

2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY

31st May & 1st June

WEBINAR

[Register for the conference](#)

Reconciled with Creation: A Call for Urgent Action on Climate and Biodiversity

The Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) will be held in 6 online sessions from **31 May to 1 June 2021**.

The ECEN Assembly will explore responses to climate change and efforts for a sustainable future linked to an ethical dimension and broader questions of individual and collective freedom, as well as pursuing justice and responsibility for future. Churches in Europe are increasingly engaged in responding to these challenges. Care for creation has, in recent years, become a visible part of the church identity. Exchange of experiences, networking and mutual support in enhancing efforts to protect the creation will remain in focus at the ECEN Assembly.

The ECEN Assembly will highlight practices from European churches leading to a sustainable future and supportive governance. The first day of the Assembly will feature a session for open dialogue and sharing. Youth will actively participate in the ECEN Assembly, with close cooperation and engagement in the preparations and Assembly process.

The European Christian Environmental Network provides a Europe-wide platform for cooperation among churches in responding to environmental challenges and protecting the creation.

Topics include:

- *Does Climate Change and Sustainable Future Pose a Particular Theological Concern?*
- *The European Green Deal and the Role of Churches*
- *Networking and Cooperation in Responding to Challenges of Ecology*
- *Churches' Action and Commitment in Responding to Climate Change*
- *Climate Justice – Concern of Ecumenical Youth*

Keynote Speakers:

- Bishop Jochen Cornelius-Bundschuh, Evangelical Church in Baden
- Archbishop Job of Telmessos, Ecumenical Patriarchate

Panel discussions with:

- Members of European Parliament Jutte Guteland and Sven Giegold
- Youth
- Civil society organisations
- Representatives of church-related projects in care for creation



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2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY

Reconciled with Creation: A Call for Urgent Action on Climate and Biodiversity



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WEBINAR PROGRAMME

Time (CET)	Monday, 31 May	Tuesday 1 June
10.00 – 10.30	Welcome and opening Opening words by General Secretaries of the Conference of European Churches and the Council of Catholic Bishop's Conferences in Europe, Jørgen Skov Sørensen and Fr. Martin Michalíček	<i>Welcome to the day</i> <i>Morning prayer</i>
10.30 - 12.00	Session 1: Reconciled with the Earth - Does Climate Change and Sustainable Future Pose a Particular Theological Concern? <i>Speakers:</i> Bishop Jochen Cornelius-Bundschuh, Evangelical Church in Baden Archbishop Job of Telmessos, Ecumenical Patriarchate <i>Key note presentations</i>	Session 4: Churches' Action and Commitment in Responding <i>Examples and inspiration from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church of England - Henry Uniacke, Diocesan Environmental Officer Sodor and Man• Evangelical-Lutheran Church in North Germany - Annette Piening, Climate Protection Manager• Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy – Antonella Visintin• Église verte, France - Laura Morosini, General Secretary of Église Verte
14.00 - 15.30	Session 2: The European Green Deal and the Role of Churches <i>Panel discussion with:</i> Andy Atkins, A Rocha, UK Jytte Guteland, Member of European Parliament, Sweden <i>TBC</i> Sven Giegold, Member of European Parliament, Germany András Huszár, Green Policy Center, Hungary Zélie Peppiette, European Commission (until May 2021) <i>TBC</i>	Session 5: Climate Justice – Concern of Ecumenical Youth <i>Contributions from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green House - Bogafjell Church Youth Ministry in Stavanger, winner of ECEN Roman Juriga Award 2020• Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe• World Student Christian Federation – Europe region• UK Young Christian Climate Network• Lutheran World Federation Youth
16.00 – 17.30	Session 3: Networking and Cooperation in Responding to Challenges of Ecology; ECEN Twinning project Experience from a cross-border cooperation between churches from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Austria and Romania• Ukraine and Armenia• Belarus and Lithuania• Hungary and Scotland• Germany and Poland	Session 6: Challenges Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Season of creation 2021• How churches get engaged with COP 26• World Council of Churches Assembly 2022• Roman Juriga Award 2022• ECEN Assembly 2022 Closing of the Assembly

2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

31st May, 10:00-10:30 CET

OPENING

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

- Opening words by:
 - Jørgen Skov Sørensen, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches
 - Fr Martin Michalíček, General Secretary of the Council of Catholic Bishop's Conferences in Europe

- Opening prayer

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



2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY - OUTLINE

31st May, 10:30-12:00 CET

SESSION 1

Reconciled with the Earth - Does Climate Change and Sustainable Future Pose a Particular Theological Concern?

