



**INTERNATIONAL
SAMARITAN FORUM**

COLOGNE – GERMANY
23.– 25. 05. 2024



DEAR SAMARITANS AND FRIENDS,

we welcome you to the 11th edition of the International Samaritan Forum, which also marks the 30th anniversary of our network. The Forum takes place at a crucial time for Europe – in only a couple of days EU citizens will cast their vote and decide the composition of the European Parliament for the next five years, which will have a strong impact not only in the EU but far beyond.

In our Memorandum ahead of the elections, we have stressed the importance of increased social resilience to manage the many uncertainties and crises we are currently confronted with. Geopolitical security, stronger social cohesion and adequate social protection are vital preconditions for Europe's competitiveness and economic growth. Engaged citizens will become even more crucial, not only for the functioning of our democracies, but also for responding to the diverse natural and manmade disasters we are facing.

While the workshops will give a platform for showcasing innovative practices in the area of social services, including active exchanges and discussions of inclusive policymaking, the plenary will focus on the future of Europe, both in terms of security and social resilience. We are honoured to welcome as a special guest and speaker Ms. Maryna Khonda, Deputy Mayor of the city of Kyiv.

We are looking forward to a day filled with interesting content and conversations, and to raise a glass with you to SAM.I.'s 30 years.

Yours,

Knut Fleckenstein
President of SAM.I.

Ivo Bonamico
Secretary-General of SAM.I.

EVENT VENUE

AMERON Köln Hotel Regent

Melatengürtel 15
50933 Cologne

DATE

23.-25. May 2024

● 23 May

Afternoon:

- 13 Uhr: Presidium
- 13.30 Uhr: Advisory Committee
- Excursion Jugendkulturhaus CULTRA (Brühl)
- 15.15 Uhr: Departure ASB guest house
- 15.30h: Departure Hotel AMERON
- 19.00 Uhr: Dinner (Hotel AMERON)

● 24 May

- Main conference day
(detailed programme next page)
- SAM.I. 30th Anniversary Dinner

● 25 May

Departure

TOPICAL FOCUSES

- Social integration
- Social volunteering
- Innovative care concepts
- Inclusive policymaking

Great hall

- 9:30 - 10:45 Welcome**
by Ivo Bonamico – Secretary-General Samaritan International, Director of White Cross
- Keynote speech**
by Katarina Barley – President ASB Germany, Vice-President European Parliament
- The Social Pillar and the future of the EU Social Agenda (Presentation of Study)**
by David Rinaldi - Director of Studies and Policy FEPS
- Moderated Talk**
by Mikael Leyi, Secretary-General SOLIDAR
- 10:45 Coffee**
- 11:00 - 12:00 Keynote speech**
by Maryna Khonda – Deputy Mayor City of Kyiv
- Keynote speech**
by Andris Berzins - Vice-president Samaritan International, Director LSA
- Moderated Talk**
by Edith Wallmeier, Federal Managing Director Emergency Services and Education ASB
- Concluding remarks**
by Knut Fleckenstein - President Samaritan International, Chair ASB Germany
- 12:00 Lunch break**
- 13:30 - 17:30 Workshops** (Great hall and Workshop rooms)
- 19:30 Samaritan International 30-Year Anniversary**
- Speech**
Knut Fleckenstein –President Samaritan International, Chair ASB Germany
- Dinner**

	Great hall	Workshop room 2	Workshop room 3
13:30 - 14:30	Social integration – focus Ukrainian refugees <i>ASB SFOP</i>	Mobile midwife unit Presentation and Practical Demonstration <i>ASB</i>	Social volunteering services <i>ASB</i>
15:00 - 16:00	Work integration – focus on people with disabilities <i>ASB LSA</i>	Innovative Long-term care concepts <i>ASB ASBÖ</i>	Inclusive policymaking <i>SOLIDAR CDI</i>
16:30 - 17:30	Staff shortages Labour migration (EU Initiatives) <i>Samaritan International</i>	Hospice services Exchange of practices <i>ASB LSA</i>	CC CivPro Project presentations & spontaneous volunteering <i>WK ANPAS</i>

(detailed description next page)

Social integration – focus Ukrainian refugees

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced millions of people to leave their homes and seek refuge in the EU and neighbouring countries. Germany and Poland are currently hosting half of the 4.2 million refugees in the EU. ASB and Samarytańska Federacja Organizacji Pozarządowych (SFOP, Poland) will present projects to improve the integration of Ukrainian refugees. The presentations will be followed by an active exchange with participants, sharing best practices and innovative ideas.

