

## NEWSLETTER

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are pleased to share with you some information from interdiac about actions that have taken place since late summer. During the summer months we were busy with all kind of preparatory work in order to welcome the first interdiac students. Alongside this, the placements for the practical experience of learning have been found in partner countries and by Slezska Diakonie for those staying in the Czech Republic. The most exciting time was to meet our students face to face in the first day of the study programme. To get know more about the learning journey we have undertaken, you are kindly invited to read the latest version of the Newsletter. Interdiac Team

### The 1st interdiac Workshops

The first interdiac Workshop began by focusing on the personal identity of the learners and the way this is integrated into a model for professional work. The basics of the profession and the ethical competences were elaborated and communication skills for social and community development work were practiced. The Workshop process demanded that the learners have the courage to be open to the personal challenges of dialogical and experiential learning as well as for theoretical studies. The result, according to the feedback, was surprise at how the process could enable the learners to develop their insights into personal and professional development. The Workshops were led by two Responsible Teachers Rev. Tony Addy and Dr. Aiva Rozenberga, who supervised a team of international lecturers coming from the partner organizations of interdiac ( e.g. Georgia, Hungary, Czech republic, Finland and Latvia ). The Workshops lasted for 10 intensive learning days of contact teaching and learning by experience through using the exposure method and other processes.

### Interdiac met the German delegation of the Braunschweig regional church ( Germany ), 7th September 2009

Mr. Weber ( Bishop of regional Lutheran Church in Braunschweig ) and Cathedral Pastor Hempel had a chance to get to know more about interdiac by being introduced to the

The 1st Workshops were financed from EU resources: Lifelong Learning Programme, Grundtvig, Workshops

### What has been happening ?

- In week 36 the 1st Workshop of Pilot Module on Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia started.
- The delegation of the regional church in Braunschweig met interdiac staff and the learners.
- Mr. Lars Hofgren, LWF consultant visited interdiac.
- Interdiac got Accreditation as an educational institution recognised by the Social Ministry of the Czech Republic.

Learning process through meeting and talking to the participants about their learning gains and their impressions of the studies. The delegation acknowledged very much the diversity of the group, in particular the way cooperation with such geographically and denominationally diverse group could be effective.

### Mr. Lars Hofgren visited interdiac, 7th-9th September 2009

Mr. Lars Hofgren was asked by Lutheran World Federation to visit interdiac in order to monitor the process of the project and its implementation. Another focus was put on the mutual learning and collecting of ideas for how the learning approach of interdiac may be used in other contexts worldwide. The 3 day visit was mainly devoted to the observation of teaching, and making interviews with teachers, students and the management team of interdiac.

Besides his involvement in interdiac workshops, he visited some centers of Slezska Diakonie, including some which are providing placements for the interdiac students.

Mr. Lars Hofgren wrote a report giving positive feedback from the visit and this was shared among the LWF staff.

### Interdiac is accredited by the Ministry of Social Affairs ( Czech Republic) as an educational institution

Interdiac has now been accredited as an educational institution which opens the way to the second step of accrediting specific learning programmes. Application for the accreditation of the pilot module is underway this autumn.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

## NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events :

- Mrs. V. Raszkova, interdiac Programme Supporter will meet the Supervisors & the Learners at their placements throughout the next months.
- 3rd Contact Teaching, 13th -15th November, 2009. Ms. Kaisa Rauma will join the Workshops and will make a lecture on local Diaconia
- Interdiac will be presented at the LWF Regional Church Leaders Meeting and at the Synod of the Silesian Church by Ms. Janka Adameova.
- J. Adameova & T. Addy will meet the representatives of Charles University and later the general secretary of Eurodiaconia, Ms. Heather Roy .

### What has been happening ?

- **Ms. J. Adameova met the colleagues of Diak and Helsinki Deaconess Institute in Finland.**
- **The 2nd Seminar & Workshops took place, 1st—4th October**
- **A Joint Board Meeting was held from 6th—8th October**
- **Interdiac has 2 new partner organisations, Armenian Round Table (ART, Armenia ) and DELKU ( Evangelical church ) from Ukraine.**

### Meetings with Diak and Helsinki Deaconess Institute in Finland, 21st - 25th September 2009

The 3 days intensive programme of meetings with staff of Diak in Helsinki, Pori and Järvenpää achieved the aims of mutual exchange of experience and knowledge on educational programmes, contributed a lot to new learning experience and strengthened the partnership between Diak and interdiac. The joint meetings with HDI staff, staff of Research Church Programme and also with the representatives of Turku Diocese were devoted to brainstorming and planning the further cooperation. The outline of a research project was defined and was presented to the Board meeting for discussion. The internship of Turku Diocese diaconia staff was discussed in detail. An article about the visit will be published in the Diocesan newspaper.

