

CODE Forum 2024

Prague, Czechia

17th– 20th September 2024



***Community Development and Diaconal Identity
- responding to disruption and uprootedness***

Invitation and Call for Papers & Contributions

Introduction

The CODE Forum brings researchers and practitioners together around approaches which relate community development and diakonia. It is a space for the exchange and development of research and practice. The CODE Forum has wide international and interregional participation and it is linked to the CODE research group at VID, Norway. The seminar will be held in Prague, Czechia, by the kind invitation of JABOK College of Applied Social Studies.

At the Forum, there will be space for the presentation of papers and reports from practice. We also invite contributions for the discussion of research ideas and proposals for new research as well as an outline of a key idea you would like to explore. The Forum aims to offer a space for the exchange of experience and the development of ideas. It aims to support innovation in the field and the development of research and learning programmes.

Main Themes of the CODE Forum 2024

1. Community Development and Diaconal Identity in Changing Neighbourhoods.

Christian social practice and civil society actors are important agents for developing participative and inclusive neighbourhoods. Workers in youth centres, churches and diaconal organisations based in geographical communities reach out and address issues of loneliness, social exclusion and poverty. They also address rising mental health problems faced by different groups, particularly young people. Local workers are often on the spot responding to conflict and supporting everyday peace. This theme invites the sharing of experience analysis and theological reflection on practice in relation to these issues.

2. Community Development and Human Agency Facing Rising Migration, Camps and Settlements

People often seek stability and connectedness within their immediate living environments. Sometimes stability is interrupted because people move willingly. However, often people are forced to move. They must leave their homes due to civil conflict, war or environmental crisis. Others must leave because of a lack of income security or a lack of future prospects. Sometimes people wish to move but are forced to stay. In these paradoxical and conflicting situations, despite the challenges, are there are possibilities for community development and for agency and work for change? Are there experiences of finding more or less flexible ways to connect people, for people to receive and provide needed care and encouragement? During these sessions we want to explore together the possibilities of community development even in extreme situations, and to learn from each-other's experience and research on related topics.

Save the Date

Call for Contributions

**More information will
come soon!!**

Other Programme Activities

1. Visiting Diaconal Community Projects in Prague

On Tuesday the 17th of September visits will be organized to relevant community projects within the Prague area. More information will follow.

Reports of CODE Forum Projects

At the CODE Forum in 2022, delegates decided to collaborate on four projects which are at present ongoing:

- ✓ An European learning and research project on **Diaconal identity** in work with refugees and asylum seekers which is co-ordinated by Durham University, UK.
- ✓ A once-a-semester **international webinar** on a topical theme. It involves five partners, and the host for the online platform is Diak, Finland. The other partners at the moment are VID (Norway), PThU (The Netherlands) and interdiac (Central and Eastern Europe)
- ✓ An Erasmus+ programme – **Diversity, Inclusion and Social Cohesion (DISCO)** coordinated by Diak, Finland.
- ✓ The production of an edited book on **Modern Slavery, Diaconia and Reparations** co-ordinated by Erica Meijers (PThU, The Netherlands).

There will be space and time for hearing about these projects and for developing other proposals on the last day of the Forum.

2. Future Project Planning Workshop

As part of CODE Forum 2024, a meeting for those who wish to further the development of common research and learning project(s) will take place Friday the 20th of September in the morning. Those interested in joining this workshop should register for the Forum including the Future Project Planning Workshop. The basic framework will be to map the interests and approaches and to identify specific follow up activities and projects.

Call for Contributions

Contributions to be presented and shared at the CODE Forum can be academic papers, proposals for, or interim reports from research which you would like to discuss with colleagues, as well as an outline of a key idea which you would like to discuss. It can also be an account of practice which raises issues related to the Forum themes

Abstracts and short descriptions of contributions should be submitted by 3rd June 2024, and you will receive the decision as to whether your contribution is accepted at the latest by 17th June 2024. Details of how to submit your contribution will be shared soon!

Outline Timetable

17th September

Optional visiting programme – initiatives in the Prague area; Full day or half day.

Arrivals for the seminar

18th and 19th September (full days)

CODE Forum Days with presentations and working groups; evening programme.

20th September (morning)

Workshop: The future plans for the **CODE Forum** and for future collaborative projects and programmes.

Contacts:

CODE Forum Seminar, Programme, and Contributions:

Benedicte Kivle:

benedicte.kivle@vid.no

and

Tony Addy

praxis@pro-vocation.org