**Conference of European Churches 2018 General Assembly**

 ***You shall be my witnesses*, Acts 1:8**

**Stewards Programme**

**Novi Sad, Serbia, 28 May-6 June 2018**

**What is a General Assembly?**

The General Assembly is the largest gathering of the Conference of European Churches with the highest authority. The goal of the General Assembly is to evaluate the progress made by the Conference in achieving the strategic objectives as agreed by the previous ordinary General Assembly and to decide upon new or revised strategic objectives for future work. Participants to the General Assembly are delegates of the Member Churches of the Conference of European Churches as well as participants without voting rights who are invited in an advisory capacity.

Central to the running and life of the General Assembly are worship, the study of the Bible, thematic plenary sessions, workshops and hearing sessions that relate to the main thematic areas of the Assembly: *Witness*, *Justice*, *Hospitality*.

**What is the Stewards’ Programme?**

The Stewards’ Programme is an intensive training programme for young adults that is meant to strengthen the ecumenical formation of participants by exposing them to the development of ecumenical relations in Europe.

Further, the Stewards’ Programme is of the highest importance for the overall smooth running of the General Assembly as stewards assist in different areas of work: common prayer, documentation, communications, language services, floor management.

The Stewards Programme begins before the Assembly as a short ecumenical formation programme focusing on Europe, which is offered also to young adults and youth advisors participating in the General Assembly. The Stewards Programme runs throughout the Assembly, as stewards are assisting the smooth running of the Assembly in different capacities.

**What is unique about this Programme?**

Apart from providing practical information on the life and running of the General Assembly, the Programme will ensure the sufficient participation of young adults by providing space and time for them to engage in the deliberations of the General Assembly. The goal is to enrich discussions of the General Assembly with perspectives of different generations. The Youth Pre-Assembly event will foster reflection and expertise of young participants and prepare the Plenary of young adults that will take place during the General Assembly.

**Am I eligible to apply?**

If you are between 18 and 30 years old, and have a strong interest in ecumenical work, you are eligible to apply! Sufficient knowledge of English is a requirement as this is the working language of the programme. Be prepared to work for long hours in a team of people from a variety of cultural and church backgrounds!

**Who covers my expenses?**

The Conference of European Churches will be responsible for board and lodging expenses and provide pocket money during the programme. Travel costs, passport, visa and any other personal related expenses are to be borne by the steward. Applicants are kindly requested to apply to their Church, local parish and/or diocese, and National Council of Churches for funding. In case they fail to raise funds, they should contact the Conference of European Churches.

**How can I complete and submit my application?**

Please download the application form and complete all four sections. In support of your application, you need to provide a recommendation letter by your church leadership, together with a copy of your passport of national ID.

Please send your application to: **stewards2018@cec-kek.be**.

**When is the deadline for submission of my application?**

The deadline for applications is **15 December 2017**

For any questions, do not hesitate to contact:

**Ms Maria Mountraki**

**Stewards Programme Coordinator**

**Conference of European Churches**

**Rue Joseph II 174**

**1000 Brussels**

**Belgium**
**Email:** **stewards2018@cec-kek.be**

**Follow-up**

After the General Assembly stewards are expected to implement an ecumenical project or action related to the theme of the Assembly in their local church and/or academic community. Proposals for projects and planning will be considered and discussed during the Stewards’ Programme.