



NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

It is our pleasure to introduce to you the first interdiac Newsletter edition of 2010. These three months 2010 can be considered as an important milestone in that we ended the first study programme. At the same time it was a milestone in a new beginning of developmental actions of interdiac. We are glad to announce to you that the first 11 interdiac students successfully passed their assignments in the pilot module "Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia". We all could celebrate together the diploma presentation on 17th March 2010. We would like to express our thanks to all of you who have believed in the idea of interdiac and have put its vision into action!

Your interdiac Team

The Last contact Teaching of the Pilot module "Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia" in January 2010

The group of the first interdiac Pilot module students met again for 3 days in Český Tešín in order to share their fresh experience and the findings gained during the previous months in placements. A crucial moment of the last workshop was the 'open book' examination which aimed to show how the learners have been able to integrate the theory and practical experience gained throughout previous 5 months. Alongside this, a space was created for new learning, focusing on empowerment and anti-oppressive practice. The workshop ended with the introduction of near-future plans of interdiac. This was followed by evaluation, thanksgiving and saying 'Bye-Bye', as this meeting was the last one of the four course workshops.

interdiac was presented at DELKU consultation in Odessa

The attendance of Ms. J. Adameová at the DELKU consultation meeting on the possible development strategies of the diaconia within DELKU, created a space for deeper discussions on the training possibilities. It was agreed that Bishop Uland Spahlinger and Mr. Serge Maschewski will join the interdiac March consultation in Bratislava. It was the first time that DELKU was present at an interdiac event since its membership in Honorary Council was confirmed, October 2009.

What has been happening ?

- **The 4th Contact Teaching of the Pilot module "Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia" took place January 2010 in Český Těšín.**
- **interdiac was presented at the DELKU consultation on Diaconia in Odessa.**
- **interdiac and Eurodiaconia will work together**
- **The interdiac Executive Board met online in January 2010.**

interdiac and Eurodiaconia agree to mutual cooperation

The interdiac and Eurodiaconia Boards considered the possible strategies of mutual cooperation presented by the Management Team of interdiac and General secretary of Eurodiaconia at their respective meetings. Both Executive Bodies agreed to them and suggested the elaboration of a Memorandum of Understanding by the end of April 2010. The mutual cooperation between these transnational organizations will aim at joint ventures based on capacity building & exchange of knowledge and experience. The organizations have different focus areas with a strong emphasis on networking with and among their members and partner organizations. A step towards this cooperation, was the invitation of General Secretary of Eurodiaconia, Ms. Heather Roy to the interdiac March consultation in Bratislava.

interdiac Executive Board met virtually in January 2010

The meeting was mainly devoted to reporting on the activities since mid October 2009 and the Introduction on the work and financial plan for the year 2010. The proposals in both plans were approved unanimously. The Management Team and the Organisational structure of interdiac were also approved. Ms. J. Adameová, the Director, Mr. T. Addy the Head of Education and Mrs. V. Raszkova, Programme Supporter were appointed for 12 months. The book-keeping and other necessary services will be bought externally.

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What has been happening?

- **The interdiac Founders decided on the Board membership**
- **The project of Mobile Workshops has been launched**
- **The Fund Taoba became a new member of the Honorary Council**

In the picture: Fourth Contact Teaching
Observing and learning about methods and communication from using role play

Decision of the interdiac Founders on nomination of Board members

The Legal representatives of Slezska Diakonie (CZ) and Helsinki Deaconess Institute (FI) have agreed that Mr. Ceslav Santarius and Ms. Sona Kotibova will continue as members of Executive Board and Mr. Jarmo Kokko as a member of the Advisory Board. It was also agreed that Mr. Antti Elenius will replace Mrs. Birgitta Rantakarri on the Executive Board and Mr. Alexander Wojnar will replace Mr. Vladislav Lipus on the Advisory Board. We would like to use the opportunity to express our thanks to Mrs. B. Rantakari and Mr. Vladislav Lipus for all their contributions to the start of building up interdiac. We also wish for fruitful cooperation with their successors and other Board members.

