

**Eurodiaconia
Network Seminar
"Diaconal Education in Europe"
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"Core Competences and Added Value of a Diaconal Education"

I am the Official in Charge or Desk Officer for Education in social Professions in the Field Staff-(development), Department Stuttgart (oder auch nur einfach: Stuttgart)

I must ask for your understanding, that this was a very short-term request in a hard-working period of time for me, so that it was not possible to work out the presentation in English. I will speak in German, the main reflections are summarised here in English.

Aim: Some Highlights on the European scene of professional education in diaconal or social professions as a lead-in to a further discussion in the course of the meeting.

Structure:

- Fields of professional Education
- Approaching the additional Value
- Examples for Co-operation

Working fields are, among others:

- Levels and standards of social professions in Diaconia; in many Countries universal level; in Germany, kindergarten teachers, nurses, old people's nurses, health care support workers, family care workers are being educated on an average, "post-secondary" level in professional college schools.
- Qualification- and professional images are very different and concern various action fields and responsibilities in the working fields of Diaconia.

The comparability of educational fields in Europe was firstly limited to degrees or local content standards. The system of professional and the system of universal education were separated concerning these guidelines.

The new competence orientation of the European Qualification Frame (EQF) combines the systems of professional and general education under the term of competence and levels.

Additional Value of diaconal education programmes: The diaconal character of education programmes has among others, a significance in the following dimension:

- realisation of the diaconal mission on the basis of a Christian human image
- realisation of a societal mission concerning integration and participation
- additional value as a quality dimension of diaconal action on the market

According to a Memorandum of the Protestant Church in Germany, educational processes include the connection of learning, knowledge, know-how, consciousness of value and action in the horizon of meaningful life interpretations¹

¹ Ev. Kirche in Deutschland (Protestant Church in Germany), Maße des Menschlichen, 2003: Bildung meint den Zusammenhang von Lernen, Wissen, Können, Wertbewusstsein und Handeln im Horizont sinnstiftender Lebensdeutungen (p. 90)

An Example: The diaconal character concerning the education of kindergarten teachers. The Federal Association of Protestant Education Institutions for Social Pedagogic² worked out a characteristic of education containing five important points:

- Canon in discussion
- Individuality in context
- Education of heart and conscience
- Friendliness towards mistakes and dispute culture
- Principle of pluralism

Two examples of co-operations:

- The CABLE-Project of the professional college school of Bethel; E-learning-platform for the exchange of lessons in medial networking
- Practical training abroad for the intercultural pedagogic in the frame of training.

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² Bundesverband evangelischer Ausbildungsstätten für Sozialpädagogik (BeA), Zum evangelischen Profil von Bildung, 2005