

Call for tenders for researcher / consultant

Research on political radicalisation prevention - from a social policy perspective in urban areas

Brussels, 1 August 2018

(1) Background

Eurodiaconia is a dynamic, Europe wide community of organisations founded in the Christian faith and working in the tradition of Diaconia, who are committed to a Europe of solidarity, equality and justice. As the leading network of Diaconia in Europe, we connect organisations, institutions and churches providing social and health services and education on a Christian value base on over 30 European countries. We bring members together to share practices, impact social policy and reflect on Diaconia in Europe today.

The deadly terrorist attacks throughout Europe in the recent years, the violent protests around last year's G20 summit in Hamburg, as well as arson attacks on refugee shelters, synagogues, mosques, and churches have contributed to the fact that the issue of violent **political extremism and radicalisation** is high up on the European political agenda, especially concerning young people. **Populist rhetoric and far right extremism** continuously threatens social cohesion of communities. "Othering" – whereby an individual or group is cast into the role of the "other" and given the status of "not one of us" – splits communities into "us" and "them" and provokes conflict instead of cohesion

The European Parliament recently established a new committee on Terrorism ([TERR](#)) to deal with the problem, the European Commission set radicalisation prevention as a [priority in the EU Internal Security Strategy](#) and established the EU-wide Radicalisation Awareness Network ([RAN](#)). Also the European Economic and Social Committee recently adopted an [opinion](#) that deals with the prevention of radicalisation of young people. Eurodiaconia has observed that the focus of many initiatives lies on religious radicalisation and that political radicalisation seems less prominent and therefore also shifts public debate. Therefore, Eurodiaconia aims at closing this gap.

(2) Aim of the research

Eurodiaconia wishes to commission a research paper to focus on the question of how to best prevent **political radicalisation** of young people in the EU building on previous activities and findings like the [mapping of Eurodiaconia members' work in urban areas](#) or an [event in the European Parliament](#) in 2017 looking at radicalisation prevention **from a social inclusion angle and how diaconal initiatives can counter radicalisation and foster social cohesion**. The study shall *not* focus on religious radicalisation, but explicitly on **political radicalisation and its prevention**.

The paper aims at evaluating counter-radicalisation approaches, both in terms of their efficiency and their broader social & political impact through analysing them in conjunction with **best practice examples of Eurodiaconia member organisations**. Thereby building on a conception of radicalisation as a process of escalation, because radicalisation is a dynamic, relational process and an often unforeseen and unpredictable consequence of a series of transformations.

Academic approaches on political radicalisation today are often based on a combination of two theories: frustration (relative deprivation theory) and contamination (exposure theory). Therefore, the analysis of the socio-political sequences of action and contexts, of relationships between social structures, political contexts and biographical exposure in which violence is embedded is key to understand the process of radicalisation. More research is needed to **understand the causes, processes and mechanisms of political radicalisation** (e.g. the role of prisons and prison counselling) in order to be able to develop effective preventive and counter-measures on local, national and European level.

To formulate effective **counter-narratives**, more research on narratives themselves is critical. Why is it that some individuals buy into this far right/left narrative and others do not? Research should be also dedicated to comparative research of far right/left political narratives in order to establish whether there is a case for commonalities and thus common elements to counter-narratives.

(3) Research objectives, audience and use of findings

This paper aims to define the current theoretical background of **political radicalisation prevention from a social inclusion perspective**, to describe the **status quo** of political radicalisation prevention work being performed by Eurodiaconia member organization, to present **good and innovative practices** being in place, and to formulate **suggestions for further improvement** of preventive radicalisation efforts in the form of **policy recommendations**.

The paper shall also build on the findings of the [Eurodiaconia Urban Partnership Seminar](#) that was held from 17 to 18 May 2018 in Düsseldorf (Germany), which focused on the measures taken by social organizations in urban areas in terms of political radicalisation prevention and social cohesion.

The paper will provide Eurodiaconia members and the European Commission (EC) with good practice examples in the area of radicalisation prevention from a social policy perspective. It will develop policy recommendations for the EC and discuss policies already in place showing its relevance for members also in terms of potentials using EU-funding to support members evolving work in this area. A public presentation of the results is envisaged in early 2019 in the European Parliament.

The paper should gather the following elements in about 20 pages in total

1. A short presentation of the most acknowledged models and methods in political radicalisation prevention (small literature review). This should include definitions, critical assessment, current impact, and expected development;
2. Analysing the work of selected Eurodiaconia members regarding radicalization prevention in conjunction with these models and methods (data collected through phone interviews – equipment will be provided)
3. Set of policy recommendations based on existing evidence and concrete experience

(4) Suggested research methods

- Interviews with selected social workers/project managers of Eurodiaconia member organisations working on radicalisation prevention (contacts and equipment will be provided)
- Description and analysis of the status quo of radicalisation prevention measures in selected member organisations and showcasing innovative practices
- Desk review: Review of data from primary and secondary sources

(5) Timetable and deliverables

- Application deadline: **21 September 2018**
- The contract will be awarded the **latest by 28 September 2018.**
- Preliminary report to be submitted by **23. November 2018.**
- Final report to be submitted by **12. December 2018.**

The findings of the report will be discussed by the researcher-consultant with Eurodiaconia and the contributing member organisations. The final version of the report will require approval by Eurodiaconia.

(6) Research Management

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(7) Qualifications and experience required

- Proven research and/or consultancy record in the area of radicalisation prevention and youth work, if in a diaconal/church setting it would be an asset
- Relevant university degree
- Knowledge of contemporary political radicalisation models and methods.
- Knowledge of EU radicalisation prevention and youth work policies.
- Excellent reporting skills in English.
- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods

(8) Payment

The maximum budget foreseen for carrying out the study is **EUR 5,000** including all taxes and overheads.

Payments for the researcher's services will be transferred in two instalments following each deliverable (preliminary report and final version).

(9) Tenders/offer

The tender should include at least:

- a brief note reflecting your understanding of the research expected and the methodologies foreseen
- a draft work plan reflecting the above elements and expected time needed for each stage (incl. an indication of how many days will be required to carry out the research)
- a justification showing how your profile matches the requirements listed in point 7, including your CV and previous output/publications related to the topic.

The tender shall be entirely drafted in English. The proposal shall be submitted at the latest by 21 September 2018 at 23:59 CET by e-mail to florian.tuder@eurodiaconia.org.

Should any problems of interpretation arise in the course of drawing up the tender documents, interested parties may submit via e-mail (florian.tuder@eurodiaconia.org) a request for further information, no later than seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the receipt of tenders. The answers given to such questions will be published on the same web page as the present call for tenders.

There is no commitment on the part of Eurodiaconia to accept any tender or part thereof that is received in response to this call for tenders. Eurodiaconia reserves the right to accept tenders with non-substantial defects and to reject tenders received after the deadline for receipt of tenders, without indemnity or justification.

Eurodiaconia reserves the right to modify or cancel all or part of the call for tenders, should the need arise, without having to justify its actions and without such action conferring any right to compensation on applicants. Eurodiaconia reserves the right to extend the deadline for receipt of the tenders. In that case, all the applicants and applications will be subject to this new deadline. Tenders are not paid. No reimbursement of expenses related to the preparation of any tender will be made by Eurodiaconia. The call for tenders and any further information communicated to the applicant or which come to his knowledge in the course of the call for tenders and the performance of the work, are confidential and are strictly dedicated to the purpose of the call for tenders.