan
- Abide by the Statutes, Members Guide and other internal rules setting out how the network functions
- Participate in, and abide by the governing decisions of the General Assembly
- Actively participate in the work of the network
- Share knowledge and expertise
- Uphold the values of the network
- Strive to uphold each other in prayer and offer mutual support

These are presented in the following documents which form an integral part of the covenant package:

- EU-CORD Theory of Change
- Strategic Plan
- Members Guide (internal rules)
- EU-CORD Statutes
- Data Protection Policy

As EU-CORD members we collaborate in the following 3 main areas:

1: Sharing Knowledge

We are improving practice and capacity. Ours is a rapidly changing sector in which there is a continual drive for improvement. As we deal with increasing amounts of complexity, we find that by sharing openly of our different areas of expertise we can help each other to develop.

2: Mobilising Resources

We are making an impact. We aim to make the most of the opportunities that exist for project funding and joint programming. We do this by sharing information on funding available from institutional donors, foundations and the private sector – identifying what we can do together to bring scale, expertise and impact.

3: Influencing Change

We're influencing change. If we want to achieve our vision of a world without poverty, then we need to tackle the structural issues that contribute to exacerbating inequalities in our world. We want to see change, and we believe that change is possible. We work in partnership with others who are advocating for global social, economic and environmental justice. As well as building the capacity of local partners to work on advocacy issues in their contexts.

EU-CORD members bear a responsibility to act as ambassadors for the network in terms of their general conduct when engaging with, or on behalf of, the network. The content of communication and representation, in its various forms, should be appropriate and in-line with our values.

As a member, you also give consent for the Secretariat to collect and use organisational and personal data for the legitimate interest of facilitating the work of the network as set out in the data protection policy. This includes but is not limited to:

- Transmission of personal data within a group of undertakings for internal administrative purposes, including client and employee data
- Communication activities
- Linking members together for common work
- Responding to public enquiries
- Facilitation and administration of network events

Members also agree to take a principled and common-sense approach to sensitive information shared internally. This includes but is not limited to strategic approaches; meeting minutes/reports; presentations and information requests.

The covenant recognises that for everything there is a season. If the organisation no longer wishes to be a part of the network, a minimum notice period of 1-year will be given.

Financial Obligation

The network is wholly funded by membership fees. Fees are allocated proportionally to members based on an average of the 3-year turnover the amounts vary year-on-year depending on the budget and changes to the membership. There is an upper and lower amount.

The budget is approved by the General Assembly. A Joining Fee of €500 per year is charged to new members for the first three years of membership years in addition to the sub. This is for investments rather than running costs.

What can you expect to contribute? Members and Associate Members.

For a rough calculation you can take your annual turnover for last year and see where you are placed in the membership fee scale.

Member	3 Year Average	Annual Subscription
Member	298,725	500
Member	893,367	842
Member	1,026,185	967
Member	1,834,064	1,728
Member	2,318,281	2,184
Member	2,601,899	2,452
Member	3,141,757	2,960
Member	4,733,610	4,460
Member	6,495,974	6,121
Member	7,587,869	7,150
Member	9,115,083	8,589
Member	9,167,923	8,638
Member	10,341,347	9,744
Member	11,251,264	10,601
Member	18,308,440	17,251
Member	19,031,877	17,932
Member	27,405,083	20,328

Become an EU-CORD Member

