

Dear friends and colleagues!

We greet you during these bright autumn days with the fresh interdiac news! We hope that you have success in your diaconal and social work as we seek for more convivial and just communities. The interdiac team, with our partners are working for convivial communities especially through learning programmes, networking and developing research. The core topic of the new semester course, which is now fully underway, is Diaconia and Community Development. We are aiming for our participants to understand and practice the role their profession by being active agents in the process of empowering people and communities. Another aim of this semester is that the students will be able to develop community development work or participatory social work as a learning process for the service users, local congregation members or participants from the village or neighbourhood. We thank our members and partners for their support of this and all our programmes and also thank you for your thoughts and prayers for our common work.

Your interdiac Team

The New Semester has started!

We are pleased to announce that the fifth semester of our Double Degree Programme in Social Services – focus on Diaconia and Christian Social Practice has been launched. This semester, we also welcomed new students of the One Semester Course on Diaconia and Community Development who joined the Double Degree Programme students. So far, the first two contact teaching sessions in September and October have already passed. The main focus of the two workshops was approaches to and methods for community development work and diaconia, participatory and action research methods and the theology of ecumenical diaconia. These topics are closely related to the interdiac focus on 'seeking conviviality' as a core concept for diaconia. We were also pleased to welcome Marja Katisko, Principal Lecturer in multicultural and international relations from the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences who led the workshops on research methods and Tomas Tozicka of ECCB Diakonie who led the workshops on strategies for community empowerment.

Honorary Council Meeting

Český Těšín, Czech Republic, 18th – 20th September 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Honorary Council members gathered 16 people from 14 countries this year to evaluate interdiac activities and to plan the future. The meeting welcomed new participants from Kyrgyzstan and Russia. The main activities of the previous year were discussed and shared, including Double Degree Programme, One Semester Professional Courses and the Research Programme kick-off meeting.

Ihor Kornii, who is an interdiac student made an input, which was a reflection on the learning gains during the degree programme and how they have changed his personal and professional orientation.

Ihor Shemihon, a Lutheran pastor from Kiev presented the process of the joint project 'Diaconia Creates Conviviality', which will continue with a further workshop and study visit to interdiac. Janka Adameova and Tony Addy presented their participation in the LWF-interdiac joint process 'Seeking Conviviality – Re-forming Community Diakonia in Europe'. This included participating in the workshop, which prepared delegates from Europe to the LWF Assembly in Windhoek. Both Janka and Tony participated in the Assembly and made a contribution to the story telling session and ran a workshop. Shortly afterwards we received the news that the 'seeking conviviality' process will continue for a further 3-year period.

The next meeting of the European group is planned for November 2017 in Hungary and to prepare for this, the LWF Europe secretary, Ireneusz Lukas visited interdiac before the summer.

Experiencing spirituality during a walk to the 'church in the forest', where Lutherans gathered to worship, at a time when the protestant faith was forbidden was a unique occasion to live conviviality reflected in light of the heritage left by the Lutherans in the 17th century. Over an evening, which included a dinner prepared according to local tradition, the members of the Honorary Council reflected on their involvement in interdiac and developed some forward-looking ideas.

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Save the Date!

The **interdiac 10th Anniversary conference and celebration** will take place from **12th – 18th October 2018**. The location will be announced shortly!

New interdiac Training Programme January 2018 – June 2019

“Developing innovative practice for diverse communities - supporting conviviality and sustainability”

We warmly invite social and diaconal workers, pastoral and youth workers and volunteers who are interested in interdiac studies to apply for the training programme “Developing innovative practice for diverse communities - Supporting conviviality and sustainability”. The programme will run from January 2018 until the end of June 2019.

Applications are invited from those active in all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and will include three workshops and one visit for job shadowing. We are aiming for the personal and professional development of the participants and supporting community development. The course will deal with approaches to dealing with social and economic issues in a collaborative way and to developing strategies for participating in processes of long-term change. The organizers will cover 80% of the travel expenses and 100% of expenses for accommodation for the learning events. There is no course fee for tuition.

More details here: <https://www.interdiac.eu/learning-programmes/training-programme-2018-2019>

If you require more information please contact Janka Adameová at office@interdiac.eu

The **final date** for sending motivation letters to interdiac at office@interdiac.eu is 17th November 2017

Publication: ‘Ethical Orientation on Social Work and Work with Young People’

Now available in the Russian language!

We are pleased announce that the publication “Ethical Orientation on Social Work and Work with Young People” has been translated into the Russian language! The publication is downloadable here:

<https://www.interdiac.eu/exchange-of-experience/publications/ethical-orientation-on-social-work-and-work-with-young-people/publication>

New interdiac Talking Point! Mobilising & Empowering Women on the Margins – Experience in an Armenian Context

The New interdiac Talking point was published in August 2017. The author is Tsovinar Ghazaryan. The Talking Point is available here: <https://www.interdiac.eu/exchange-of-experience/talking-points>

If you have a suggestion for an edition of Talking Points please contact interdiac Responsible Teacher, Oksana Prosvirina on: responsibleteacherop@interdiac.eu

Coordinating Lecturer Appointed!

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Lena Bondarenko as a new member of our interdiac team. She will be responsible for the development of specific learning programmes, the creation of tools to promote self-directed & value based learning and the coaching of the learners involved in diaconia and Christian social action in Central & Eastern Europe.

Meeting for the developmental initiative “Diaconia Creates Conviviality”

Český Těšín, 10th – 13th October 2017

This three day meeting with Mr Ihor Shemigon was devoted to the debriefing of activities of the joint project of interdiac & St. Martin Lutheran congregation in Kiev and planning for the upcoming Workshop in December. The meeting also gave an opportunity was to talk to interdiac students and the lecturers of the 2nd contact teaching. Ihor also met the church representatives who will be actively involved in the workshop in December.

Upcoming Events

Executive Board Meeting

Prague, 22nd November 2017

The annual meeting of the Executive Board will take place in Prague on 22th November 2017.

Contact Teaching Sessions for the Degree Programme and One Semester Course

Český Těšín, 9th – 13th October 2017

Český Těšín, 27th November – 1st December 2017

Český Těšín, Czech Republic, 15th – 18th January 2018

Diaconia Creates Conviviality

Český Těšín, 4th – 8th December 2017