



Newsletter

International Academy for Diaconia and Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe

NEWS

The 1st meeting of Academy partners

It was a pleasure to welcome the representatives of diaconal and other church related organizations to the 1st meeting of Academy partners that was held from **6th February until 8th February 2008** in the rooms of the newly establishing Academy in **Český Těšín**. The partners came from 6 different Middle and Eastern European countries such as Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, and Serbia. The meeting was organized by the organization Slezska Diakonie (CZ) and the main project partner Diak (FI).

This first international event was considered as one of the actions undertaken within the frame of project submitted and supported by Lutheran Word Federation and Martin Luther Bund. So far the financial support has been provided by these organizations. Coordinating activities are being funded so far by the founders and partner organizations themselves.

The meeting dealt with the following **issues**:

- The legal structure of the Academy and the role of partner organizations within the legal framework
- The content of the development project and the work plan for the next 3 years
- Reflection on the needs analyses already undertaken, discussion of the educational approach, first identification of phenomena for modules, accreditation procedures and the preparation of the action plan
- How to ensure the financial sustainability of the academy project

Introduction

To get to more shared information about the partner organizations and the importance of educational activities within the organizations, short introductions on organizations were presented. The different starting points of particular organizations in the educational activities were taken into the consideration. All the partners stressed the importance for training development of high quality and efficiency. The picture of the diverse network of organizations with different backgrounds and experience in training was built up and through this process, all of the partners agreed on the main aims of Academy that were presented and later discussed in the working groups.

Curriculum and Educational Issues

The work which has been carried out on the project so far was introduced. It was pointed out that this initiative should be built up from the interests of the partners of the Academy in Central and Eastern Europe and therefore as the first step in the action plan, this meeting for partners was organized

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The needs analysis done by partners before the meeting and the analysis in the workshops will lead to the development work on the structure of academy and its training programmes. The future vision of each organization was pictured and the visions of partner organizations were taken into the consideration. The professionalization and specialization of staff related to particular activities was stressed.

The concepts of education as a process and the modular basis of the programme were clarified. We identified six key components of the professional profile and then worked on the first ideas for modules. The aim was to produce the very first draft descriptors of various modules, including aims, areas of knowledge, skills and competence.

The presentation and discussion was followed by work in three workshops. The workshops outlined the key elements for 'basic studies and client work' and the 'basic studies and organizational work' and produced draft frameworks of the modules for 2nd and 3rd year of studies.

The proposed content of modules will be worked out by the experts/ trainers responsible for curriculum development.

Structural and Legal Issues

The processes of accreditation according to the academic law and social service accreditation were introduced. The conditions for the social service accreditation process in different national contexts will be investigated by the partners themselves and the requirements for the Czech academic and social service accreditation will be followed to ensure the programme and the Academy are fully recognized.

The foundation contract and functional bodies of new establishing legal entity "International Academy for Diaconia and Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe" were introduced. The gathered partners will be a part of the Honorary Council that will be actively involved in development and implementation of activities of the International Academy.

Two candidates from among the members of Honorary Council representative on the Advisory Board were nominated. According to the foundation contract the final decision on the Advisory Board membership will be made by Executive Council. The Executive Council is constituted by the founding bodies. The establishing of the legal entity is just now in process.

Conclusions and an Invitation

The partners expressed the commitment to continue in the initiative of "International Academy for Diaconia and Social Action, Central and Eastern Europe."

The further steps are planned:

- Meeting of experts on curriculum development, June 2008
- Training of trainers, September 2008

Our common initiative will move forward not only on the basis of the pragmatic reasons resulting from the needs analysis, but especially the joy and inspiring ideas we are experiencing and developing.

We would like to say big THANK YOU to all who have been working with us and will continue developing this idea in the future.

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Further partners from Central and Eastern Europe are welcome to join the project, providing they agree with the aims of the Academy and the project. Please contact Jana Adameová, from whom details of all activities can be obtained.

The meeting was led by Ms. Jana Adameova and Mr. Tony Addy.

Language of the Project

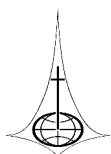
The working language of the project is English and translation into the original languages of partner organizations is allowed and this should be provided and edited by the partners themselves.

Some photos:



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Financial contribution provided by:



Lutheran World Federation



Martin Luther Bund