

## **ReDi Newsletter May 2019**

***Update on the Administrative Relocation***

***Submit Your Master Thesis to the Anders Bäckström Prize 2020***

***Diaconia Issue 2018 9/2 is published***

***Call for Abstracts: Diaconia Journal***

***Call for Papers: International meeting for PhD students, Heidelberg***

***Call for Sessions: Research Conference in Theology and Religion 2020, Finland***

***Eurodiaconia: Call for researcher on diaconal youth work in Europe***

***Reports from Practice and Essays***

**Dear members,**

We are happy to give out a newsletter with plenty of interesting information for anyone in the field of practice or research of Diaconia. At first we give an update on the administrative relocation of the society to Belgium. Also, in this newsletter, we announce the call to submit master theses to the Anders Bäckström Prize 2020 and several calls for academic contributions in different contexts in the field of the study of Diaconia. At the end of the letter, you can find the latest reports from practice of Diaconia.

### **Update on the Administrative Relocation**

We are happy to report that after the legal registration of ReDi in February, we recently also received the Royal Decree officially establishing ReDi as International Non-Profit Organisation in the Kingdom of Belgium. What will happen within the next weeks is that a bank account will be opened to make the association fully operational. After the summer members of ReDi (Finland) will receive an electronic invitation to transfer their membership to ReDi (Belgium).

The aim of the establishment of ReDi (Belgium) is to solve the administrative problems we have been having, trying to run an organisation based in Finland, with statutes in

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Finnish and its financial assets with a bank in Finland, from the secretariat of Eurodiaconia in Brussels.

The organisation will have the same name and purpose as ReDi and the statutes are the same. One important change: 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.

### **Submit Your Master Thesis to the Anders Bäckström Prize 2020**

Professor emeritus in the Sociology of Religion Anders Bäckström (Uppsala University) has founded a fund to support research on Diaconia, Christian social practice, welfare and religion, and in particular young researchers in this field. The Anders Bäckström Fund is placed at Diakonhjemmet foundation in Oslo/Norway. The board of the Anders Bäckström Fund announces this year for the second time an award for an excellent master thesis in the field of diaconal studies and welfare and religion. The Anders Bäckström Prize will be awarded for the second time during the conference of the International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi) 16-18 September 2020 in Stavanger/Norway.

Please see the full [announcement](#) on our website and do not hesitate to apply for the award.

### **Diaconia Issue 2018 9/2 has been published**

See the latest issue of Diaconia Journal, <https://www.vr-elibrary.de/toc/diac/9/2>.

### **Call for Abstracts: Diaconia Journal**

Diaconia Journal calls for abstracts for the Special Issue on Diaconia and Community Development 2/2019. Please see [the call on our website](#).

### **Call for Papers: International meeting for PhD students in the Study of Diaconia, Heidelberg**

More than two years ago, there was a first international meeting for PhD students in diaconic science at the Institute for Diaconic Science and Management in Bielefeld,

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Germany. We would like to invite you today to present papers at the next meeting which will take place from Oct. 11 to Oct. 12, 2019 at the Institute for the Study of Diaconia (Diakoniewissenschaftliches Institut/DWI) at Heidelberg University (attention: the original date July 19 to July 20, 2019 has been rescheduled to October 2019).

In different European countries universities offer PhD-programs with a focus on the study of Diaconia. The objective of the conference is to connect students who are working and studying in these programs to get to know each other, to develop avenues of cooperation and to discuss methodological questions as well as approaches to the “philosophy“ of the study of Diaconia. Thus, we would like to invite you to send in a one page description of your PhD project which you would like to present at the conference (poster or paper presentation, forum of questions and discussion). Please mail the one page description of your project until June 30, 2019 (extended deadline) to [dorothea.schweizer@dw.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:dorothea.schweizer@dw.uni-heidelberg.de).

### **Call for Sessions: Research Conference in Theology and Religion 2020, Helsinki**

This is the first concerted conference in the field of theology and religious studies in Finland with the theme of religion and contemporary challenges in the society. Organized together by Finnish learned associations in the field of theology and religious studies.

The conference invites proposals for sessions of high level with any subject in the field of theology and religious studies until September 10th 2019. The study of Diaconia and Christian social practice is one desired field of study to be discussed in the conference. Please see the call for sessions on the website of the conference. <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/teologian-ja-uskonnontutkimuksen-paivat-2020/call-for-sessions/>

### **Eurodiaconia: Call for researcher on diaconal youth work in Europe**

After successfully commissioning a [study on radicalisation prevention](#) through social inclusion in Europe, Eurodiaconia is now looking for a researcher or consultant to build on previous findings of Eurodiaconia’s youth policy work to collect and assess diaconal youth work in Europe, especially looking at (1) youth unemployment, (2) marginalisation and (3) radicalisation prevention through social inclusion. The

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European network also published a report from practice for ReDi which is available in the [reports from practice section](#) on the ReDi website.

If you are interested to learn more about the call, please have a look at the [document on the ReDi website](#) and feel free to forward the call to anyone who might be interested.

### **Reports from Practice and Essays**

Please see the latest reports from practice on our website.

<https://www.diaconiaresearch.org/news/reports-from-practice/>

- Hirundo Drop In Centre for Migrants at the Helsinki Deaconess Institute
- A study on Diaconal Youth Work in Europe today
- From A Common Table

ReDi is continuing its efforts to build bridges between research and praxis. That is why the Reports from Practice section on our website has been created, aiming to bridge the gap between the academic world and what is happening on the ground. In this section we will publish examples of diaconal work from Europe and beyond that can inform and inspire us – some reports have already been published.

We invite you to have a look at this section and most of all: to send your contributions. To learn more about how it works, please read our Guidelines for Contributors and get in touch with Herman Noordegraaf at [hnoordegraaf@pthu.nl](mailto:hnoordegraaf@pthu.nl). We look forward to reading from you!

*For a final remark*, you can also contribute by sending us information about events, research, publications or other things to make the development of this field visible. We would be most happy to publish the information on the ReDi website or in the ReDi newsletter.

With best wishes,

Ninna Edgardh

Chairperson

Isto Peltomäki

Vice Chair

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