



ReDi Newsletter March 2019

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Dear members,

Thank you for supporting ReDi through your membership. It is crucial for the construction of an effective research network for the study of Christian social practice.

In this newsletter we can announce that the first steps have been taken in the administrative relocation of ReDi.

Administrative relocation on its way

The ReDi general assembly 2018 gave the mandate to the executive board to proceed with the establishment of ReDi as an international non-profit organization (AISBL) in Belgium. The board is happy to announce that first step in this process has been taken. The board met at a notary's office in Belgium on the 5th of February and signed the French and English version of the statutes of a new Belgian ReDi-organisation. Many thanks to Heather Roy and Florian Tuder at Eurodiaconia who have been most helpful in enabling this step.

The aim of the establishment of a new ReDi organisation is to solve the administrative problems we have been having, trying to run an organisation based in Finland, with statutes in Finnish and its financial assets with a bank in Finland, from the secretariat of Eurodiaconia in Brussels. The aim of establishing a new organisation is to move the legal identity of ReDi from Finland to Belgium. The organisation will have the same name and purpose as ReDi and the statutes are basically the same. Slight adaptations have however been necessary in order to adapt the organisation to the Belgian legal system. The most important change is that ReDi will now have to have an annual general assembly. This will not necessarily have to take place as a physical meeting, but may be organised in writing or electronically. In practice this means we will continue to have a biannual general assembly in person when we have our biannual conferences. The year when we do not meet for a conference we will organise a meeting electronically. Eurodiaconia is used to this process and ready to help with the organisation.

The next step will be for the Belgian authorities to recognise the new organisation, which will take a few months. When this is done, all members will receive a request to transfer their membership to the new organisation. A new bank account will be opened in Belgium and the membership fees for 2020 will be paid to that new account. The next General Assembly in Stavanger 2020 will then be able to decide upon the closure of the Finnish organisation and all assets will be transferred to the new organisation. For the moment, you as members do not have to do anything.

Invitation to contribute: Essays and Reports from Practice

- ReDi Board Contact Person: Herman Noordegraaf
Reports (or short essays) for publication should be sent to him and he will make an initial judgement as to whether the report should be published on the web site. If needed he will ask the author(s) to make some suggested changes and/or add any further information.
 - The second person to be involved in the Reports from Practice is Tony Addy, a member of the Journal Editorial Team, who will consult with the contact person and check the English.
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- A list of 'local' contact persons from as many parts of the world and countries as possible is being created. The task of a contact person is to be motivated to look for activities that are of relevance for the Reports from Practice and for the persons that can be approached and invited to write. The local contact person can approach the potential writer, or ask the international contact person to do this.
- Every three months the local contact persons will receive an email to enquire about persons who can be approached to write for the platform. Of course, a contact person doesn't need to wait for the reminder letter but can take the initiatives when it seems the time is right.
- Every three months the Reports will be published, but also in the meantime reports can be published if reports are sent in and edited earlier.
- The texts are to be put on the website by Florian Tuder (Eurodiaconia).

Two scholarships for PhD projects at VID Specialized University Norway

VID Specialized University Norway announces up to two scholarships for PhD projects within the PhD-programme in Diaconia, Values and Professional Practices. It includes particular professional practices and traditions within churches or other Christian faith-based organizational settings. VID encourages applications focusing on local diaconal practices in congregational settings. Project proposals may pick up the following topics:

- diaconia as a dimension of (professional) practice in congregations,
- contributions of diaconal actors in the welfare and health sector,
- diaconal professionalism and voluntarism,
- diaconia in growing diversity and secularism,
- diaconal agency in the intersection of civil society, marketization and new technical resources
- diaconal approaches and practices in the face of social challenges like migration, exclusion and inequality.

The topics can be approached from various disciplines and traditions, such as health studies, leadership studies, religious studies and theology, sociology or social work.

The suggested projects should apply empirical methods and be open for the interdisciplinary profile of the PhD programme.

The deadline for applications is 1 April 2019. For more information about the application procedure and VID's PhD programme please have a look at the [full vacancy announcement](#).

Upcoming events

International Conference for PhD-Students in Diaconic Science – rescheduled to October 11th-12th 2019 at the Heidelberg University, German. Please see the [programme](#).

Research Conference in Theology and Religion, March 19/20, 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, organized by Finnish learned associations in the field of theology and religious studies. The conference [website](#) will be published in April 2019. An open call for sessions to be held in Finnish, Swedish or English will be published at the same time. Call for papers will be opened in the autumn 2019.

VID Stavanger has invited ReDi to host *the next ReDi Biennial Conference in September 16th -18th 2020*. More information will be provided closer to the date.

One of the aims of the newsletter is to let you know that ReDi and the field of diaconal studies is constantly developing. You can also contribute to make the development of this field visible. If you send us information about events, research, publications or other things that are happening in your realm, we would be most happy to publish them on the ReDi website or in the ReDi newsletter. Just let us know!

With best wishes,

Ninna Edgardh

Chairperson

Isto Peltomäki

Vice Chair
