



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

**Would you like to connect with civil
society actors globally?**

**Open call for
applications to
become
GERIS Network
Member**

APPLY NOW!

**DEADLINE EXTENDED:
12 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 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 12 April 2021

We will be selecting **120-150 participants**. Of those participants 60-70 are expected to be residents in Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Morocco, South Africa, USA (project countries in which the exchange visits will take place), while another 60-70 spaces will be open to participation from across the world.

What GERIS offers to GERIS Network Member

- **Participation in virtual and in-person exchanges** (country visits are subject to COVID-19 travel restrictions): GERIS Network Members will take part in exchange visits to the six project countries (each participant will visit one country in a group of 20-25). The **exchange visits** will include meetings with local civil society actors including religious



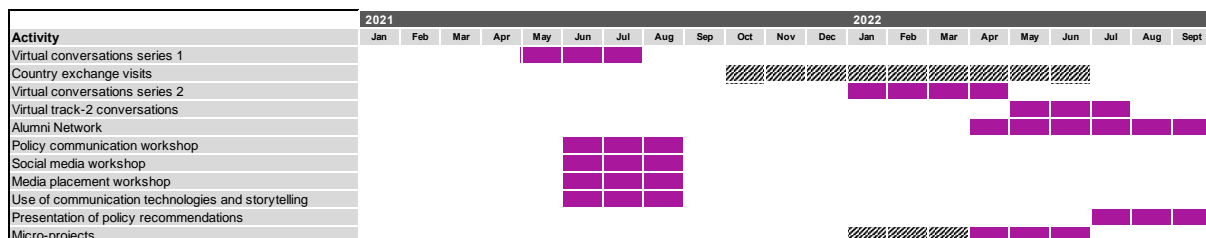
actors, local NGOs, and institutional representatives; meeting the EU Delegations; interactive thematic debates with local experts, visits to local projects, and cultural sites.

GERIS Network Members will also participate in **Virtual Conversation** series throughout the project (three series of virtual conversations) to share their experiences and views. The participants will discuss and exchange practical experience related to the role of 'religion in society' and bring forward concrete 'best practices' on how using a faith lens can also contribute to addressing challenges of living together in a globalized world.

- **Skill building workshops:** GERIS Network Members will be offered comprehensive training to strengthen their skills for policy and social media engagement and increase their ability to cooperate with partners. They will be offered **four workshops** focusing on policy communication skills; social media techniques; increasing organisational media coverage; use of communication technology and storytelling (for enhanced collaboration). All workshops will use a variety of training methods (theory, practice, strategies). They will be delivered by senior trainers with relevant expertise and coordinated with other project activities, to encourage immediate use of the new skills.
- **GERIS Alumni Network:** Participants will become members of the GERIS Alumni Network in order to stay connected and to continue working together. 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. Through the network, the members will get an opportunity to attend various high-level meetings and interact with decision-makers and policy actors from the EU institutions.
- **Micro-projects:** The GERIS Network Members will receive support to prepare micro-projects individually or jointly, as part of the skills development and capacity building. The goal is to organize activities that will promote relations between different segments of civil society in different countries. The micro-projects will be carried out in the communities where these actors work and are expected to directly engage the community members

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

GERIS Timeline



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,
- Thematic or micro-projects related expertise costs,
- Publication costs, visibility and campaigning material or similar costs.

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 implementation of the project as detailed in the enclosed privacy statement.

All applicants are required to confirm agreement with the **Privacy Statement** (attached with this 'Call for Applications') and sign the **Consent Form** in the Application Form.

Who can apply?

Invited to submit applications are:

Civil society actors engaged in fostering social inclusion, coexistence and respect of differences through their work

Local community leaders (faith-based or not) and practitioners focusing on the challenges and solutions for local communities

Faith based actors working closely with those in need of support in addressing everyday challenge

Social inclusion and diversity experts and academics

Members of organisations with experience in implementing local projects

Candidates submitting their application through this call must:

- Have expertise and experience in social inclusion, diversity and coexistence
- Be actively engaged in their communities and demonstrate track record and impact of their ideas/engagement
- Be open to and/or able to conceive a proposal for a joint mini-project to be implemented as part of the GERIS engagement
- Have a good working knowledge of English.

During the selection of participants, we will consider the following:

- Fulfilment of the criteria listed above,
- Balanced representation of different actors and global destinations,
- Gender balance,
- Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.



How to apply?

Applicants will need to submit via email to geris@particip.com the **application form** in English/ French and a **motivation letter explaining** the reasons for the interest in the project.

Deadline for submitting the application is **12 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	12 April 2021
Selected applicants informed	30 April 2021



'Funded by the European Union'

