

Charter for ESDAC (13 april 2015)

that unites the members

NB This Charter is a framework within which the special provisions for each region are to be defined according to its context.

1. Introduction

ESDAC is a gift of communion conceived by the ISECP team (Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for the Corporate Person) in North America in the 80s. This team was able to respond creatively to the needs of its time; it has enriched the practice of the Ignatian Exercises by considering that a group is animated by the Spirit and called to make decisions in the same manner as a person.

2. The spirit of ESDAC

The gift of communion is rooted in the Holy Trinity through which the Spirit is at work in our world. We want to serve this gift by a process of discernment, which is inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and by contributions from the social sciences. This approach is aimed at groups, teams, couples, communities ... It is fundamental that each person has the occasion to speak and to be heard. We strive to adapt to each particular situation.

Facilitators without Borders, we offer an experience that must be “lived” while also helping the group to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit. We take the initiative to propose the ESDAC approach where the need arises and we discern which requests to answer. Without offices or premises, we are a network of pilgrims with a flexible and lightweight structure.

Usually, there are at least two facilitators, and in a desire to be credible witnesses of communion the facilitators vary as much as possible in experience, country of origin, state of life, temperament, talents and men and women.

By personal prayer and spiritual conversation, we help groups to make decisions and to choose the appropriate means to implement them.

3. The organization at the service of communion

In order to live ourselves the communion and discernment that we offer to others, we place great value on meetings between members, including the use of all means of communication.

(a) On an International level

- The API (International Plenary Assembly). Every three years, all members are invited for approximately a week to an international plenary Session that is lived within the context of an ESDAC retreat. Together we review what we have lived, we listen to the call of the Lord and seek to respond in a spirit of creativity and solidarity.
- The ERI (International Leading Team) is elected by the API for 3 years. It has the mission to encourage links between international and regional realities and encourage the international development of ESDAC. Among other things, it coordinates training and organizes the API. The ERI meets about twice a year. The mandate of each of its members is renewable once consecutively. If it seems appropriate, the ERI will choose a coordinator from its members, on a permanent or punctual basis.

(b) On a regional level

- The regional teams will encourage, in connection with the ERI, the development of ESDAC in the context of their own regions. They take the initiative in their own territory to offer activities and training, to receive requests for ESDAC events and solicit new members. They propose ESDAC events to members and interns. They insure, when the context permits, the international diversity of the teams. They carry out the assessments of trainings, ESDAC programs/retreats and interns. A progress report is prepared annually during a meeting of the ERI.
- Members that are not part of a regional team, are encouraged and supported by the ERI, to find ways to develop ESDAC in their own region.

4. The members

Becoming a member of ESDAC means participating in training and courses offered, accepting this present charter and being recognized and sent by a regional team or the ERI.

Training lasts about eight days, and is taught by having participants experience the ESDAC process while at the same time receiving theoretical presentations. The program takes into account as much as possible the international dimension (in particular for the composition of the organizing team).

To be invited to participate in the training, one must, if possible:

- have experienced as a participant, at least one activity organized by ESDAC,
- have done the Exercises of St. Ignatius with personal accompaniment for at least eight days.
- have experience in the facilitation of groups.

The training is supplemented by a period of internship. The intern is invited to collaborate in ESDAC events/programs with one or more of the experienced facilitators. After each of these activities, the members of the team will do an evaluation together.

If necessary, the regional team or, by default the international Team, may evaluate a member and terminate his ESDAC membership.

5. The finances

On the one hand, "Every worker is entitled to his salary" and on the other hand, the Lord says, "Give freely what you have freely received."

Any group that asks for an ESDAC event/program cannot be turned down for financial reasons. Each group is asked to feel free to give what they can. But it is normal that the group asking for an ESDAC event/program provides accommodation as well as the facilitator's transportation costs.

We welcome with gratitude what is offered to us, but we cannot wish to receive compensation as the market offers for comparable services. Each region shall determine the amounts suited to its reality.

When a member receives compensation, he is invited to hand over 10% to meet the needs of ESDAC.

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This charter may be amended if necessary at an API.