



Webinar: Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe (SASCE)

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 - 18.00 – 19.30

Simultaneous translation English & French provided by AI

Please join the webinar via:

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87679402273?pwd=IrlbNZrLwWo2B6drRyerosUheFsnJc.1>

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INTRODUCTION:

The SASCE Project (Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe, www.sasce.eu) is an EU-funded initiative by the European Commission, involving major European religious organizations (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist). This multi-layered project aims to dramatically increase security in and around places of worship and communities by developing training, tools, and best practices for security awareness and crisis management, fostering cooperation with authorities, and reducing threats like hate crimes. Funded by the Internal Security Fund (ISF), it provides resources, organizes trainings, and creates platforms for interfaith dialogue to protect religious sites and build resilience across Europe.

Key Objectives and Activities:

- Develop Security Tools: Creating practical resources like vulnerability assessment guides, crisis management plans, and communication materials.
- Training & Capacity Building: Conducting training sessions for religious leaders, staff, and worshippers on security protocols and hate crime reporting, utilizing OSCE mechanisms.
- Interfaith Cooperation: Bringing together Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist communities to share knowledge and best practices for mutual security.
- Strengthen Authority Links: Improving communication channels between faith communities and public enforcement authorities.
- Technology Solutions: Piloting technology for enhanced protection in places of worship, with plans to equip 1,000 Jewish communal buildings as an example.
- Partners of the Project are: European Jewish Congress' Security and Crisis Centre (SACC), European Buddhist Union (EBU), Faith Matters, University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Conference of European Churches (CEC)

Aims and Goals of the Project: SASCE aims to build a more tolerant and peaceful Europe by equipping diverse religious communities with the skills and partnerships needed to prevent attacks, respond effectively to crises, and foster stronger societal cohesion. Representatives of the SASCE project will present their current work in the webinar:

- Ron Eichhorn, European Buddhist Union (EBU) An international federation of Buddhist organisations and national Buddhist unions in Europe. Representing Buddhists in the member states of the European Union and the Council of Europe, the EBU is active internationally and is also a member of several international Buddhist organisations. Ron, a professional film maker, is a practicing Buddhist for some 35 years and has been elected president of the European Buddhist Union from 2017 until 2023. He is active within the inter-religious SASCE project since its beginning. He is a senior member and head disciple of the Yun Hwa Denomination, a Buddhist order of ordained and lay practitioners.

- Ophir Revach and Aline Niddam, Security and Crisis Centre (SACC) of the European Jewish Congress (EJC). This NGO was founded in 2012 to support and protect Jewish communities in Europe in relation to questions of security. The EJC is the European umbrella organisation of Jewish communities that promotes their interests. SACC is assisting Jewish communities in Europe to prepare and apply local community crisis plans which will enable them to handle crisis situations. Actively helping the communities in time of crisis. The SACC Core Team provides professional assistance in times of crisis for Jewish communities in Europe. Creating a sustainable network of community crisis teams.

- Iman Abu Atta, Faith Matters launched in 2006 as a (Muslim) vehicle to enable faith communities to reduce conflict using conflict resolution tools. Faith Matters works on integration, cohesion, hate crime and countering extremism projects. Faith Matters has also influenced social policy at local, regional and governmental levels through its research reports. Faith Matters has been ground-breaking and instrumental in developing new and innovative projects that bring faith communities together and in strengthening faith institutions. This has also involved strengthening the capacity of faith leadership, working on developing shared values that act as a glue between communities and in developing voices against extremism and extremist rhetoric.

MODERATOR: Dr. Thea Mohr (EBU) is trainer of intercultural communication.