

Invitation to the online event

# Listen to the East!



ZdK

Zentralkomitee  
der deutschen Katholiken



Solidaritätsaktion der deutschen Katholiken  
mit den Menschen in Mittel- und Osteuropa



KATHOLISCHE AKADEMIE  
IN BERLIN e.V.

**Monday, 7 November 2022, 6:00 p.m. – 7.15 p.m.**

## Experiences of Central and Eastern European Churches on the Path of the World Synod 2021–2024

In October 2021, Pope Francis launched a worldwide synodal process, that shall lead to the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". Christians throughout the whole world have set out to seek anew the will of God and "to create a vision of the future filled with the joy of the Gospel" (Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality). The aim is above all that the church can better fulfil its mission. In Germany, the synodal process on which the universal church travels is mostly overshadowed by attention to the Synodal Path, which began in 2019 and is jointly supported by the German Bishops' Conference and the Central Committee of German Catholics. It intends to draw lessons from the systemic causes of sexual abuse in our local Church. Voices from Eastern Europe testifying to their own synodal experiences have scarcely been heard in this country so far. In the meantime, the national phase of the World Synod has been completed; the Bishops' Conferences and Synods of the Eastern Churches have sent their reports to Rome; the continental phase has begun. It is time to listen to our companions.

What does the Slovak Archbishop Stanislav Zvolenský mean when he says: "We learned synodality under communism"? What role do experiences of oppression, of fundamental social transformations, of war and violence play in the faith and church life of fellow Christians? How can the spiritual heritage of the Eastern Churches, which have a very old tradition of synodal practice, enrich the whole People of God? Which topics of the German Synodal Path also play a role in the local churches of Central and Eastern Europe?

In addition to a general overview of the course of the synodal process in Europe to date and the plans for the European Continental Assembly, which will take place in Prague from 5 to 12 February 2023, exemplary reports from a Roman Catholic and a Greek Catholic Church will make clear diversity, similarities and differences. By this, the event aims to make a small contribution to the dialogue and strengthening the connection between neighbouring churches on the European continent.

We listen to and talk with:

- Father Ștefan Dumitraș, Chancellor of the Curia of the Major Archbishopric Făgăraș and Alba Iulia of the Romanian Greek Catholic Church, Blaj
- Rev. Dr Martin Michalíček, Secretary General of the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE), St. Gallen
- Hana Pohořalá, Member of the National Synodal Team of the Czech Conference of Bishops, Prague

**Access data:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89386388231?pwd=RUZRV3Vqd2R6Y2xidHhsU0lQdkJEQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 8638 8231

Passcode: 355062

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