Mobile midwife unit

Some regions in Germany are not sufficiently staffed with midwives. It is particularly difficult for women there to find a midwife who can accompany them through pregnancy, labour and postnatal care. ASB will present the mobile midwife unit, a solution to offer unbureaucratic and reliable midwife care and counselling for pregnant women and young families. Participants will be able to visit the mobile unit following the introductory presentation.

Social volunteering services

The voluntary social year (FSJ – Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr) celebrates its 60th anniversary in Germany in 2024. It can serve as a career orientation in the social services sector, providing the volunteers with an insight of different job profiles, areas of activity, as well as providing practical experience. ASB will present the German model, its international dimension and how it can be used as a tool for recruiting young adults for social services professions. The presentation will be followed by an exchange with participants about their national social volunteering frameworks and recruitment strategies in their organisations.

Work integration – focus on people with disabilities

The EU's „Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030“ acknowledges the importance of employment to ensure economic autonomy and social inclusion. ASB will present an initiative that goes beyond providing sheltered work opportunities for persons with disabilities, but rather focuses on integration in the labour market through cooperation with local businesses and organisations. LSA will share findings and results from the EU co-financed project B-WISE (Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills in Work Integration Social Enterprises).

Innovative long-term care concepts

With the ongoing ageing of the European population, the demand for health and long-term care is projected to increase significantly, posing challenges for the ade-

quacy and sustainability of health and care systems. ASBÖ and ASB will present innovative concepts and strategies to provide long-term care services and invite participants for an active exchange sharing their experiences, identifying challenges and opportunities.

Inclusive policymaking

Representation and socially inclusive political processes are important at all levels, in order to advocate for socially-minded policies. SOLIDAR will highlight the importance of representation and civil dialogue at the European level, while CDI will present an initiative that enables the representation of different ethnic groups in the processes of decision making at the municipal level. Participants will be invited to share their experiences and discuss their views on current shortcomings and future needs.

Staff shortages - labour migration

The challenge of labour shortage within the social services sector has profound implications for the ability to provide high-quality services. As populations age and the demand for essential social services rises, the availability of qualified personnel becomes increasingly strained. Samaritan International will present the EU's initiatives to address this challenge with a particular discussion focus on labour migration. Participants are invited to discuss the effects for their organisation and to jointly discuss a common position.

Hospice services

Especially at the end of life, it is important to ensure that everyone is accompanied until the end and enabled to die in dignified conditions. ASB has opened the Hospiz St. Klemens in 2022 and Latvijas Samariesu apvienība (LSA, Latvia) started its first hospice services as a pilot project in two cities in 2023. Both organisations will present their services and discuss the challenges and successes of starting hospice services.

CC CivPro – Projects in civil protection & spontaneous volunteering

Public session of the SAM.I. Competence Centre Civil Protection with a presentation of the current and future focuses in EU co-funded international projects. A special focus will be on the challenge of spontaneous volunteering in emergencies and the upcoming activities in this area.

DB Navigator

App recommendation for public transport in Germany: “**DB Navigator**”, the official ticketing app of the national rail service DB – available in multiple languages.

You’ll be able to buy long-distance, regional and, at least for Cologne, also metropolitan transport tickets and pay by credit card, PayPal or SEPA debit.

Apple



Android



Arriving by rail

Cologne central station (“Köln Hauptbahnhof”) is a central rail hub with many regional and long-distance connections. Availability of cross-border connections varies strongly depending on where you’re coming from, so please check DB Navigator.

Arriving by air

Airports with good rail connections to Cologne Central Station:

CGN (Köln-Bonn) is the closest airport and should be your first choice. DUS (Düsseldorf) and FRA (Frankfurt a.M.) are viable secondary options with rail connections of less than one hour to the central station.

Metro tram system / last mile

Within Cologne, the best way to get around is the tram/underground rail system. Look for a blue sign with a white “U”.

Cologne Metro Rail Map



Closest tram stations to:

The ASB national office & guest house:
Sülzburgstraße (lines 18 and 19) or Linden-
burg (line 9)

Hotel AMERON, main accommodation
and venue of the SAM.I. Forum:
Aachener Str./Gürtel (lines 1, 7, and 13)