### The 2nd Contact Teaching Seminar & Workshops, 2nd-4th October 2009

The Seminar & Workshops in October was a follow –up of the Workshops in September and the ‘In-between Learning’ in the placements. The Seminar started with the sharing of the findings from the Placements in terms of understanding the context and planning plus key learning points. The feedback gave a chance to discuss this issue in the group and to make practical suggestions to improve the learning process. The Workshop unit on Spirituality and Diaconia addressed spirituality as being with God in the place where the person

is and being with the other as a key part of the essence of Diaconia.

The second Workshops Day took place in Dzingelow, where the learners got chance to get understand better the Polish context of social service and social security. A key focus was foster care. Methods of work with excluded children, youth & families on the basis of a holistic approach, were discussed and practiced in 3 groups with three authentic cases.

Other issues were dealt during the Workshops : Social work with the excluded adults, advocacy work and community building. The Workshops were organized in cooperation with the Diaconia Sleska in Dzingelow. Interdiac would like to express thanks to Mr. Marek Londzin and his staff who made the visit possible. It produced up a lot of ideas which need to be thought through by the learners.

### Executive & Advisory Board met in Český Těšín, 6th—8th October 2009

The Board representatives met in order to review the interdiac actions undertaken so far and discuss the vision & objectives for next 3 years. The Work plan, including the proposals for Mobile Workshops, Research & a Text Book Project were approved. The constitutional items such as cooperation agreements between the founders, programme supporter and interdiac were discussed and the procedure agreed. The action plan on the Joint Bachelor Study Programme & Memorandum of Understanding were also agreed. The Board approved ART and DELKU as partner organizations of interdiac.

The 2nd Seminar & Workshops were run within the project „Linking Learning to Local context by participative approach“ and co-financed by the International Visegrad Fund, Visegrad Strategic Programme



**international academy  
for diaconia and social action,  
central and eastern europe, o. p. s.**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Introducing interdiac students**

It is our pleasure to introduce you one of our interdiac participants. Nino Khundzakishvili is a social work student from Georgia. Even though she is a student and also one of our youngest, she does not lack experience.

Nino has been working as a social worker in Every Child project "Supporting IDP children and families" and in the Georgian Association of Psychosocial Aid, NDOBA.



Nino and her placement supervisor

We know Nino a little bit more now, so let us ask her some questions not only about her studies with interdiac.

### **What was your motivation to study at interdiac?**

First of all, when I was told about this programme, I was very glad. It was great chance for me to study abroad, get new experience in different social system and have a practice as a social worker in Czech Republic (Europe). So interdiac gave me this opportunity. I even did not hesitate to join this programme.

### **How do you like Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia study module?**

I like it very much because it is international and I got a lot of friends. I got some new information not only about Czech people and Czech social services, but also about other European countries. I also like that practice and theory are combined and connected. It is good for me to use in practice the theory I have studied.

### **You are doing your practice placement in Czech Republic. How do you like this country?**

I like this country very much. First of all, I like the nature and the autumn colours I can see all over the country. Then I like the order which exists at work, public transport and everywhere. Of course, I would like to learn Czech, but unfortunately I find it to be a bit difficult for me. But anyway even I have little time here, I will learn it at least just to communicate with Czech people.

### **Can you tell us something in Czech?**

Dobrý den. Já se jmenuji Nino. Jsem z Gruzie. Moje rodina je malá. Děkuji moc. (Good day. My name is Nino. I am from Georgia. My family is small. Thank you very much.)

### **Where do you do your placement and how do you like it?**

I have my placement in Třinec (a town near Český Tešín), in Social Assistance in Slezská Diakonie. My experience there is quite great, because I have found a lot of things in the social system in Czech Republic which I like very much. Also I learned a lot of things connected to social work, because I have a lot of discussions about different problems with my supervisor. We often find out different subjects and it is quite helpful for me to learn. This experience is very great for me, as I really would like to take some things from here and to establish them in Georgia. I do not know yet if I have this opportunity, but I will do my best to use this experience in benefit of my country.

### **Say 5 words which come to your mind when I say interdiac.**

Czech Republic, social exclusion, Český Těšín, different approaches to God, friends from different countries.

### **What would you wish to interdiac?**

I wish interdiac success at their work, to achieve the aims they have and a lot of students from different countries. I wish the students to go back to their home countries with a lots of experiences, personal fulfilment and improved professional skills.

Thank you, Nino. We wish you God's blessings and good luck.

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Interdiac, Dukelská 264/5, 737 01 Český Těšín, IČ: 285 67919

[www.interdiac.eu](http://www.interdiac.eu)

mail: [office@interdiac.eu](mailto:office@interdiac.eu)

tel.: +420 558 764 341, mob: +420 731 401449