



NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

It is our pleasure to introduce you the last interdiac Newsletter edition in the year 2009. The year 2009 can be considered a meaningful and important milestone in the developmental history of interdiac. Especially we are excited to have started to offer the pilot module on "Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia " with 12 students coming from the region. We would like to use this opportunity to express our thanks to all of you who have contributed to making interdiac "a lively learning institution with such colorful diversity and with so many new ideas."

interdiac Team

Ms. Kaisa Rauma made a study visit to interdiac & Slezska Diakonie, 13th November—17th November 2009

"It was a great experience to me to get know more about the study programme rooted in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. I admired very much the enthusiasm of such a diverse group of students.", said Kaisa after spending 3 days with us. Kaisa also shared her knowledge and experience of diaconia in a Finnish parish with the students. In particular she mentioned the challenges facing Diaconia in developing strategies for empowerment and for community development work. In view of the pressures of work it is also difficult to find time for longer development processes. However, students found the case study of parish diaconia very interesting in the context of the teaching about diaconal strategy building.

As well as participating in the interdiac Workshop, Kaisa visited several Slezska Diakonia workplaces dealing with children & youth at risk, children, youth & adults with disabilities, elderly people, homeless people and victims of domestic violence.

After the exchange of impressions and ideas gained during the previous days, we agreed to continue such way of learning based on mutual partnership between interdiac, Slezska Diakonia and Finnish partners. The study visit of a group of the Finish diaconal workers has been planned for 2010.

What has been happening ?

- Ms. Kaisa Rauma joined the Third Contact Teaching and made field visits to Slezska Diakonie.
- interdiac was presented at the Synod meeting of Silesian Lutheran Church.
- Ms. J. Adameova attended the LWF Regional meeting of Church Leaders in Budapest and presented interdiac.
- The interdiac grant of Trainings in the partner countries was approved.

As the 17th November 2009 was remembered as the 20th anniversary of the Velvet revolution, Kaisa could experience the atmosphere of the day and better understand the historical context for the developments since 1989.

LWF Regional Meeting of Church Leaders, 18th—19th November 2009

The interdiac initiative can be understood as an example of the best practice in capacity development in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, among projects supported by Lutheran World Federation in the year 2008. The meeting of 17 participants created a unique opportunity to present interdiac to the churches and diaconia in contexts where interdiac does not yet have partners. The discussion after the presentation quite clearly demonstrated that there is an interest to be in communication with the interdiac office and initiate cooperation. The interdiac learning programme was seen to fit to the needs of diaconia in the region.

interdiac was presented at the Synod meeting of Silesian Evangelical Church, 14th November 2009

Ms. J. Adameova introduced interdiac to the Synod attended by 62 church representatives. They had later had an opportunity to meet the interdiac learners, as the 3rd Contact Teaching was taking place at the same time. There is hope for follow up cooperation with particular church congregations.

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What has been happening?

- From 13th till 15th November the Third Contact Teaching Workshops and Seminars of the Pilot Module took place in Český Těšín.
- Programme supporter met interdiac partners, learners and supervisors in Budapest and Bratislava in week 44.

In the picture: Network evaluation of the day

The Third Contact Teaching Workshops and Seminars

The interdiac Pilot Module learners & teachers met again after six weeks of 'In Between Period' at the Third Contact Teaching Workshops and Seminars. The process was led by the responsible teachers, Tony Addy and Aiva Rozenberga as well as lecturers Laszlo Dani, Zuzana Nestrojová and Veronika Raszková. We were very happy to welcome a Nepalese student of Diak to our workshops. The programme was opened by group building activities and evaluation of the past weeks at placements. The learners had also the opportunity to discuss their work and ideas on the case study and essays which they need to submit before next Workshops and Seminars. The sessions were focused on Diaconia, Theology and Exclusion and Community Development Work. In the Diaconia sessions the participants were thinking about the diaconal vocation, types and forms of diaconia, diaconal culture and they prepared own diaconal theses. The Seminars and Workshops on Theology and Exclusion introduced some biblical ideas about exclusion and the use of Bible while doing case study. The participants also learned about the Community Development Work processes and roles. They discussed one case study and prepared a community development plan.