The Publication about the interdiac Partner Organisations was first introduced at the Bratislava consultation

The networking with the members of Honorary Council operating in the region of Central and Eastern Europe is considered to be crucial for further developments of interdiac. Nowadays, interdiac has 11 partner organizations in 10 different countries in the region. They have been actively involved in the process of programme and infrastructure development. The Booklet about the partners aims to provide insightful information on the focal activities of the different organizations.

Special attention is also paid to the position of the social worker in particular country context and on current possibilities for training in the field of social work. The document is seen to provide starting point material and a framework of information for the new research project.

Launching the project of Mobile Workshops

The project of Mobile Workshops “Innovative Training for Social Cohesion for and with Youth” was launched on the 1st February 2010. The project will last till the end of January 2011. The project counts with Two 5-days Workshops organised in conjunction with the partner organisations in Georgia and Serbia. The integrative and participatory approach will be cross-cutting element in all the phases of project implementation.

Fund TAOBA became a new member of the interdiac Honorary Council

The Executive Board, at its face to face meeting on 18th March 2010, approved the Georgian organisation Fund TAOBA as a partner organisation of interdiac. TAOBA is a non- governmental organisation with 11 years experience of work with the elderly. The organization carries out healthcare and social programmes & does lobbying and advocacy with and on behalf elderly people. The organisation will be represented by Mr. Ucha Vakhania at the interdiac meetings.

The project of Mobile Workshops „Innovative Training for Social Cohesion for and with Youth“ has started. It is financially supported within the framework of the EU programme Youth in Action.



Education and Culture DG

‘Youth in Action’ Programme

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We celebrate the triumph of the Lord and pray with you, for renewing the life and hope of the poor in the world.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed Easter 2010 !

Your interdiac Team



Upcoming events :

- **15th April 2010, Meeting at ETF, Charles University on the accreditation of double degree programme, Prague**
- **7th –11th June 2010, 1st Mobile Workshop on Innovative Training for Social Cohesion for and with Youth, Tbilisi**

Supervision process of the Pilot Module

The supervision process of the interdiac pilot module has been completed successfully. The learners evaluated together with their supervisors, the sixteen weeks they had spent at their practice placement implementing theories into practice, working on their tasks and projects. We can say that both, the learners and the supervisors, fulfilled their tasks very well. The supervision process was also discussed with the supervisors, with those from abroad by phone or Skype call and with those from Czech Republic at a group meeting at the beginning of February. The importance of providing supervisors and representatives of the placements with high quality information, supporting language skills of the learners and supervisors and an individual approach to each learner, supervisor and placement were seen to be the most important elements according to these evaluations.

Study Visits to the placements of Slezská diakonie

As a follow up activity to the interdiac Pilot module, learners visited five placements of Slezská diakonie. This event took place from 25th to 27th January 2010 in Český Těšín and surroundings. A group of eight participants from Serbia, Romania, Hungary and Czech Republic was led by the programme-supporter. They learned about the services provided and approaches used at these placements and in the end came up with some interesting ideas for further cooperation.

interdiac consultation on Social Inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe, 14th—18th March 2010, Bratislava

The four days consultation meeting with about **55** participants from **15** countries can be seen as a unique event for sharing the experience about the phenomena of social exclusion and poverty in Central and Eastern Europe. A group of high motivated participants came up with a list of the burning issues of social exclusion in their particular contexts. They also identified what a role of diaconia and social initiatives of the churches and wider civil society are and could be in order to respond to those challenges. Information on the current position of diaconia and civil society initiatives was presented from the perspectives of region Visegrad, Balkan, Baltic and the Independent states of Russian Federation. These were followed by discussions on the strategies and approaches that are necessary to be developed in order effectively to respond to high needs often demanding immediate assistance. We also welcomed external speakers representing M.E.S.A. 10, EAPN, ILO and UNDP. As part of the follow-up interdiac will continue cooperation with UNDP and ILO on regional processes. The Bratislava Declaration on social exclusion in the CEE region was agreed and it is considered to be one outcome of the interdiac process for the development of Diaconia and training in the region. The full version of the Declaration as well the press release can be found on www.interdiac.eu

The interdiac Consultation was co-organised by interdiac & Evangelical Diaconia in Slovakia and co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund, Visegrad Strategic Programme.