

CODE Forum 2026

Introduction to the Papers and Workshops

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From Food Waste to Communities of Belonging: Diaconal Responses to Crisis in Norway

Norway is often perceived as an affluent welfare state, yet food insecurity, loneliness, and social inequality remain significant challenges. Food-bank queues have become longer. Simultaneously, large quantities of perfectly edible food are discarded. I present how diaconal practice in Oslo can address environmental crises, food insecurity, and social and economic exclusion through the creative use of surplus food and community meals. The aim is to transform surplus resources into spaces of hospitality, dignity, and participation. The project consists of four interconnected components: community meals ("Guest Feasts"); educational seminars on Norway's new Food Waste legislation and the consequences of food waste; practical food-rescue training for church staff and volunteers; and the mapping of local sources of surplus food in order to establish sustainable partnerships between congregations and local businesses. As well as describing the project and the aims I will investigate conflicts and dilemmas, e.g. the potential lack of long-term changes in the local congregation practices.