

## What is interdiac and why should you study with it?

### Brief introduction to interdiac:

Interdiac is a new Academy focused on the needs of diaconal and other similar organisations for new opportunities for **learning & networking and research & development** especially in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in the new independent states and Russia.

Interdiac was launched in June 2008 as a non-profit educational organisation with its base in Český Těšín (CZ). It was founded after consultation about training and development needs with many partners across the region. Interdiac is developing rapidly and already has 7 partners across the region and welcomes new partners who share its aims and values. Slezska Diaconia and Helsinki Deaconess Institute formed a partnership to develop the Academy in collaboration with regional partners.

Interdiac programmes aim to meet the needs of for the development of knowledge and skills for diaconia and social action in the region. Programmes will eventually be offered at degree level and to support this, a partnership has been developed with the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Finland (Diak)

Interdiac emphasises participatory approaches to learning and invites all those who share its aims to join in developing the programme and structure of the new Academy.

### The interdiac vision

**The vision** of the Academy is to promote high quality training and to support life-long learning in the wider international context. Education will be provided to degree level and will focus on the needs of the region of Central and Eastern Europe. The Academy also wants to support specific exchange, research and development projects which will strengthen diaconia and social action.

### Innovative aspects of interdiac:

- ✓ Student focused blended learning which integrates study and practice
- ✓ Diaconal and social aspects combined in a common study
- ✓ Multicultural, international and ecumenical context
- ✓ Organising the curriculum to ensure the relevance of learning
- ✓ Involvement of partner organizations from Central and Eastern Europe in the development process of interdiac and in delivering the modules
- ✓ Experience of Finnish partners in building up of international programmes
- ✓ Education in English

## The first interdiac study module

### Social Inclusion, Participation and Diaconia

#### Aims:

This programme aims to give participants a multi-perspectival understanding of participation and social inclusion. Participants will develop their understanding of the phenomenon of social exclusion and of policies to tackle it. They will develop their analytic competence and the knowledge and the professional skills needed for social and diaconal work in a community context. Participants will develop their own project involving user participation or community development work.

#### Contents:

The module starts from work on developing the participant's own perspectives on the issue of social inclusion and their motivation for social, community or diaconal work. The ethical and theological basis of working for social inclusion will be explored. The course will include substantial work on the analysis of social exclusion in the participant's contexts, including also the structural factors producing exclusion (globalisation, changes in labour markets etc.) Policies for tackling exclusion will be evaluated. The skills and strategies for participation and social inclusion will be developed based on empowerment and community development processes.

#### Study plan:

The programme will start **on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009** and finish on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2010**.

The overall study plan will consist of following main elements:

- **Contact teaching:** 10 days in September, then 4 days in October and 4 days in November (each over a weekend) in the interdiac centre, Český Těšín, Czech Republic
- **Work Experience:** Practical experience is an important and integral part of interdiac studies. Work experience and assignments will be carried out under professional supervision. Work experience may be in the student's home country or any partner country of interdiac. It may also be in Silesia if students wish to be full time in the region.
- **Projects, Assignments and Study:** In- between the contact teaching and placement the students will work on the assignments and the analytic reading tasks
- **Exam and evaluation:** 4 days (over the weekend ) in January

Studies throughout the module will be organized through an internet based platform that enables interactive learning and intensive contact with support staff involved in interdiac.

Students may be able to have their work experience in Silesia so reducing the travel costs for the contact teaching and give an experience of work in a new context. Silesian Diaconia has substantial experience of organising such exchanges. Please mention this in your application.

Note: This is a pilot module which is part of the development of the interdiac study programme

#### Accreditation & Certification:

The pilot module is accredited by the Open University of the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Finland. A successful student will receive a diploma with 30 credits (transferable under the European Credit Transfer System)

## Invitation to Apply

### Who is this module for?

**People** who want to learn in an international course which is based on diaconal values and principles, which is ecumenically open (including for those with no specific religious faith who wish to follow this programme)

#### **People with following experience,**

- International diaconal or voluntary year or local equivalent
- Substantial voluntary work experience in diaconia or social work
- Those working for diaconia or similar organizations who want further qualifications or a new impulse for their work
- Students of theology, pastoral ministry or social work
- Those with experience of social work who want to “change career”

Applications are especially invited from all Central and Eastern European countries and the wider region of newly independent states and Russia

#### **With following qualifications,**

- High school diploma/ abitur or similar or Higher Education Degree
- Ability to study and work in English

### How can I apply?

Send the following documents

- Current CV with your academic achievements and work experience
- A short essay on the theme: ‘My experience of social/ diaconal work and my motivation to study in interdiac’ (approximately 1,000 words in English? Is it too much?)

by normal post and e-mail to arrive by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2009** to the address [office@interdiac.eu](mailto:office@interdiac.eu) and to the postal address of interdiac:

interdiac,  
Dukelská 264/5,  
CZ 737 01 Český Těšín  
Czech Republic

### What is the participation fee?

A participation fee in amount of 250 EUR for students from EU member states and 200 EUR for students from non- EU member states will partly cover accommodation, food and travel costs of participants.

In addition to this fee, the participants themselves shall pay 30% of travel costs and one evening meal per day during the contact teaching.

If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact interdiac office.

**Contact details:**

**interdiac**

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