

EBU Chaplaincy network annual report 2025/2026

by rev. Dario Doshin Girolami

During 2025/26 the Chaplaincy Network held regular meetings for the EBU chaplaincy network's members.

The first EBU Chaplaincy course, started in September 2024, continued throughout 2025, and ended on march 2026. 144 hours of training, 50 hours of internship, 4 modules over 2 years.

Twenty two students completed successfully the course. Students from Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Hungary met regularly for group classes, individual supervision, peer support, and meditation.

The first Europe-wide course for Buddhist chaplains is the result of a collaboration between the European Buddhist Union (EBU) and the Dharma Gate Buddhist University in Budapest, with a generous grant from the Italian Buddhist Union.

The course is accredited by Dharma Gate Buddhist University as an "Adult Learning Program," The pan-Buddhist training has been conducted by Rev. Dario Doshin Girolami and Kirsten DeLeo, two Dharma teachers and experienced Buddhist chaplains.

This is a highly experiential and practical course, strongly Dharma-based, providing students with the necessary skills and knowledge, as well as individual support, to serve in hospitals, hospices, and prisons.

The training was based on a modular approach that combined online and in-person meetings. Residential sessions took place in a spiritual retreat atmosphere at the Manfa Retreat Centre near Budapest.

Ten graduated students have already found a position as chaplains. The institutions that hired them acknowledged, and were impressed by the curriculum of their studies.

In March 2026, EBU President Stefano Bettera came to Budapest to visit Dharma Gate University and to discuss with the Chaplaincy faculty and DGU Rector Gabor Karsai the future development of the EBU Chaplaincy course.

Given the success of the course, the project is to implement the course and transform it into a full Master University degree. The course would include Buddhist studies and chaplaincy studies over two years, again combining online and in-person classes.