



NEWSLETTER

Dear colleagues & friends,

It is our pleasure to introduce you the first interdiac Newsletter edition in 2011. In this period we concentrated our work on the output of Mobile workshop project—a Handbook for empowering young people. We were also glad to begin the new Mobile workshop projects with a training on work with excluded youth held in April in Yerevan. The teams for curriculum development have continued the work on degree programme elaboration, started at the Honorary council meeting in autumn 2010. As well as this conceptual and training work, several meetings for networking and planning new cooperation have been held. It has been very exiting time ... Your interdiac Team

Handbook 'Make change yourself'

The Handbook for empowering of young people in everyday life is a pioneering Publication of interdiac. The special feature of the Handbook is that it is based on the ideas and experience of all the participants and team members of the project Mobile workshops 'Innovative Training for Social cohesion for and with Youth'. It will serve all people who are interested in working with marginalised young people. The Handbook includes DVD with extra material. You are invited to have a look at the Handbook sample, click www.interdiac.eu/index.php?id_stranky=49 The Handbook is available for sale and the order form is at www.interdiac.eu/orderform The work on Handbook is part of an on-going process, as the interdiac Learning programmes will be developed and we would appreciate very much your feedback so you are invited to give your comments in the Evaluation form, also available on-line.

interdiac Management team and LWF will work towards 'Creating Conviviality, Re-formation of diaconal communities in Europe'

2011 is the fourth year of cooperation of interdiac with Lutheran World Federation, that has been developed throughout mutual sharing from the interdiac pilot module & other actions via reports and face to face meetings. It has created a trustworthy baseline for the planning of new initiatives. The

What has been happening ?

- Handbook 'Make change yourself' has been published & the first training in Armenia organised 11th—15th April 2011
- interdiac Management visited LWF, ILO and WCC, 1st-3rd February 2011
- Ms. Janka Adameova attended 55th of the UN Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York, 20th February-4th March 2011
- Executive Board met on the 10th March 2011 in Prague and on-line on the 26th April 2011

theme: of the new initiative is: 'What does it mean to be a church of the poor in Europe?'. There will be a balanced representation of church & diaconia workers from the CEE region, Western Europe of marginalized churches and the Nordic region. The vision is to develop a process of networking and reflection and to introduce the outcomes at global Luther anniversary in 2013 that may lead to new developments of diaconia in congregations worldwide.

interdiac Management Team met the representatives of ILO and WCC

interdiac is planning to implement the actions introducing the concepts of community economy and work on employment issues. In relation to this, the agenda of ILO on decent work and close cooperation with the regional offices of ILO in the region of Central & Eastern Europe will intentionally initiate a comprehensive mutli-sectoral project initiative.

The first contact with the representatives of WCC, has also been made, as there are fields that are of common interest of both institutions. The findings of pilot module training and learning programmes will be one area to cooperate on. Research and publication is another working area where complementary activities may be developed. We were glad to meet again in person Mr. Pierre Martinot Lagarde and we made new friendship with Mr. Rogate Mshala and Mr. Hielke Wolters of the WCC.



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THANKS

On behalf of interdiac Team I would like to express sincere thanks to Mr. Karen Nazaryan and his Team at ART organization, especially to Tsovinar Ghazaryan and Narine Davaryan who ensured logistical support before and during the Training in Yerevan.

Sincere Thanks for your personal time and dedication to all partners and participants and to interdiac as such. It was a great sign of how the networking between and among the interdiac partner organisations can work towards the changes in the communities where the vulnerable people live.

Janka Adameova

Participation in the advocacy work in United Nations

Ms. Janka Adameová was delegated by Lutheran World Federation and hosted by the Lutheran office for World Community at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Together with other delegates from all over the world, she was actively involved in several events. She led ecumenical morning worship, participated in various panel discussions, worked in regional caucuses and met with several government delegates to propose specific text for agreed conclusions. She also organised a visit to Permanent mission of Slovakia. Other visits were made to missions of El Salvador, Liberia, Chile, Argentina and Indonesia. There is a strong expectation that the outcomes of these events will lead to joint LWF initiative in the global context.

interdiac Executive Board met twice

The Board meetings have covered a mixture of issues related to the developmental initiatives of interdiac. The updated quarterly report was presented and approved, as were the narrative and financial report towards LWF. The revision of the Czech law governing NGO's and the consequences for interdiac were discussed. Consequent changes in the Statute were approved. The Annual Report 2010 was also approved and the interdiac Director will ensure that it is published. A joint meeting of the Executive and Advisory Boards was planned for autumn 2011.