Climate change is becoming one of the dominating themes defining the 21st century. Together with the loss of biodiversity and with our growing ecological footprint they threaten conditions for everyday human activities and survival of life in a mounting number of regions of the world. 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 in taking 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:

- Bishop Jochen Cornelius-Bundschuh, Evangelical Church of Baden
- Archbishop Job of Telmessos, Ecumenical Patriarchate

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

Moderator: Stephen Taylor, Church of England



2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

31st May, 14:00-15:30 CET

SESSION 2

The European Green Deal and the Role of Churches

The European Green Deal, as the major flagship initiative of the European Union, is affecting and changing the lives of millions of EU citizens. It aims at making Europe climate-neutral, protecting natural habitats and ensuring a just and inclusive transition to a sustainable future. Many Christians welcome this initiative. At the same time, they express concerns and wish to bring their values into the public square, where they can be heard, and their concerns acted upon. Advocacy for environmental justice by Christian communities and dialogue with civil society organisations and politics at regional, national, and local levels are of crucial importance.

- What concrete measures in the European Green Deal are enabling participation of citizens and advancing their inspiration for the project?
- What can be the contribution of churches and faith communities to this ambitious effort?
- Can Christian values enrich the ambitions of the Green Deal?
- What do you expect from churches and faith communities on the way to a sustainable future?

Speakers:

Andy Atkins, A Rocha UK
Jytte Guteland, Member of European Parliament, Sweden
Sven Giegold, Member of European Parliament, Germany
András Huszár, Green Policy Centre, Hungary
Zélie Peppiette, European Commission (until 1 May 2021)

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

Moderator: Karin Lexén, director of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation



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2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

31st May, 16:00-17:30 CET

SESSION 3

Networking and Cooperation in Responding to Challenges of Ecology; ECEN Twinning project

The ECEN twinning project has been an initiative enabling the cooperation and exchange of experience between churches' work on care for creation in very diverse settings. 3 years' experience of engagement in this project will be shared by actors participating in the project.

Cross border cooperation between churches from:

- Austria and Romania
- Ukraine and Armenia
- Belarus and Lithuania
- Hungary and Scotland
- Germany and Poland

Format of the session: Presentation of outcomes and experience gained in ECEN Twinning project and inputs from representative of 5 twinning partners participating in the project followed by the discussion and reactions to questions from audience.

Moderator: Hans Diefenbacher, EKD



2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

31st May, 19:00-20:00 CET

OPEN SPACE

Sharing and exchanging

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

To register for the Open Space Session, please indicate your interest to attend on the registration form. You will be sent a separate link to enter this session.



2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

1st June, 10:00-10:30 CET

WARM UP & MORNING PRAYER

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



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2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

1st June, 10:30-12:00 CET

SESSION 4

Churches' Action and Commitment in Responding to Climate Change

Several churches in Europe initiated their own challenge towards climate change and a sustainable future by adopting very concrete commitments to reach climate neutrality or to significantly reduce their ecological footprint. This involves taking care of church buildings, as well as a re-orientation in the evaluation of their daily activities. Ecological concerns have become part of their daily routine. Churches want to give a clear signal that a declaration of values aiming to reach climate justice and the subsequent transformation in daily life can go hand in hand. This session is an opportunity to share in the experience of some best examples of these activities and to offer inspiration for others to emulate.

