

ReDi

*The International Society
for the Research and
Study of Diaconia and
Christian Social Practice*

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ReDi Newsletter April 2020

The 8th ReDi Conference to be held as an internet conference on 17th Sep, 2020

New Regional and Thematic Networks for ReDi: Interdiac and CODE

Invitation – CODE Forum, 15th September, 09.00 – 17.00, Oslo

Call for Abstracts: Developing Just and Inclusive Communities

Reports from Practice and Essays – Invitation

Dear member of ReDi,

Greetings to you all in a time of crisis, for all of us, but especially for the most vulnerable among us. The Covid -19 Pandemic has changed a lot in our world already and will affect the work of ReDi too, among other things our biannual conference. As the Secretary-General of Eurodiaconia Heather Roy writes in her weekly newsletter, at this moment, more than ever, "what Diaconia does is essential and (...) needs to be at the heart of our development as a society". The situation gives a depth to the importance also of research on Diaconia. What you do in the coming year as researchers will be really important. On this site you will find more information on the response of diaconal organisations to Covid -19.

<https://www.eurodiaconia.org/covid-19/>.

The ReDi Conference to be held as an internet conference on 17th Sep, 2020

Due do the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to protect our members, the 8th Conference for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi), which was planned to take place in Oslo 16-18 September 2020, will be turned into a digital conference on the 17th of September. The formal business meeting of ReDi will take place as part of this digital conference. A physical ReDi conference is instead planned to take place in Oslo in 2021, when hopefully we are able to travel again. Updated info of the rearrangements may be found [here](#).

New Regional and Thematic Networks for ReDi: Interdiac and CODE

Among the more positive news is the fact that the executive board of ReDi has welcomed one new regional network and one thematic network in addition to our previous networks within the organization. The networks do not have a formal role, but are welcome to advertise their activities on the website.

The new regional network is the interdiac Research Platform, which is an international, ecumenical platform for the research of diaconia and Christian social practice for Central and Eastern Europe. The platform brings together researchers and practitioners across the region annually for an exchange concerning research, which will contribute to the development of the field. [More information here.](#)

The new thematic network is the CODE Forum, which brings together researchers and practitioners in the field of community development and diaconia. It is a multidisciplinary network with broad international participation. CODE Forum seeks to support research that explores the theory, theology and practice of community development, involving faith communities, civil society and other local actors. [More information here.](#)

Invitation – CODE Forum

15th September 2020 - Online (exact times to be confirmed)

CODE Forum had planned to meet immediately before the ReDi conference, but have due to the circumstances decided to replace this with an online meeting or webinar with short presentations and discussions. CODE Forum invites interested researchers and practitioners to participate in the event which will focus on the theme:

Community Development in the context of neoliberalism and populism.

There will be time for sharing and discussing research, updates and discussing future projects. If you would like to make a paper presentation at the Forum or participate, please contact Prof. [Stephanie Dietrich](#) or Interdiac consultant [Tony Addy](#).

Call for Abstracts: Developing Just and Inclusive Communities

New book on community development initiated by CODE Research Group, VID Specialized University, Norway in cooperation with University of Western Cape,

South Africa: **Developing Just and Inclusive Communities: Challenges for diakonia/Christian social practice and social work** (Preliminary title) Building on SDG16: Just, peaceful and inclusive society. Target 7: Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making. Deadline for abstracts: 1 June 2020. For more information, please contact [Benedicte Kivle](#).

Reports from Practice and Essays – Invitation

The ReDi website has a space where you can read and share reflections on new diaconal practices, new challenges and innovative thinking.

You are invited to contribute to this section and showcase your innovative approaches, or new approaches to practice. You can also share reflections on practice or a short essay on challenges and innovations. If you are involved in a research group you can present and signpost its work in a short report. It is your space, so please use this opportunity!

Please read the Guidelines for Contributors on how to submit your report. You can also get in touch directly with our responsible board member Herman Noordegraaf at hnoordegraaf@pthu.nl.

New Contact Person at Eurodiaconia

Vera Nygard is replacing Florian Tuder as ReDi contact person at Eurodiaconia. Vera holds a research degree (Lic.Phil.) in Ethnology from Åbo Akademi University in Finland and recently joined Eurodiaconia as Policy, Projects and Research Officer. After moving to Brussels in 2016 she has also worked for the information service of the European Commission and the Salvation Army EU Affairs Office.

Wishing for hope and good will in times of uncertainty and adversity,

Ninna Edgardh
Chairperson

Isto Peltomäki
Vice Chair
