

CODE-FORUM 2019

SAVE THE DATE!



CODE
Diaconal community development

Introduction

The CODE Forum brings together researchers and practitioners around the three approaches related to community diakonia:

Use Your Talents – Asset Based Community Development grounded in local congregations

CABLE – Community Action Based Learning for Empowerment – a learning process for practitioners, congregations and civil society

Seeking Conviviality – the art and practice of living together – developing a new core concept and related practice for diakonia in relation to key contextual issues.

The first CODE Forum was held in autumn 2017 in Oslo at the invitation of VID Specialized University and it was agreed that the next Forum would meet in Helsinki, by the kind invitation of Diak (Diaconia University of Applied Sciences) and local partners.

(There is a short introduction to CODE at the end of this invitation and the full report of the Oslo Forum is available from the organisers of the Forum.)

Invitation

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on:

27th and 28th February at the Diak campus in Helsinki.

The Forum will start at 9.00 on 27th February, registrations from 8.30 and will end at 16.00 on 28th.

Visiting Programme

There will be a visiting programme on **26th February**, which will enable participants to experience a diversity of local diaconal projects in the Helsinki area. There will be a possibility to join the programme for the whole day, or in the afternoon.

The programme will start at 9.30 on the 26th February with registration at 09.00 or at 13.00 More details will follow

Project Planning

A meeting for those who wish to further the development of common research project(s) will be possible on 1st March in the morning. These will be self-organised groups but space will be available at Diak if needed.

Next Steps

The Forum is a space for the exchange and development of research and practice following the three key themes.

All who are interested are invited **to send proposals for papers and presentations** to the organisers as soon as possible.

There will also be time for **reports from practice** and for the **exchange of experience** and for the discussion of **research project development**. In addition, ideas for the development of **learning programmes** and resources will be a topic on the agenda. Updates on the three themes will be presented and these elements will contribute to the development of knowledge in the field.

Please inform the organisers if you are planning to participate and wish to contribute or make suggestions about the programme.

Practical Matters

Accommodation

A number of single rooms have been reserved for the Forum at the Hotel Arthur. The cost is 80€ per night including breakfast. The hotel is near the main station and the airport bus terminal and is also near the bus stop for the short connection to the Diak campus.

The web site is www.hotelarthur.fi and the booking code is CODE Forum

Finance

There will be a small registration fee to cover the costs of meals and refreshments during the FORUM. Participants are expected to be financially self-supporting as the FORUM does not have its own budget. If this causes difficulties, please consult the organisers.

Registration

Registration will be via an online form and this will be opened soon. All those who express an interest in the FORUM will be notified about this and sent further details about the event.

Contacts

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Community Development and Diakonia

Paradigm changes within *diakonia*, social & community development work and international development work have led to a renewed focus on the role of local actors in both urban and rural contexts. People are viewed as actors and subjects who bring their own resources and expertise; they are seen not only as 'individuals', but are persons interwoven into communities, groups and networks. Community development seeks to explore how communities, especially marginalised communities and groups, can contribute to their own development and become actors for change locally and in the wider society. CODE seeks to explore how citizens, professionals and volunteer activists use their resources in the development of sustainable communities and political change.

CODE in VID Specialized University

CODE is an interdisciplinary research group at VID Specialized University that brings together researchers and practitioners concerned with community development and diakonia. VID CODE research-group focuses on *research on practice* in order to develop innovative practice theory, support more effective practice and develop diaconal reflection. The group consists of academic staff from different VID campuses, from the Faculty of Theology, Diakonia and Leadership, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Centre for Intercultural Communication, in addition to international participants. The VID CODE research group includes PhD researchers with an interest in community development and Diakonia and organises regular seminars amongst its members. The regional interests of the research group include Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

CODE FORUM

A wider cooperation of professionals involved into the development and practice of community development theories and methodologies has its roots in a workshop organised at the ReDi conference in Helsinki. The **CODE FORUM** has begun to work and has had its first international workshop with 50 participants from 22 countries. The Code Forum brings together researchers and practitioners from three different approaches to community development and diakonia:

- **Use Your Talents**, which is an asset, based approach to working on development on the basis of local congregations in had pressed areas. This is one important element in the CODE research group in VID
- **CABLE**, which is an approach to community-based learning for empowerment that has been used in many different settings in at least 8 countries. CABLE is supported by a European network that is developing the approach.
- **Seeking Conviviality**, which is an international process of reflection on local diakonia in the framework of the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation in Europe.

All three strands of the CODE Forum focus research on the participation of people in developing their own understanding of their situation and creating action on the basis of relationships and resources in the context. On the other hand, they also seek to influence decision making on various levels to secure the developments and to press for change where it is needed. CODE and the CODE Forum therefore seek to support research that explores the dynamics of community development, involving church, civil society and other local actors.

The CODE Forum will have its next meeting in early 2019 in Helsinki and we welcome interest from others who share the CODE approach.

Organisation of the CODE FORUM

The CODE Forum has two coordinators and works with the CODE research group at VID and with members in the location where the meetings are organised. CODE Forum does not have a specific structure other than being a network that facilitates communication and space for meeting. More information about the three strands of CODE Forum and the report of the first meeting of the Forum is available from the organisers.

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Select Bibliography

Use Your Talents

Stephanie Dietrich, 'Use Your talents - diakonia in practice.' In *Use Your talents - the congregation as primary Development agent*. Oslo: Digni 2017.

Sigurd Haus, *Use Your talents - the congregation as primary Development agent*. Oslo: Digni 2017

Seeking Conviviality

Tony Addy, *Seeking Conviviality. Re-forming Community Diakonia in Europe*, (Geneva: Lutheran World Federation, 2014)

Ulla Siirto, 'Conviviality: A Core Value of Diakonia', In Burghardt, Anne (ed.) *LWF guide material to the themes of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation: Human Beings – not for sale*. (Geneva: Lutheran World Federation, 2015)

CABLE

Jouko Porkka & Marja Pentikäinen (eds), *Community of the Future – challenges and new approaches to community based social work and diakonia from the CABLE approach*, (Helsinki: Diak, 2013)

Titus Schlatmann & Rob van Waarde, *That's the Name of the Game – on empowerment and community, an account of practical research*, (Tubbergen: Van der Ros Verlag)