

CODE Forum 2026

Introduction to the Papers and Workshops

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Leadership, Innovation and Locally Led Development

This workshop invites participants into an emerging conversation on how faith-based organizations (FBOs) can respond more effectively to today's complex societal challenges through discussing leadership, innovation, and locally led development. Together we explore how churches, development agencies, and diaconal institutions can rethink their roles in a changing global landscape. As Christianity's demographic centre shifts to the Global South, assumptions about power, expertise, and leadership are being reconsidered.

The session highlights the growing recognition that sustainable social impact requires not only new programs, but also deep organizational innovation—reshaping practices, structures, and forms of collaboration across regions and sectors. Attention is given to the move from hierarchical and Western-centric approaches toward more relational, equitable, and context-sensitive models of engagement. The presentation invites dialogue on how FBOs can contribute meaningfully to addressing grand challenges such as inequality, poverty, and climate change through more just and collaborative ways of organizing. Participants will be invited into this discussion and even consider contributing to this book project. The aim is to contribute with theoretical perspectives and insights into emerging practices that promote shared leadership, mutual learning, and locally grounded innovation, while critically engaging with questions of power, inclusion, and transformation in diaconia.