



EuFRES
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European Forum for Religious Education in Schools
Europäisches Forum zum Schulischen Religionsunterricht
Forum Europeo para la Enseñanza Religiosa Escolar
Forum Europeo per L'insegnamento Scolastico della Religione
Forum Européen de la Culture Religieuse à L'école

XXI. European Forum for Religious Education in Schools



Resilience and Christian Hope.
Religious Education as an essential driving force in times of crisis.

Poprad, 3 – 7 April 2024

Hotel Satel

Mnoheľova 825, 058 01 Poprad, Slovakia

<https://www.hotelsatel.com>





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Letter of invitation

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of EuFRES, we have the honor to invite you to participate in our next conference. It will take place in Poprad (Slovakia) from 3rd to 7th April 2024. The theme of our meeting is:

Resilience and Christian Hope. Religious Education as an essential driving force in times of crisis.

In accordance with our tradition, academics and people responsible for religious education in public schools in the countries of Europe take part. EuFRES is an independent committee for research and exchange of experience. It is an initiative of Catholics, but open to other religious denominations. It is financially independent of public national or European institutions. Our statutes provide that all participants pay for their own travel and accommodation expenses and contribute to the expenses of the whole organization. A governing body, elected by the General Assembly, is responsible for all activities of the organization, including the convening of these study conferences and discussions of current issues in education that are of common interest to EuFRES members. The statutes of this organization, which can be found on its own website, contain all the guidelines for the rules of the meeting.

At the XXI EuFRES Conference, questions concerning the contribution of religious education in schools to social cohesion in European societies will be debated. Special attention will be given in this conference to the theme of resilience and Christian hope in relation to Catholic religious education. It is the theme of study both in the presentations of the invited experts and in the sharing of experiences that the participants have had in their countries.

In the attached document you will find the detailed programme of our next Forum in Poprad (Slovakia) and the registration form. As with previous conferences, the papers will be available in different languages.

We kindly ask you to pass on this communication to persons who might be interested in this topic, as well as to those who are academically active in this field or who have responsibility for religious education in schools.

As has always been the case, our programme will also consider the wish that the situation regarding the conference topic in the individual countries be discussed or presented in short papers. You are also welcome to make a short contribution about relevant events in your country. Further information can be found below.

We hope for your participation and remain in anticipation of your visit to Poprad with best regards.

Roman Buchta
President of EUFRES

Tibor Reimer
Secretary General of EUFRES



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The theme:

Resilience and Christian Hope.

Religious Education as an essential driving force in times of crisis.

Our lives are marked by various crises. After the Corona crisis, it is above all the war in Ukraine, but also the climate crisis and the economic crisis. What should a modern religious education look like that responds to the crises of our time? Can religion be a source of resilience? Does religious education help out of the crisis?

The theme of our XXI EuFRES Forum on Religious Education in Schools is **Resilience and Christian Hope**. We want to take a look at religious education and discuss its potential as an essential stimulus and driving force in these times of crisis.

In doing so, we want to take a closer look at the impact of today's crises on the lives of young people and its effects. How do young people live after the pandemic and in today's crises? As we can see, the period after the pandemic did not end the crisis situation in young people's lives. The period of adolescence and early youth is very vulnerable to external influences and the personal search for answers to existential questions (who am I? what should I choose? who should I follow? etc.). It is not easy for young people to find their way in adult society, especially when the changes in different areas are unexpected, multidirectional and often ambiguous in terms of ethical values or interpersonal relationships. It is important to constantly search for appropriate forms and strategies to understand young people and accompany them on their path of choice.

The focus of our theme is the contribution of religious education to resilience and Christian hope in a time of crisis. In this time of crises, many individual crises are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, such as social and ecological crises. (Christian) religion is inextricably interwoven with these crises and (historically) has partly also been a driver of the crisis. Religious education can contribute to reflecting critically and emancipatorily on one's own contribution to crises as well as constructively pointing out possibilities of dealing with and overcoming them. In this context, "empowerment" becomes a central concept in religious education, which can find its contentual orientation in the Christian tradition and aims at the empowerment of subjects in crisis.



