



NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

Yes, it is again 'back to school time' for interdiac and its partner organisations. We have packed our school bags with new inspirations and energy and ready to start afresh for the autumn 2011 semester! It is my pleasure to introduce you the new edition of interdiac newsletter. We hope to bring to your attention calls for news, developmental actions and upcoming events of interdiac. We also hope you will join us in accomplishing further Networking, Training, Development of diaconia & social actions in the region which is the vision of interdiac.

Enjoy the Newsletter ! Your ideas are welcomed. Your interdiac Team.

Upcoming events:

- Study visit of a Georgian group
- 'Input to wider society to wider society..' - follow up of the study visit in Finland
- interdiac Honorary Council & Joint Board meetings
- Joint interdiac & LWF process
- interdiac 's media

interdiac will receive a Georgian group for study visit September 29—October 10 2011

interdiac will organise a 12 day study visit for a group of 12 representatives of 3 newly established day centres for socially unprotected children and their communities of Lanchkhuti, Tsjaktubo and Marneuli in Georgia. Alongside the representatives of the day centres, the representatives of national and local governmental organisations will also be a part of the learning process. The study visit will put the focus on the isolation of children and how to combat it with implying more holistic approach. During the visits, the issue of child welfare will be kept in mind and reflected through the eyes of professionals and volunteers from different sectors. This event intends to contribute to the development of specific services for and with children living in poverty in particular regions. The delegates in this study visit will share their experience and findings in their respective organisations 'back home'. The necessity to build up the partnerships between the governmental and non-governmental sectors in order to respond to the challenges of social exclusion systematically will be emphasised.

The study visit has been arranged in conjunction with the NGO Children & Environment, a partner organisation of NDOBA, which is a member of interdiac

Study visit 'Input to wider society from local engagement by young people in the neighborhoods' October 10—15 2011

The study visit is a follow up action of the study visit 'Community Engagement – real Participation – Empowerment' organized in Helsinki in collaboration with Helsinki Deaconess Institute, one of the founder members of interdiac. The aim is to offer a space to share experience and deepen the understanding of community engagement in Diaconia and Christian social action from the perspective of church related organisations, founded after the changes of political regime. Our host organisation will be interdiac founder member Slezská Diakonie and Community centre DEN. We already expect participants who joined the Helsinki workshop from at least 13 countries, each with a different starting point and experience of diaconia and the social action of the churches, but new participants are warmly welcome! The aim is to support a continuous learning process on Diaconia in Community therefore this study visit is intended to build up on the outcomes of the Helsinki study visit.

Honorary Council will 'be held from October, 17—October 19

The interdiac Honorary Council, which gathers once a year, will review the activities of previous year and make the contributions to the new developmental streams of interdiac. The specific focus will be put on the finalising the curriculum of the joint degree programme and the implications of the document



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interdiac in print!

interdiac programme participants, Tsovinar Ghazaryan, Oxana Banaruc, Nicole Borisuk, who are experts in community work and work with marginalised children and young people, have contributed articles to the next edition of the journal 'Diaconia - Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice', due out in late autumn. The articles point to hopeful and innovative approaches to diaconal work and locate this work in the specific contexts of Armenia, Moldova, and the Ukraine. Tsovinar describes the development of community strategies in Armenia by the Armenia Round Table whilst Nicole describes long term work with marginalised children and young people in Odessa. Oxana describes a process of community development in Moldova—a context badly affected by out migration of many adults, who are forced to go abroad in a search for work and income.

Diaconia—Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice

If you want to know more about the national contexts of Armenia, Moldova and the Ukraine and to learn how ecumenical diaconia is engaging with people and communities read the articles by interdiac participants and partners in Volume 2, Issue 2, 2011 (due out soon!) If you have innovative ideas, case studies or an essay on a theme related to diaconia, there is a possibility to submit them for publication. For details contact Tony Addy [education(at) interdiac.eu] Publisher: Vendenhoek & Ruprecht (For subscriptions see www.v-r.de)

'Bratislava Declaration' in the respective countries of partner organisations. The importance of networking in relation to the training & development activities will be highlighted and the vision of making local partnerships will be elaborated.

interdiac Blog will be introduced soon

interdiac's concern is to be a network linking people to share their expertise of their every day work, both their joys and challenges and thereby to find new inspiration for new ways to work. Thus we have been developing a platform for sharing, with different sections on important themes. We hope this idea will attract you and we will welcome your contributions. We can only learn as we are ready to share and receive!

Joint Board meeting

The interdiac Executive and Advisory Board will meet from the 9th November till 11th November 2011 to evaluate the activities of Work Plan 2011 undertaken so far and to make strategic decisions for further development of interdiac. The Advisory Board will also review the Annual report 2010.

Publication on 'New directions in voluntary action and community engagement' will be published

'New directions...' will be a publication that will reflect the perceptions and reflections from both study visits to Finland and the Czech Republic, in the light of the background and previous experience of the participants. Examples of best practice in the field of community engagement and voluntary action will also be introduced. The publication aims to give courage to develop new ways of seeing reality and create new culture of voluntarism— 'beyond the coffee making syndrome'.

Joint Lutheran World Federation & interdiac Process

Building on the previous 3 years experience of LWF with interdiac and the expertise built up through this process, interdiac was invited to be involved in the consultation and networking process of LWF member churches in Europe, on perspectives of work with marginalised people and communities. The first pan-European consultation with around 30 participants across Europe will take place in December in Järvenpää (Finland). The process will lead to common work plan with long term development of strategy with the implications on global level that may be introduced in the year 2013. The partnership status of LWF with interdiac will also be reviewed.

International Research Project 'Dignity'

interdiac is a partner in developing a research project on new approaches to tackling poverty, which is being developed by Diak, Finland University partners in five countries.

The project 'Input to wider society from local engagement by young people' is financially supported within the framework of the EU programme Youth in Action.



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme