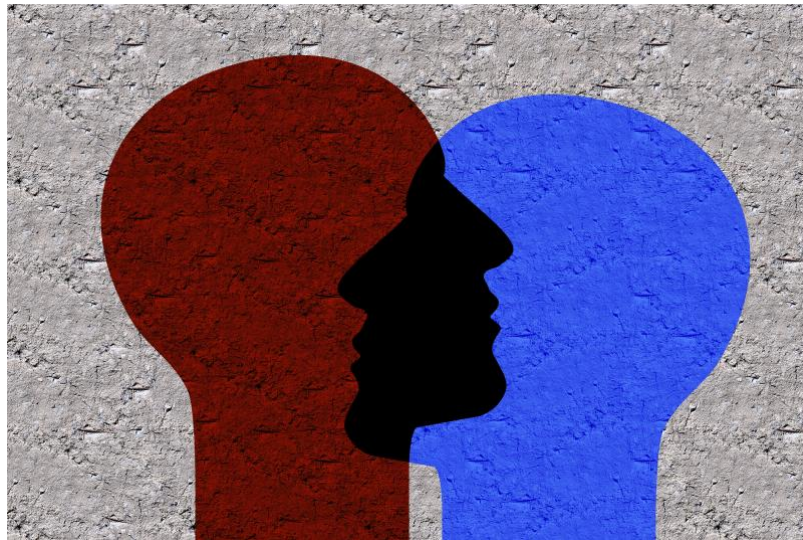


## XIX EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS



## Intercultural dialogue in Europe Contribution of catholic Religious Education in schools

**Vienna, 15 – 19 April 2020**

**Kardinal König Haus**

Kardinal-König-Platz 3, 1130 Wien

[www.kardinal-koenig-haus.at](http://www.kardinal-koenig-haus.at)



Piotr Kubiak Ph.D., secretary general

[www.eufres.org](http://www.eufres.org)

## **XIX European Forum for Religious Education in Schools Invitation**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

on behalf of the EuFRES Education Office we have the honour to invite you to participate in our next conference which will be held in Vienna from April 15th to 19th, 2020. The topic of the meeting is: Intercultural dialogue in Europe. Contribution of catholic Religious Education in schools

According to the EuFRES tradition, academics and people responsible for religious education in state schools from European countries will take part in the conference. EuFRES is an independent religious-pedagogic research platform in the field of religious education in schools. This initiative, financially independent from public, national and European institutions, has its roots in the catholic environment but is open to other faiths. According to our statutes, the participants themselves bear all the travel and participation costs as well as contribute to overall costs of the conference. The Education Office, chosen by the plenary assembly, is responsible for all activities concerning the meeting organization, including setting up studies conferences and examining current enquiries referring to education and upbringing, which constitute part of mutual interest of EuFRES' members. The statutes of the organization, to be found on the website, contain all the guidelines for the rules of the meeting.

During the 19th EuFRES conference the debate on the issues concerning the contribution of religious education to shaping bonds of European societies will be held. One should pay special attention to the issue of dialogue of cultures that will be presented by Michael Kuhn Ph.D. from the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, COMECE. The issue of the contribution of religious education to the dialogue of cultures in Europe will be discussed by professor Sergio Ciatelli from the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome. This is the subject of academic lectures as well as sharing experiences of the participants in working groups, the aim of which will be to formulate pedagogical and religious conclusions related to the topic of the XIX Forum.

In the enclosed materials there is a detailed agenda and enrolment form of the meeting in Vienna. As it was during the previous conference, translation and interpretation of speeches will be provided in the following languages: Italian, English, German, Spanish and Polish.

We kindly ask you to convey this information to all interested in the subject and to those who deal with these issues professionally or are responsible for religious education in schools.

According to our EuFRES custom, each participant has an opportunity to give comments on a given topic in the form of spontaneous speech or previously prepared lecture. You are all more than welcome to share your personal experience in the topic. For more details, please, read page 6 of this invitation.

We look forward to meeting you at the conference in Vienna.

**Roman Buchta Ph.D. DSc**  
**President of EuFRES**

**Piotr Kubiak Ph.D.**  
**Secretary General of EuFRES**

## **XIX European Forum for Religious Education in Schools**

### **Topic of the conference:**

# **Intercultural dialogue in Europe**

## **Contribution of catholic Religious Education in schools**

Devoting each year to a particularly important topic has become a tradition in the European Union. In 2008, the leading topic was intercultural dialogue. The awareness of the value of multiculturalism of Europe has been growing gradually, especially among young people. In spite of numerous activities that bear good fruits, the issue of dialogue among cultures remains vital, since the road to complete understanding, recognition, and respect for other cultures, denominations, and religions in Europe is still very long.

Published in 2007, the White Book concerning intercultural dialogue defines the issue as open and full of respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups of various ethnic origin, cultures, religions, languages, and heritage. Intercultural dialogue requires freedom and ability to express one's opinions, as well as willingness and ability to listen to other people's opinions and views. The purpose of intercultural dialogue is the development of a deeper understanding of different views and practices, increase in participation, and freedom of making life choices, equality and respect for human dignity, evoking creative processes, and promoting abilities of individuals and societies aiming at growth and transformation through dialogue and respect for others.

