EEMA Network Stream Conversation Summary

Hope4Europe Gathering 2026

During the network stream of the Hope4Europe Gathering in Albania, approximately 40 participants gathered in small groups to reflect together on two questions:

1. *What is the most exciting development in missions you are seeing right now?*
2. *What is the biggest obstacle for the church in your context to engage in God's mission?*

The conversation brought together perspectives from different countries, church traditions, mission agencies, networks and ministries from across Europe. While the contexts represented in the room varied considerably, several common themes emerged across the conversations.

Signs of Hope and Encouraging Developments
Participants shared many examples of where they see God at work today.

A recurring theme was the emergence of a new generation of leaders who are engaging with mission in fresh and creative ways. Many participants observed younger Christians taking initiative in mission movements, church planting, innovation, community engagement, and cross-cultural ministry.

Another strong theme was the growing willingness of churches, mission agencies, networks and movements to work together. Participants highlighted increasing collaboration across organisational, national and denominational boundaries. Rather than operating independently, many are seeking opportunities to learn from one another and pursue God's mission together.

Participants also reflected on the opportunities created by digital technology. While online engagement can never fully replace personal relationships, many observed how digital platforms are opening new possibilities for connection, discipleship, training and collaboration across geographical boundaries. Particularly in an increasingly connected Europe, digital tools are helping ministries, networks and churches share resources, build relationships and engage people who might otherwise remain beyond their reach.

We also reflected on the changing face of Christianity in Europe. The growth of diaspora and migrant church communities was frequently mentioned as one of the most significant developments shaping mission in Europe today. Participants described how these communities are not only enriching local churches but are also helping to reshape Europe's understanding of mission and partnership.

There was also a growing recognition that mission is not limited to traditional models of sending workers overseas. Participants spoke about mission taking place through everyday discipleship, local witness, marketplace engagement, social action, intercultural relationships and ministry among increasingly diverse communities throughout Europe.

Across the conversations there was a sense that, despite many challenges, God is continuing to call and equip people for His mission and that new opportunities are emerging in unexpected places.

Challenges and Obstacles
Building on these encouraging developments, participants also reflected on the barriers and challenges that can hinder greater participation in God's mission.

Many spoke about the tension between maintaining existing church structures and creating space for mission. In a number of contexts, churches face declining resources, leadership pressures, ageing congregations and uncertainty about the future. These realities can make it difficult to focus outwardly and engage missionally.

Participants also noted that mission is often still perceived as a specialist activity rather than something that belongs to the whole church. Helping congregations understand mission as part of everyday discipleship remains an important challenge in many settings.

Others highlighted the complexity of ministering in a rapidly changing European context. Increasing secularisation, cultural diversity, social fragmentation and declining trust in institutions require new approaches and fresh ways of listening and learning.

At the same time, participants recognised that these challenges may also present opportunities. Several groups reflected on the possibility that God is inviting the church to rethink long-held assumptions, embrace new partnerships and discover fresh ways of participating in His mission.

Concluding Reflection
As participants listened to one another's experiences and observations, a common conviction gradually emerged: the future of mission in, to and from Europe will depend not only on strategies, programmes or structures, but on relationships, trust, mutual learning and a shared commitment to discern together where God is already at work.

Stay Connected
The European Evangelical Mission Association (EEMA) seeks to create space where mission leaders, agencies, alliances, networks and movements can listen, learn and discern together what God is doing in, to and from Europe today.

If you would like to receive future updates or explore how you can contribute to our ongoing EEMA conversations, please connect with **Jiska Chin-A-Teh (MissieNederland)** or **Ben Stansfield (Global Connections UK)** in their role as co-facilitators of EEMA.

We welcome your questions, reflections and insights as we continue discerning together how EEMA can best serve God's mission in, to and from Europe.