Upcoming events :

- **Strengthening the partnership with Eurodiaconia and its members at the AGM, 25rd-27th May**
- **interdiac at 'Kirchentag' in Dresden, 1st-5th June 2011'**
- **interdiac with Eurodiaconia in cooperation with Helsinki Deaconess Institute will organise the study visit 'Community Engagement-real participation-Empowerment, 13th—17th June**

interdiac Training 'Growing through mutual learning & sharing—a unique chance for visible change in lives of everybody'

This was the third 'mobile workshop of interdiac' and it was organised in cooperation with the interdiac partner organization Armenian Round Table (ART) which has its headquarters in Etchmiadzin (Armenia). The Training was attended by 16 participants from 8 different countries. The first part of the training was devoted to the reflection on the motivation and expectation of social & youth workers for their work with young people coming from disadvantaged contexts. The exchange of experience of two Armenian community organisations demonstrated the importance of a holistic approach to work with young people and the need for a variety of methods to combat the social and educational exclusion of young people. The opportunity for mutual learning & networking with about 30 local and regional representatives of NGOs from several regions of Armenia was a further innovative aspect of this interdiac training. One afternoon workshop session attended by both the interdiac participants and the 'external' participants working with disadvantaged youth created a platform for interactive discussions on the social and political engagement of young people in the respective communities. The basis of the discussion was three contributions from practice by three workshop participants from Latvia, Moldova and Serbia.

The project 'Growing through mutual learning & sharing—a unique chance for change in lives of everybody' is financially supported within the framework of the EU programme Youth in Action.



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

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Lea Melchers, Diak 3rd year student is sharing her impressions and learning from a 6 weeks internship in interdiac

In the picture: Lea during the 'Gallery' session

Another innovative aspect of this international event, hosted by interdiac partner organization was the introduction to and active use of the Handbook 'Make change by yourselves' by the participants themselves, some of whom contributed to it.

The evaluation and follow up sessions on the last day highlighted the multiplication effect of the interdiac methods regionally and nationally as the participants developed plans to promote and use the Handbook in their home contexts.

Lea Melchers 's internship in interdiac

My name is Lea Melchers and I study Social Services at the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences in Järvenpää, Finland. During the months of March and April of this year, I had the chance of doing a six weeks placement with interdiac in Český Těšín, Czech Republic. As the interdiac training programme "Growing through mutual sharing and learning – a unique chance for visible change in the lives of everybody" was approaching, I was mainly dealing with tasks related to the planning and organising of this programme but also had some other duties such as developing questionnaires for interdiac matters or writing articles for the homepage.

Also, I would like to mention that it was a great experience for me to see how this kind of work is done in an unknown and new environment, which Český Těšín was for me. I had never been to this area of the Czech Republic before and I liked getting to know something about the people, their culture and language and the work life over there.

Furthermore, I appreciated the intercultural and international aspects of the work. It is connecting so many people in so many different areas of Central and Eastern Europe and in my opinion cooperation between these different partners in different countries is a great enrichment for everybody.

Thank you interdiac for letting me be part of your organisation. I enjoyed it a lot and remain with kind regards! Lea

Curriculum Development

Six on-line meetings of the three working groups of Honorary Council members & other experts on diaconia and 2 face to face meetings of core team in Prague have been held in spring, in order to continue with a work on contents of respective curriculum modules. The operational plan and the samples for the in-between learning period are under process of elaboration. The whole package of material will be submitted to the scientific board of the Protestant Theological Faculty and the Board of Charles University in time for the autumn 2011 deadlines.