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Speakers



Prof. Dr. Zbigniew FORMELLA

Chair of Educational Psychology,
Università Pontificia Salesiana (Rome, Italy)



Prof. Dr. Claudia GÄRTNER

Institute for Catholic Theology,
Dortmund University of Technology



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Programme

Wednesday, up to 17.00
03-04-2024

Arrival at the Hotel Satel (Poprad, Slovakia)
und Registration
18.00 Dinner at the Hotel Satel
19.00 **Opening of the Conference**
Opening of the Conference by the President of EuFRES,
Prof. P. Dr. Roman Buchta, Welcome ceremony,
Presentation of the programme and the participants of the
Forum
20.00 Time to be together

Thursday,
04-04-2024

7.15 Eucharist in Poprad Concathedral
(prepared by the Polish group)
8.00 Breakfast
9.00 **Session 1: Young people after the pandemic:
perceptions of reality and decisions taken** (Prof. Dr.
Zbigniew Formella)
10.00 Break - coffee
10.30 Group discussion (in language groups)
11.30 Group questions and discussion with the speaker
12.30 Lunch
15.00 **Contributions from the different countries I**
16.30 Break - coffee
17.00 **Contributions from the different countries II**
18.00 Dinner
19.00 Possibility of a walk through Poprad, wellness in Aquacity
Poprad

Friday,
05-04-2024

7.15 Eucharist in Poprad Concathedral
(prepared by the German speaking group)
8.00 Breakfast
9.00 **Session 2: Contribution of Religious Education to
Empowerment and Christian Hope in Times of Crisis**
(Prof. Dr. Claudia Gärtner) and discussion



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|---------------------------------|-------|---|
| | 10.30 | Break - coffee |
| | 11.00 | Contributions from the different countries III |
| | 13.00 | Lunch |
| | 14.30 | Cultural program (Levoča, Spišská Kapitola) |
| | 18.00 | Dinner (Spišská Kapitola) |
| Saturday, 06-04-2024 | 7.00 | Eucharist in Poprad Concathedral (with the parish community) |
| | 8.00 | Breakfast |
| | 9.00 | Results of the Forum - Introduction and work in language groups |
| | 10.30 | Break - coffee |
| | 11.00 | Resumée of the Forum 2024 - Conclusion Plenary meeting of the Forum Approval of the final document |
| | 12.00 | Lunch |
| | 14.30 | Trip to the High Tatras |
| | 18.00 | Dinner in a Slovak Koliba |
| Sunday, 07-04-2024 | 8.00 | Eucharist in Poprad Concathedral (with the parish community) |
| | 9.00 | Breakfast and departure |

* The programme of the EuFRES meeting foresees the possibility for all participants to take part in the daily celebration of Mass. Priests who wish to concelebrate are asked to bring their alb and white stole.



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Sharing experiences

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

The criteria concerning papers:

1. Reference to the conference topic, "best practice" - good examples on the topic or current situation of the country regarding religious education.
2. We ask you to send your papers by **1 February 2024**.
3. The paper of max. three A4 pages should be prepared in two languages (**Native language and English**).
4. Those participants who will prepare a paper will be given a participation discount of 50 Euro.
5. The paper presentation should not exceed **15 minutes**. It is possible to make use of Powerpoint presentation.
6. All participants will be given prints of particular papers.

Please send the papers to the EuFRES Secretariat.

Tibor Reimer
Faculty of Theology of Comenius University in Bratislava
Phone +421/903403889
E-mail: Tibor.Reimer@frcth.uniba.sk; reimer1@uniba.sk



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Application

All members of EuFRES and participants in the Forum's XXI Conference are requested to return the **application form** attached to the current information by **1 January 2024** (even if someone is not attending) to the e-mail address below.

Please send the application to:

EuFRES - Secretariat

Tibor Reimer
Faculty of Theology of Comenius University in Bratislava
Kapitulská 26
81458 Bratislava

Phone: +421/903403889

E-mail: Tibor.Reimer@frcth.uniba.sk; reimer1@uniba.sk

until 1 Januar 2024



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Application form

(Please, send to the Secretary General of EUFRES until **1 January 2024** by e-mail:
Tibor.Reimer@frcth.uniba.sk; reimer1@uniba.sk)

**XXI. European Forum for Religious Education
Poprad (Slovakia) 3.04. – 7.04.2024**

Name, Surname

Degree, occupation or position

Mailing address

Phone E-mail

1. Will attend the XXI conference of European Forum on Religious Education

Yes No

2. Will pay the full fee (**400 €**), which includes full board in single room and enrollment fee

3. Will need some help to fund my attendance

(For participants from Central Eastern European countries, Renovabis will probably cover the costs for accommodation/meals and part of the travel costs. This means that a participant fee of approx. **250 €** will remain.)

4. To take part in the working groups, which languages can you speak?

Italian English German Spanish Polish

5. I will present a paper, written in two languages

(that implies I will get a **50 €** discount in the fee of the Forum)

6. Personal suggestions you want to advance to the organizers of the conference

.....

.....

.....

(Place and date)

.....

(Signature)



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Support

