

CODE Forum 2026

Introduction to the Papers and Workshops

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Diaconal Identity and Practice in a Multifaith Context: Norwegian Diaconal Organizations Practical Navigation of their Diaconal Identity in the Life Stance - Open Society

Diaconal organizations identities are rooted in one faith tradition (Christianity). As welfare-providers in a multifaith context diaconal organizations must strive to be open and inclusive for people who belong to all or none kinds of faiths or life-stances. I present examples from three different Norwegian diaconal organizations that show how diaconal organizations struggle to navigate their diaconal identities in practice. The examples illustrate the complexity that diaconal organizations must navigate in a multifaith context and highlight the risk of diaconal values contributing to secularization. If diaconal organizations navigate their faith identity with consciousness of their different roles, they might serve as pioneers that could guide other actors in the task of developing just and inclusive communities where religious practices are accepted, facilitated and welcomed in public spaces.