Education for intercultural dialogue is understood in this way, as well as looking for new ways and modes of starting it seems to be one of the most vital pastoral tasks for the Church. „The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity“. (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 2015, 201)

It can be assumed that religious education in schools is an exceptional chance to introduce the postulated dialogue. Concern for respecting its social, cultural, religious, and legal conditions in specific European countries proves to be a real challenge. We invite persons responsible for or interested in shaping this area of the Ministry of the Church to participate in the XIX European Forum for Religious Education in Schools.

**Roman Buchta Ph.D. DSc**  
**President of EuFRES**

**Piotr Kubiak Ph.D.**  
**Secretary General of EuFRES**

# Agenda

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<b>Wednesday</b> <b>15-04-2020</b>	Up to 17.00	Arrival at Wien-Schwechat airport, Transfer to the conference centre (Cardinal König Haus, Wien), accommodation
FORUM OPENING	18.00	Dinner at the conference centre
	19.00	<b>Opening</b> Opening of the conference by the president Roman Buchta Ph.D. DSc Welcome speech by cardinal Schönborn / Introductory paper (or a delegate) Introduction – agenda and participants
	20.00	Get-together

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<b>Thursday</b> <b>16-04-2020</b>	8.00	Eucharist (preparation: German group)
PAPER ONE	8.45	Breakfast
	9.30	<b>Lecture one: Dialogue of religions and cultures – glimpses at the situation in Europe</b> Michael Kuhn Ph.D., Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, COMECE, Brussels
	10.30	Coffee break
	11.00	Work in language groups
	11.30	Sharing the outcomes of the group work and discussion with the lecturer
	12.30	Lunch
	15.00	<b>Contribution from specific countries - I</b>
SHARING EXPERIENCE	16.30	Coffee break
	17.00	<b>Contribution from specific countries - II</b>
	18.00	Dinner
	19.00	Get-together

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<b>Friday</b> <b>17-04-2020</b>	8.00	Eucharist (preparation: Italian group)
PAPER TWO	8.45	Breakfast
	9.30	<b>Lecture 2: Education for the culture of dialogue in teaching Catholic religion</b> Professor Sergio Cicutelli, Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome
	10.30	Coffee break
SHARING EXPERIENCE	11.00	Work in language groups
	11.30	Sharing the outcomes of the group work and discussion with the lecturer
	12.00	<b>Contribution from specific countries - III</b>
	12.30	Lunch
	14.00	<b>Contribution from specific countries - IV</b>
	15.30	Experiencing Viennese culture Vienna sightseeing (Inner City) tour
	19.00	Dinner in the Inner City

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**Saturday  
18-04-2020**

8.00 Eucharist (preparation: Polish group)

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8.45 Breakfast

9.30 **Work summary – introduction and language group work**

10.30 Coffee break

CONCLUSIONS  
CLOSING

11.00 **Round-up of Forum 2020 – General assembly of Forum 2020 in Vienna**

Approval of the final document  
**Closing of FORUM Vienna 2020**

12.30 Lunch

14.30 Cultural experience in Vienna:  
Guided tour in St. Stephan's Cathedral – Orientation and symbolism

18.00 Dinner in Vienna

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**Sunday  
19-04-2020**

7.00 Eucharist

8.00 Breakfast  
from

09.00 Departure

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\* AT THE EUFRES CONFERENCE IT IS POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN EUCHARIST DAILY. PRIESTS ARE ASKED TO TAKE AN ALB AND A WHITE STOLE WITH THEM.

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## XIX European Forum for Religious Education in Schools

# Intercultural dialogue in Europe

## Contribution of catholic Religious Education in schools

### Sharing experience

**All Forum's participants are welcome to present their speeches with reference to the situation in their countries.**

The criteria concerning speeches:

1. Reference to the subject of the conference or to the catechetical–pastoral situation in your country.
2. Participants are asked to submit their papers to the EuFRES office by February 1, 2020
3. The paper of max. two A4 pages (5500 strikes incl. Blanks) should be prepared in two languages: native language and English.
4. Participants who will prepare a speech will be given a participation discount of EUR 50.
5. The speech should not exceed 15 minutes and should be presented in a digital form.
6. All participants will be given prints of particular speeches.

The papers should be submitted to the Secretary Office by February 1, 2020 to the following address of Forum Eufres 2020:

dr Piotr Kubiak  
Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule Wien/Krems  
Stephansplatz 3 / 3. Stock  
1010 Wien

Tel +43 676 914 62 26  
E-mail: [piotr.kubiak@kphvie.ac.at](mailto:piotr.kubiak@kphvie.ac.at)

## XIX European Forum for Religious Education in Schools

# Intercultural dialogue in Europe

## Contribution of catholic Religious Education in schools

### Speakers



**Dr. Michael Kuhn**, Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, COMECE, Brussels



**Prof. Sergio Cicutelli**, The Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome

## Conference patrons



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## XIX European Forum for Religious Education in Schools

### Dialogue of Cultures in Europe Challenge for religious education in schools

## Enrolment

All members of EuFRES and those interested in attending the XIX EuFRES Conference are asked to submit the **enrolment form** to the address below with the up-to-date information before **1 January 2020** (even if you are not to attend the event).

EuFRES General Office

Dr. Piotr Kubiak  
Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule Wien/Krems  
Stephansplatz 3 / 3. Stock  
1010 Wien  
Tel +43 676 914 62 26  
E-mail: piotr.kubiak@kphvie.ac.at

Deadline: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020