



Open call for video contributions: “Working for respect of diversity of religions and convictions outside the European Union”

The European Commission, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), invites organizations implementing EU funded projects in the area of interreligious dialogue/cooperation and/or Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) to submit videos presenting their activities.

The theme is “**Working for respect of diversity of religions and convictions outside the European Union**”. The submissions should cover at least three of the following aspects:

- Describe the project and why it is important
- Highlight actions, including innovative efforts, implemented or foreseen and the strategy/ approach adopted
- Introduce results achieved or in progress and the impact expected
- Present main challenges
- Highlight what you hope to achieve in the future

Up to six videos will be selected and professionally edited into 2-3 minute video clips.

An eight minute “Best Of” video will be produced from all the collected material and aired at the European Development Days in Brussels, Belgium.

- The „Best of“ and the clips will be professionally edited and disseminated via various channels. They will be available for further use by all interested stakeholders.
- One representative for each of the selected projects will be invited to participate in the European Development Days (all costs covered).
- **The deadline for the submission is March 31st 2017.**

The edited videos will show a variety of initiatives, illustrating how persons of different religions and convictions including, non-believers, lead dialogues and/or cooperate, building trust and respect.

Please visit the following link call-for-videos.mc-digital.com for a more detailed description of the visual and technical requirements, as well as a registration form that should be uploaded along with the video.

The submissions are a part of an initiative launched by the European Commission, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), with the goal to illustrate selected promising projects funded by the EU through external assistance. This initiative is sponsored by Jan Figel, Special Envoy for the promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the European Union, appointed by the President of the European Commission in May 2016.



The **context** and the **objectives** of the call

Peaceful relations between religious or belief communities and respect for diversity on these grounds are key assets for peace, social cohesion and development which need to be valued and supported. In many countries, freedom of religion or belief (FORB) is under threat and tensions are on the rise.

The EU Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief adopted by EU and Member States in 2013¹ provide the agreed EU policy line. They highlight the importance of promoting respect for diversity and call state and non state actors to engage proactively.

There is a wealth of ongoing initiatives initiated by civil society and religious/belief communities aiming at promoting peaceful coexistence and cooperation respect for diversity, interreligious dialogue and FORB. The EU supports activities in these areas through different instruments, notably the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Civil Society Organisations-Local Authorities (CSO/LA), Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) as well as bilateral and trust funds.

In this context, Directorate General on International Cooperation and Development launches the production of videos under the theme of **„Working for respect of diversity of religions and convictions outside the European Union“** to illustrate selected promising projects funded by the EU through its external assistance.

The objectives are to show cooperation **„in action“**, in the above-mentioned fields, inspire similar activities, feed an informed debate, as well as offer visibility to EU political engagement and support in this field.

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Jan Figel serves as Special Adviser to Commissioner on International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica.

¹ <https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/137585.pdf>