

Foundation partners



Programme support



Newsletter

**Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,**

We are pleased to send you the third newsletter of International Academy for Diaconia and Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe, o.p.s., after a short summer break.

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Executive Board of International Academy for Diaconia and Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe, o.p.s has decided on a short name **"interdiac"**. The logo of interdiac is in preparation.

Particularly, we would like to draw your attention to the results of the Honorary Council meeting of the partners of interdiac and the meeting with the Finnish experts on curriculum development concerning the international study programme.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Jana Adameova and Tony Addy
interdiac Management Team

Honorary Council meeting of interdiac

Introduction

The Honorary Council Meeting of interdiac was held **from the 22nd till 24th September 2008** in the premises of interdiac in Český Těšín. The meeting was attended by the members of Honorary Council coming from Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Latvia and Poland. The representative from Slovakia sent apologies. Following the rules of the Foundation Agreement of interdiac, Honorary Council Members were approved by Executive Council at June meeting 2008.

A brief introduction to the recent interdiac developments provided a platform for mutual discussions, planning and decision making on further activities. The report focused on program and infrastructure development. Additionally, the conclusions of Executive and Advisory Board meeting and the educational needs were presented.

Role of the Honorary Council (Partners of interdiac)

One important discussion concerned the role of Honorary Council Members in the development of interdiac. The idea of a "Memorandum of Understanding" between interdiac and each Council Member was introduced and discussed. Following the main lines of the Memorandum, the Honorary Council Members brought together their ideas which expressed a convergence of will between interdiac and the partner organisations. The agreed document indicates an intended common line of action which will be discussed and approved by interdiac Executive Board in November 2008.

In order to plan the delivery of the study programme, particularly the upcoming experimental module, the resources in the every partner country need to be defined. The participants will begin to elaborate the resources they can contribute in term of experts, participants, and materials that can be brought into the interdiac study programmes. This evolving "resource bank" shows interest and commitment to further the development process of interdiac. The participants themselves strongly endorsed this development.

Pilot Module "Social Exclusion, Participation & Diaconia"

Following the conclusions of the survey on educational needs, the issue of social exclusion was prioritized for the development of the first pilot module (semester) of interdiac studies.

"Social Exclusion, Participation and Diaconia" will be the title of the pilot module and the details will be worked out in next months. It is planned to start the module in September 2009.

The draft aims were discussed, elaborated and agreed. According to the need for professional and supportive staff by delivering of study programme, the expression "experts" for different types of support, the Council clarified and specified the particular roles.

The Honorary Council members agreed on a pattern for the study plan which has a two week workshop at the start, then two weekend workshops and a final one week workshop, with placements and distance learning in between. Participants may stay in Český Tešín for the whole semester or simply attend for the teaching periods. Following this decision, the more precise study plan of contact teaching, practice placements, e-learning and self studies will be worked out at October Training the Trainers workshop.

Social & Diaconal Work – Statutory Requirements & Frameworks

Taking into the consideration specific historical and social context of each particular country, the analysis of the legal framework for social and diaconal work and the profile of 'social worker' were provided by the participants themselves. The pre-elaborated information and additionally researched documents were introduced. The available information on the required competences of social worker will be taken account and worked out in the interdiac modules.

Evaluation of interdiac development

To analyse the current position of interdiac in each national context, a SWOT analysis was worked out and discussed in plenary. The outcomes for the strengths and opportunities were almost the same for all the participants. The weaknesses and threats for organisations in EU member states differ from weaknesses and threats for organizations of the other states. The outcomes of this SWOT analysis will be a very meaningful tool for planning the next stages of the interdiac development process.

The feedback of participants was very positive towards the meeting and whole process of the development of interdiac. This positive attitude and refreshed enthusiasm encourages all of us to follow the idea on interdiac and make it more and more meaningful and useful for other diaconia and other social organizations.

Visit of Finnish experts on curriculum development to Silesian Diaconia and interdiac

A group of 4 Finnish teachers and experts on curriculum development came to Silesian Diaconia and interdiac to get know better Silesian Diaconia, and the current activities of interdiac. They visited several centres of Silesian Diaconia which provide services to people with disabilities, elderly people, homeless people and children with disabilities. Roundtable discussions after each placement's visit were devoted to sharing experience and examples of best practice and reflection on what was seen and experienced.

As well as field visits, two of the Finnish partners were involved in the planning for the interdiac Training of Trainers Workshop that will take place in October 2008. Brief presentation of the conclusions from previous meetings and the just ended Honorary Council meeting were provided in order to create a common ground for the discussions.

The experience of Finnish colleagues in creating similar educational programmes and the results so far were shared. A unique aspect of the learning approach at Diak is the inclusion of diaconal and multicultural aspects which make the programme increasingly attractive for student from different countries of world. The similarities and differences of Diak programmes and the profile of the interdiac experimental module on "Social Exclusion, Participation and Diaconia" were reflected on. The involvement of partner organisations from the central and eastern Europe in the planning and development process from the beginning is a highly appreciated factor in the development of interdiac. This is essential to ensure the study content is suitable for Central and Eastern European region,

Public Relations for interdiac




The interdiac logo, information leaflet and website are in preparation and we expect to launch the new website at the beginning of November 2008.

the involvement of partner organizations from the region in planning and development process from the beginning was highly appreciated.

Infrastructure Development

The first phase of equipping the library and resource centre of interdiac will be completed by the end of October 2008.

Upcoming meetings

-  Training of Trainers, 27th -30th October 2008, Český Těšín
-  Phone Conference: Management team and Executive Board, 9th October 2008
-  Executive and Honorary Council Meeting, 31st October – 2nd November 2008

We really appreciated all the contributions of our colleagues and friends and we are looking forward to exciting future.

Invitation

Diaconal and other social or educational organisations which share the aims of interdiac and which are located in the central and east European region are invited to become partners of interdiac. By this means, they can participate in the development of the Academy, be involved in curriculum development and join in the creation of a unique and needed new venture for the future of social and diaconal work

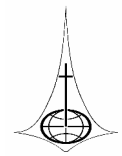
Please, let us have your ideas and feedback!

On behalf of management team we wish you all the best in your work!

Jana Adameova and Tony Addy

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Financial contribution provided by:



Lutheran World Federation



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