

Online Academy

Europe challenged by populism: Churches as “the salt of the earth”?

How to contribute to living peacefully together in diversity

21-22 June 2021, online (all times CET)

Monday, 21 June 2021

12:30 Drop in

13:00 **Welcome**

13:15 **Getting to know each other**

Interactive group activity

14:00 **“Populism in society: tasty or tasteless? An attempt at understanding.”**

Keynote talk & discussion

Speaker: Christel Ngnambi, political scientist & consultant, co-author of the book “Is God a populist?”

15:15 *Break*

15:45 **Welcome back**

Energizing group activity

Introduction to the following workshop in groups

16:15 **Community table**

Workshop in small groups

Task: Mapping the field - Identifying the tasty and tasteless elements of populism in and around our churches.

17:15 **Feedback and closing**

17:45 End of afternoon programme

Break

20:00 **“Salt of the Earth: The role of the Churches in a pluralistic society in the 21st century”**

Panel discussion (*This evening programme is open to the wider public.*)

Panelists:

- Archbishop Antje Jackelén, Church of Sweden
- Rt Revd Nicholas Baines, CEC Governing Board member, Bishop of the Church of England
- Fr. Dr. Cristian Sonea, Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Cluj-Napoca, Romania

21:00 End of the day

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

08:30 Drop in

09:00 **Welcome**

09:15 **“Salt as an antiseptic: how to heal wounds of division”**

Case studies

Topic: Populist movements and the responses of Churches around Europe

Speakers:

- The Romanian case: Associated Professor Dr Adrian Papahagi, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
- The Italian case: Professor Paolo Naso, Sapienza University Rome, coordinator of Mediterranean Hope project of the Federation Protestant Churches in Italy
- The Hungarian case: Dr. Zoltán Lomnici, lawyer and former lecturer of the Department of Constitutional Law at the Eötvös Loránd University

10:30 *Break*

10:45 **Welcome back**

Energizing group activity

Introduction to following workshop

11:00 **Community table**

Workshop in small groups

Task: Exploring the practice – Reflect on how Churches can be the salt in the soup

12:00 *Lunch break*

13:00 **Community table**

Workshop in small groups

Plenary session

Task: Presenting the ideas developed during the **Community table** and the workshops

14:00 **“Salt in the soup: how to create a sense of community”**

Keynote talk and group reflection

Topic: Reflection on the approaches to be taken for discovering common ground and identifying what we should feedback into our communities and Churches from the experiences at the Online Academy

Speaker: Alex Wimberly, Leader of Corrymeela, Peace & Reconciliation centre, Northern Ireland

15:00 **Conclusions and feedback**

15:30 End of the programme