

interdiac

a specialised network academy that offers learning programmes and supports the development of Diaconia and Christian social action

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

interdiac Learning Programme 2021 - 2023

Diaconia as Christian Social Practice - Foundations for responding to today's challenges.

Join our learning Programme!

Who is invited to join the learning programme?

- Social and diaconal workers, pedagogical workers, pastoral and youth workers in diaconal organisations, community centres and congregations and churches.
- Volunteers and interns who want to gain new knowledge and competences, enhance their knowledge and competences and/or to continue studying social and diaconal work.

What are we aiming for?

The aim of the programme is to support and develop diaconal social practice guided by the vision of *convivial living together*. This vision is rooted in Christian values, such as respect for the 'other', dignity, social justice and an integrated spirituality. The programme will develop an approach which responds to the contextual needs and issues identified by interdiac members. The learning process implies that the most effective way for a person to engage in vocational diaconal practice is when participants are able to integrate their personal motivation with professional knowledge, skills and competence.

These empowering processes will extend to:

- ✓ Supporting the personal and professional/vocational development of the participants who may be diaconal, social, pastoral or youth workers or long-term volunteers.
- ✓ Developing knowledge skills and competences for professional work.
- ✓ Integrating knowledge of the theological and Biblical understandings of diaconal work and Christian social practice.
- ✓ Providing spiritual support, theological reflection and mentoring.
- ✓ Supporting community development through dealing with social and economic issues in a collaborative way, which aims to support the creation of convivial communities.
- ✓ Developing strategies for participating in processes of long-term change locally and on wider levels.

How is the programme designed?

The Programme is designed to be the equivalent of one semester of university studies and has a workload of 30 ECTS. It is meant to be for those who are already working, and it will accompany participants' everyday work. This ensures the practice relevance of the learning.

- There will be 5 international workshops in the partner countries of interdiac, including local study visits. Each workshop will last 6 days, including travel days.

- A mentoring and a peer learning system for the period between the workshops will be organised.

- Self-directed reflective learning with a use of: Learning Diary, access to an on-line learning platform Canvas, and the resources of the 'interdiac online space'.

- International Co-Learning Exchange in partner organisations. Each participant will be able to visit another organisation for 7 days including travel days. This will usually be 'pair work' so the participants will visit each other's workplace.

Please note: On completion of the programme, a participant will receive a certificate and a transcript of records, but this programme is not formally accredited at the moment by a university or college.

Why is this learning programme important?

The context in which we work

The programme is tailor made to address the specific challenges facing diaconal work in central and eastern Europe and Central Asia, more than 30 years after the end of the system change. The development of civil society and the creation of a welfare state and social security continue to be challenges in every context.

People and communities have been confronted with political changes in the past decades, which have promised new hope for the future, yet there are new and old challenges in each society. The process of change itself, as well as the emergence of new conflicts has raised questions about the direction of the democratisation processes in the whole region.

The Need for Analysis Linked to Practice for Transformation

Churches and Faith Based Organisations are recognising that they need to base their actions on a deeper understanding of the more recent contextual and global challenges which both burden marginalised and vulnerable people and disturb social cohesion. This implies that churches and FBO's should engage in mutual learning to reassess their actions in order to strengthen church responses to inequality and growing injustice. The creation of common action and the search for ways to promote advocacy and campaigning, together with people in need is fundamental.

The Programme is built on the recognition of the diversity of the diaconal engagement of the participants, as well as of the various contextual conditions which underly and inform diaconal practices in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Duration of the Programme

The programme runs from 25th October 2021 until the end of April 2023 and includes five Contact Teaching Workshops and one visit for the International Co-Learning Exchange.

Venues

Central & Eastern Europe – exact locations to be confirmed.

Financial matters

The organizer will cover 80% of travel expenses and 100% of expenses for accommodation for the learning events. There is no course fee for tuition.

Practical Details

The language of the programme will be English

Applications

If you wish to participate in the programme, please use the online form which can be accessed here: <https://cutt.ly/0nE8tMh>

All information related to the Application is included on the form. The registration is available by the **10th September 2021**.

Successful applicants will be notified by **5th October 2021** at the latest and the joining instructions will be shared. The first Contact Teaching Workshop will take place on **November 8 – 12, 2021**.

NOTE: Selected participants agree to be involved on the basis of committed participation in the activities & processes, including all workshops, the International Co-Learning Exchange and the tasks 'in-between' throughout the programme as described above.

Contact

In case of any questions, please contact the interdiac Project & Event Coordinator Mr. Miroslav Sedláček. His e-mail address is projectcoordinator@interdiac.eu