Examples and inspiration from:

- Church of England, Speaker: Henry Uniacke, Diocesan environmental officer Sodor and Man
- Evangelical –Lutheran Church in North Germany, Speaker: Annette Piening, Climate protection manager
- Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, Speaker: Antonella Visintin
- Église Verte, France, Speaker: Laura Morosini, general secretary of Église Verte

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

Moderator: Stephen Taylor, Church of England



2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

1st June, 14:00-15:30 CET

SESSION 5

Climate Justice – A Concern of Ecumenical Youth

The Roman Juriga Award has been setup by ECEN to highlight the best efforts in churches' projects in the care for creation. The winner of the 2020 Award is the project from the Green House - Church Youth Ministry in Stavanger. This session will offer an opportunity to present the project.

Climate justice is the headline shaping a number of activities of ecumenical youth organisations, as well as church youth groups. Experience from this work will be shared by 4 different representatives: EYCE, which is gathering youth from European churches on a broad ecumenical platform; WSCF-E, which offers a platform for ecumenical cooperation of students with a Christian background; UK Young Christian Climate Network – an initiative working with ecological concerns of youth) and encouraging to join a worldwide pilgrimage to COP26, and the youth of the Lutheran World Federation, a global, confessional platform of Lutheran churches, which promoted youth to be the face of the LWF in several COPs, as a consequence of which the LWB youth has a rich experience in representing youth ecological and climate change concerns in a dialogue with global politics.

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?

Format of the session: Presentation of the winning project of RJA 2020 and inputs from 4 panellists representing ecumenical youth organisations, followed by the discussion among panellists and reactions to questions from audience.

Moderator: Eszter Kodácsy-Simon, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary



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2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY – OUTLINE

1st June, 16:00-17:30 CET

SESSION 6

Challenges Ahead

Climate justice, care for creation and our engagement for a sustainable future are long term engagement. 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? 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 2021:** Care for creation is along with invitations to an action, the invitation to prayer and worship. Ecumenical initiative on Season of creation invites 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
- **How churches get engaged with COP 26:** Conference of Parties on climate change will meet in November 2021 in Glasgow. It will be an opportunity for governments to advance their commitments to tackle climate change, as well as an opportunity for a broad spectrum of churches and civil society organisations to express their wish to strengthen this commitment and to get involved into the dialogue. Speaker: Adrian Shaw, EcoCongregations Scotland
- **World Council of Churches Assembly 2022 in Karlsruhe:** WCC Assembly will be an opportunity for Christians from all over the world to come together and express their position on number of challenges we face. Climate change and care for creation belong to those most urgent. Speaker: Henrik Grape, World Council of Churches working group on Climate change
- **Roman Juriga Award 2022:** The next round of ECEN Roman Juriga Award will be launched in inviting church projects and initiatives to get involved Speaker: Peter Pavlovic, ECEN Secretary
- **ECEN Assembly 2022:** ECEN will invite to its next Assembly in 2022

Closing of the Assembly

Moderator: Per Ivar Våje, Church of Norway



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2021 ECEN ASSEMBLY

31st May - 1st June

The Assembly has been prepared by the ECEN Enabling team in composition with:

Nora Antonsen, Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe
Kilian Dörr, Evangelical Church AC in Romania
Hans Diefenbacher, Protestant Church in Germany (EKD)
Henrik Grape, Church of Sweden
Daniel Jara, World Student Christian Federation -Europe
Tamas Kodácsy, Reformed Church in Hungary
Eszter Kodácsy-Simon, Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary
Silvère Lataix, French Protestant Federation
Gudrun Kordecki, Institut für Kirche und Gesellschaft, Germany
Peter Pavlovic, Conference of European Churches
Adrian Shaw, EcoCongregations Scotland
Bernard Sorel, Council of Catholic Bishop's Conferences in Europe
Kinga Szucs, Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary
Stephen Taylor, Church of England
Per Ivar Våje, Church of Norway
Antonella Visintin, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy

ECEN thanks:



The Conference of European Churches (CEC) for its continuing support and cooperation. CEC remains committed to addressing environmental issues through ECEN.