



Open call for journalists and media practitioners

**Would you like to become a member of
a new EU platform for an inclusive
world?**

**Join
GERIS Network!**

APPLY NOW!

DEADLINE: 6 APRIL 2021



About 'Global Exchange on Religion in Society'

Global Exchange on Religion in Society (GERIS) is an EU-funded, two-year (2020-2022) technical assistance project for **networking, societal capacity building and social media engagement**. The project is implemented by a consortium composed of Particip (lead partner) and the Media Diversity Institute.

The **goal of the project** is to contribute to social inclusion and societal resilience by setting up a global, community-based initiative to facilitate a global conversation on diversity, coexistence and social inclusion. Through this action, the European Union proposes to connect positive experiences of coexistence among people of different faiths, and none, in societies across the globe. It sets out to empower civic engagement and facilitate a more active, participatory and shared sense of citizenship across different sets of beliefs and worldviews.

The project will facilitate sharing of best practices for promoting respect for one another and fostering social inclusion by creating a transnational network of actors from **wider civil society and different faith traditions**. It will also help these actors acquire new skills, expand their work and, with a help of journalists, reach out to a larger audience. GERIS will operate a vibrant **social media platform** establishing a public space to communicate the project outputs and a private space for smaller groups of the participants to have continuous conversations about the project themes. This platform will become the main channel of a new Alumni Network and one of the instruments to ensure the project sustainability.

The **project themes** include: (1) The challenge of living together in a globalised world of highly diverse societies; (2) Positive experience of coexistence and inclusion, and shared citizenship; (3) Fostering pluralism and respect for diversity through education; (4) Challenge of being a minority; tolerance and respect for diversity as a solution; (5) Active citizenship, belonging and identity; (6) Harnessing opportunities for reconciliation and transitional justice. The GERIS participants will be invited to refine these themes in line with their personal and professional experience in the respective fields.

The project will not only have a virtual component but also physical exchanges, which will take place in Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Morocco, South Africa, USA.

Don't miss out and apply before 6 April 2021

We are happy to announce an **Open Call for Applications for the GERIS project**. If you are a **journalist or media practitioner** working on social inclusion, diversity, and religion and would like to connect with like-minded actors apply to become a participant.

We will be selecting **approximately 30 journalists**.

What GERIS offers to journalists/ media practitioners

- **Participation in virtual and/ or in-person exchanges** (country visits are subject to COVID-19 travel restrictions): Journalists, alongside GERIS Network Members (civil society actors, expert, academics and religious practitioners), will take part in **exchange visits to the six project countries** (each will be visited by one group of 25-30 participants and journalists). The **exchange visits** will include meetings with local civil society actors including religious actors, local NGOs, and institutional representatives; meeting the EU Delegations; interactive topical debates with local experts, visits to local projects, and cultural sites.



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- They will also participate in **Virtual Conversation series** throughout the project (three series of virtual conversations) to get to know the key GERIS issues and challenges in the project countries as well as other countries.
- **Editorial skills training:** A specialised, advanced training to coach journalists in best practices related to the project’s objectives. The main objectives of the GERIS mentoring-cum-production training for journalists:
 - To gain the basic skills of Inclusive Journalism (apart from fairness, accuracy and balance, inclusion is its main principle)
 - To get access to contacts in the project countries as well as other countries
 - To get story ideas and access to key sources needed to produce content consistent with the principles of Inclusive Journalism,
 - To share their own experience with their peers in project countries as well as other countries
 - To bring stories from all countries represented in the project to the media outlets (traditional and online), contributing to sharing knowledge, experiences and challenges as well as best practices from around the globe.

Training will use a variety of training methods - theory, practice, review and discussions. It will be coordinated with the exchange visits and virtual conversations and will be delivered by senior trainers with relevant expertise.

- **Mentored Research and Editorial Support:** As part of GERIS, up to 30 articles, in tune with Inclusive Journalism principles, on different practices of social inclusion, coexistence and diversity will be published in the national media and/or on the project’s website and social media stream. Journalists will receive guidance from a senior editorial specialist who will support them in the process of producing good quality, feature articles that meet the highest editorial standards, demonstrating, therefore, the gained skills. They will work together with GERIS Network Members (CSO) on creating these engaging stories. The project’s team will guarantee the placement of their stories in the prominent media outlets.
- **Becoming part of GERIS Alumni Network:** Journalists/ media practitioners will become members of the GERIS Alumni Network in order to stay connected with CSOs. This platform will offer further networking opportunities, online access to project and training materials, micro-projects results and updates, information and invitations about relevant EU events, conferences, policy agenda and other activities. Networking between CSOs and media is essential to creating Global conversation and for the GERIS Network Members voices to be heard.

Journalists will be encouraged to actively participate, with the support from the project team, in all GERIS activities. The engagement is planned to start in May 2021 and conclude in September 2022, according to the following timeline:

GERIS Timeline

Activity	2021												2022								
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Virtual conversations series 1					■	■	■														
Country exchange visits													■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Virtual conversations series 2																					
Virtual track-2 conversations																					
Alumni Network																					
Editorial workshop						■															
CSO-Media collaboration																					
Editorial research/ producing stories																					



Practical information

Operational costs for GERIS participation covered by the project will include:

- Logistics-related costs (rental of technical facilities or meeting rooms, technical support for participation in virtual conversations)
- Travel and accommodation costs related to exchange visits and GERIS participation
- Publication costs, visibility and campaigning material or similar costs

Who can apply?

Diversity, inclusion and religion journalists

Invited to submit applications are:

- Journalists and media practitioners working or legally residing in one of the six Project countries (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Morocco, South Africa and the USA)
- Journalists from any other country (global participation is encouraged)
- Journalists with professional focus on social inclusion and marginalised communities (e.g. LGBTI), religion, development, coexistence and inclusive citizenship
- Professionals affiliated with one specific media outlet
- Freelancers specialising in the relevant topics will be considered as well

Candidates submitting their application through this call must:

- Have minimum 10 years of professional experience
- Be able to present extensive publications portfolio
- Have experience in print/ traditional media and/ or new media
- Have a good working knowledge of English
- If selected, submit a letter from their commissioning editor allowing them to participate in the project
- Be available in the specified time-frame

During the selection, the Project will consider the following aspects:

- Fulfilment of the criteria listed above
- Balanced representation of all the target countries
- Gender balance
- Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply

Data protection

The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) of the European Commission, FPI.4 Unit and the European External Action Service, acting as joint controllers will process your personal data to assess your application to participate in the project Global Exchange on Religion in Society (GERIS). In case you are selected, your data will be processed in the context of the



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implementation of the project as detailed in the privacy statement that is attached to this call for participation in a PDF format.

All applicants are required to confirm agreement with the **Privacy Statement** (attached with the call for applications) and respond to the **Consent Form** questions (in the Application Form).

How to apply?

Applicants will need to submit via email to GERIS@particip.com the **application form** in English/ French and **your publications portfolio** the reasons for the interest in the project.

Deadline for submitting the application is **6 April 2021**.

Only complete applications will be assessed.

Only selected candidates will be informed by e-mail.

Selection Timetable

Call published	8 March 2021
Deadline for requesting clarification	15 March 2021
Deadline for applications	6 April 2021
Selected applicants informed	30 April 2021



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