During the seminars, the learners came out with this very interesting and inspiring thought: God does not need our rituals. God wants our action!

Supervision system in interdiac

As a practice placement is a crucial part of the interdiac Pilot Module study programme, attention has to be paid to the supervision process. In interdiac we recognize two types of supervision: 'student supervision' and 'supervisor supervision'. The learners are supervised by a supervisor, who is usually employee of the organisation of their placement. The supervision sessions takes place once or twice a week, 2 hours overall, and should concentrate on the current situation on the placement and work on given assignments. The supervisors are consulting about their work and the situation of the placement with interdiac programme supporter, who is responsible for the supervision process. This supervision takes place once in a three weeks and uses different communication means (telephone, e-mail, personal meetings) according to the distance and needs of the supervisor.

Supervision visit to Budapest and Bratislava

Mrs. Veronika Raszková, interdiac programme supporter, visited Albert Schweitzer Old People's Home in Budapest and Centre for Social Services Integra in Bratislava. There were three aims for the visits: to meet supervisors and support and discuss their work; to provide support to interdiac learners and together with supervisors facilitate their learning process; and to introduce interdiac and its Pilot Module to the representatives of the placements.



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

NEWSLETTER

*We celebrate the birth of Christ and pray, with you,
for peace on earth and justice for the poor of the world.*

*We pray that your new year be filled with God's blessing,
successful work, joy in life and love in your heart.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010 !

Your interdiac Team

Continuing Cooperation with ETF, Charles University

The interdiac Management Team, J. Adameova & T. Addy met the representatives of ETF, led by Dr. Jindrich Halama, in order to continue in the discussions on the further steps of launching the Bachelor study programme. The November meeting focused on the drafting of the agreement between interdiac & Diak & ETF. The next meeting is planned for the 26th January 2010 .

interdiac Management Team met the General Secretary Ms. Heather Roy and APRODEV staff, 16th—17th December 2009

The aim was to discuss the ways in which interdiac and Eurodiaconia can cooperate more strategically. The introduction to the priority areas of both organisations led to the conclusion that a partnership agreement should be proposed to the respective Boards. The draft agreement, including categories of collaboration as well the partnership concept, will be presented by the staff to the Boards of interdiac and Eurodiaconia early in 2010 for decision.

The meeting with Aprodev staff, Mr. Rab van Drimmelen and Mr. Martin Schuster was targeting at getting know more about both organisations and understanding the structures of operations nationally and internationally, as interdiac and Aprodev work on both levels but with different focus.

Upcoming events :

- The interdiac Executive Board will meet online, the 20th January 2010
- The Fourth Contact Teaching & Examination will take place, 22nd - 24th January 2010
- Study visit of the interdiac Learners in the placements of Slezska Diakonie, 25th-27th January 2010
- interdiac consultation on Social Exclusion in Central and Eastern Europe, 14th— 18th March 2010.

Invitation for the interdiac Consultation on Social exclusion in Central and Eastern Europe, 14th—18th March 2010

The challenges of change in the region deepen due to the economic crisis which affects weaker economies more profoundly than others. Also, as the EU has declared 2010 the European Year against Social Exclusion, it is important to make a contribution grounded in the whole region. The consultation will feed into interdiac development by contributing to the formulation of the new training and research programmes. It will be also a moment to celebrate the completion of the first study module and launch new initiatives.

interdiac invites :

Representatives of organizations and churches from Central and Eastern Europe dealing with the issue of social exclusion and poverty in their home environment, especially interdiac Partners, making up the Honorary Council and students of the interdiac study module,

Workers , activists and students involved in diaconia. church and civil society as well as those involved in training and policy making are invited.

Representatives of organizations based in the countries of Western Europe, but actively involved in CEE region are also welcome to nominate delegates to the consultation. More details from the interdiac office or web site.

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