

EUROPEAN BUDDHIST UNION PRESIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

This report includes the main activities with the institutions and to all the partners with whom the EBU works and will work. The aim is to spread Buddhism in Europe; to involve more people and organizations close to us, and to gain authority with the institutions and the trust of those who want to support us.

But the most important goal is still to enhance the commitment and spirit of community, friendship and care. The Dhamma makes the work of all of us so special and concrete, and without which there could be no opportunity to outline a clear and strong identity for European Buddhism.

1) AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The EBU is already engaged in many areas of activity which will continue its work thanks to the tireless efforts of the many people involved.

It is essential, however, to move towards greater organization and the involvement of experts and professionals especially if we want these to meet with the favor of public funders and donors.

The areas that, to date, are of most immediate interest to these interlocutors is:

- human rights (including humanitarian and migration issues, religious rights, freedom of expression and so on)
- interreligious dialogue
- education
- ecology
- The ethical issue of new technologies (on which the EBU has already collaborated with the EU Commission in drafting the 2020 document)

For effective work in these areas, it is of course important to establish partnerships also with other organizations that can also increase our level of knowledge and capacity.

2)

FINANCIAL SOLIDITY

To make this path a reality, the priority is to consolidate EBU activities and projects.

Funding channels must therefore be identified and expanded through:

- participation in public calls (EU Community and other sources)
- networking activities with other project partners
- partnership activities with big donors (foundations and philanthropic organizations)
- start of fundraising activities

3)

NETWORKING

The EBU have established collaborative relationships with the following organizations:

ALDA (<https://www.alda-europe.eu>)

ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy, is a French-registered association dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level in the European Union, neighbouring countries and beyond.

Wisedana Foundation (<https://wisedana.org>)

Wisedana is a global philanthropic foundation working to improve the life of all living beings, offering everyone the opportunity to nurture the seed of change by engaging in systemic actions.

Eulema (<https://www.eulema.org>)

EuLeMa stands for 'European Muslim Leaders' Majlis'. The majlis (Arabic for 'council') of European Muslim leaders was set up in Amsterdam in 2018 by a group of 19 religious leaders from 18 European countries to provide a platform for better communication and coordination between Muslim communities and greater representation for Islam among other faiths and secular institutions. Eulema currently includes Islamic religious leaders from 24 European countries.

4)

PROJECT ACTIVITY

There is also a need to consolidate and expand activities and identify possible new projects

- Enhancing already active EBU actions and projects to ensure continuity over time
- Identifying new actions or projects that may be of interest to organizations and donors as a stage in the development of EBU areas of activity

Actions required:

- evaluation and development
- Internal structuring by areas of interest/competence (Board and network/activity managers)

a) "SASCE 2" (Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe 2)

- Together with the partners from the first phase of the SASCE project (info at www.sasce.eu), we have submitted a proposal for a new project concerning the safety of places of worship.
- Compared to the previous one, this new project intensifies the training actions and conferences in the various European countries involved.
- The other project partners are: The Security and Crisis Centre by the European Jewish Congress (SACC) (Coordinator), Faith Matters (FM) and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
- Budget approved by the EU Commission for the EBU: **206.174,57 €**

b) Bridging Beliefs: Advancing Peace, Democracy, and Inclusion through Interfaith Dialogue in Europe

In March we submitted another project to the EU Commission in network with: ALDA, KAICIID, Eleuma and others.

EBU Budget: **38.180 €**

- Information on evaluation results: September 2025
- Grant Agreement signature: December 2025

5) INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

- It is necessary to intensify in a targeted and programmatic way, with a precise calendar of meetings, the networking with the contacts we have in the European institutions and to verify the possibility of new relations.
- The aim of this networking is to intercept new calls for proposals and increase our chances of participation.
- Networking is also essential to strengthen the EBU's authority and increase the occasions when we are called upon to express a valued voice on topical issues affecting European society.
- Enlarging and consolidating the network of partner organizations is crucial for the EBU. This allows us a greater chance of participating in funding applications and of acquiring tools, knowledge and opportunities enabling the EBU to consolidate both financially and culturally as a European institution.

European Institutions - Brussels

- Since last September the EBU regularly took part in meetings at the European Parliament and European Commission in Brussels
- The EBU is now a regular guest at the high-level meetings organized by Art. 17, the Secretariat that deals with the relationship between EU institutions and religious denominations.
- European Buddhists have been called upon to offer their input on fundamental issues in today's society such as, for example, the relationship between ethics and artificial intelligence and the role of major religions in the European democratic process.
- In particular, in view of the forthcoming elections and the formation of the future Parliament and Commission, the President, Stefano Davide Bettera and Vice-President Carlo Luyckx, hold a series of meetings with senior members in European leadership and with European parliamentarians to create a road map for actions and themes to make the role of Buddhism in Europe even more relevant.
- Other meetings are planned to evaluate possible common actions which may be of interest to the EU institutions, and which can enter the political agenda as of now, in order to enhance our contribution on issues of interest to us as Buddhists.

Stefano Davide Bettera
Presidente dell'Unione Buddhista Europea



Bruselles, April 2025