

4th European Conference of Churches in rural areas

invitation

Living together

How can churches contribute to building social sustainability?

11 – 13th of November 2026

in Christian Jensen Kolleg Breklum, Germany



Across Europe's rural regions, churches stand at the heart of community life—places where people gather, support one another, and seek hope for the future. Many individuals in rural communities are often acutely aware of their interdependence with one another, with all creation and with God. With true connection and understanding, strong relationships can be built in which each individual's circumstances and gifts contribute to the whole.

Let us come together and share with one another experiences of living and serving in rural areas so that we might gain a broader understanding of both the challenges and unique possibilities in our local contexts. Through keynotes, workshops, discussions and simply gathering, we are invited to learn together, celebrate together, eat together and be renewed with new energy.

Welcome to this year's conference where we will explore how churches can strengthen social sustainability and foster vibrant, resilient communities.

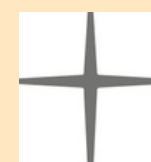
Conference fee including a single room and meals: 280€. Discounts are available on request.

Registration until September 11th
mail to: info@christianjensenkolleg.de

For Danish participants, please register here:
www.fkuv.dk/kursusprogram



FOLKEKIRKENS
UDDANNELSES- OG VIDENSCENTER



Evangelische Akademie
der Nordkirche

4th European Conference of Churches in rural areas



Program

Wednesday

12.30 p.m. Welcome and refreshments, introduction: Living together – How can churches contribute to building social sustainability? Getting to know each other

Keynote Anja Jørgensen, Professor of Urban Sociology, Head of the research group SocMap, University of Aalborg: Sustaining Rural Communities: Capacity, Neighbourliness and Emotional Resources – *groups and discussion*
Evening: getting together – evening prayer

Thursday

morning prayer

Keynote Uta Pohl-Patalong, Prof. of Practical Theology University Kiel: Theological aspects of social sustainability and church structures in rural areas
groups and discussion

Excursions

Evening: Keynote N.N.– music band

Friday

Keynote Ulrica Fritzon, Bishop of the diocese of Skara, Sweden: Reconciliation, forgiveness, responsibility and social sustainability
groups and discussion

Evaluation – Transfer – next steps – blessing – lunch
1.30 p.m. Departure

Organiser: Christian Jensen Kolleg, Folkekirkens Uddannelses- og Videnscenter, Evangelische Akademie der Nordkirche
Planning Group: Anke Fasse, D, Birgitte Stoklund Larsen, DK, Maike Lauther-Pohl, D, Matthias Alpen, D + DK, Mette Cecilie Brask, DK, Caroline Edlund, S, Amber Forsberg, S, Mathias Lenz, D, Line Skovgaard Petersen, DK