

Fellowship Development Task Team Reports

EDM in Malmö, 2011

Task Team 1: Narcoslovakia/Macedonia (Report: Nikola/Serbia)

At our first meeting we agreed about some goals we have to achieved during our fellowship development in the Macedonia Area. After that we had a discussion in our region, an elaborate discussion how we gonna do it. We made a strategic plan and select the persons who are willing to go to Skopje – capital of Macedonia. They had no safe meeting venue for recovery. We had to plan differently, to find people who are willing to serve, who are willing to find a new place for a meeting. We also believed, that we should go there just only to share our experience about recovery.

We had 5 visits to Macedonia and I was a member of 3 fellowship developments task teams, two of them on my own costs. It reminds me how changes took part in those process, because we agreed to have a visit every second week during the last 4 month. The first meeting in Macedonia was horrible. I can not describe it in words. The meeting was held in a methadone center and it was full off syringes and equipment, methadone, and it was really really horrible for me.

There was not even an idea of recovery. We tried to communicate more often and tried to find a way to sponsor those people, to show them that recovery is something that's happening, it's a miracle but it happens During our visits we try to support all the members. The people who attend the meetings are still using. Some of them are dealing with drugs and methadone during the meetings, which was the main problem for us as NA to support this kind of activity. We were emotional involved, really really emotional involved, all of us.

We all looked at them as friends, as people who had a problem, and we wanted only to help them, but it was against traditions, against traditions to support something that is not recovery, and that's going in that direction. For most of us, it was the first time that we had those kind of situations and we tried to communicate over Skype all the time, trying to make some goals how we gonna include all people and how to do something different there.

It was really really tough things to do, so after a couple of visits we translated a first pamphlet in macedonia language, it was really great. We made translations of the meeting readings as well.

We started to plan what we gonna do there next. We gonna held a meeting, like we always do in NA, we gonna support them in any way we can. From the beginning we knew that we need more experienced members to come there, so we ask some people, that have a lot of experience in recovery, H&I, PI, to bring them down there and they could really help us to make this situation really clear.

At that point personally I didn't believed in progress, because there was some obstructions and misunderstandings what we are going to do there. I lost my faith in the program, and as always as in my recovery HP show me some sign. I spoke with the EDM Fellowship Development team and with the alternate UK Delegate, who joined our task team. I also send a couple of eMails to the other task team members. To stay tuned with communication was difficult, but in the crucial moments responds was there „go and do it again, go and try with the people you believe in“ and we did it, and it gave us a real and clear view about the situation there.

The last visit was in May, and it was clear for us that we as NA can not support something that is not NA. During our preparation for our region convention in Trogir, we organized a newcomers fund for 3 people (full funding) from Macedonia to come to Trogir, to see how recovery can happen. What happened in Trogir was quite a miracle because we agreed that we gonna exclude one area, because there is no NA meetings. We shut down one area, but it was the only thing we could do, we continue to support on a personal level, we continued to support as sponsor sponsee relationship.

We are hoping that in the future from September we gonna do some more visits and try to organize to find a secure meeting place for them, because it's the most important thing to come to the meetings where you can feel safe.

For me it gave me more experience in communication with the people, how I can share my recovery, and how can I be grateful for my home group. Just right now there are meetings in parks in Skopje. They just sit down, do the readings, it's really tough, but it's a lot more different than it was, we made such progress, we are very proud of that, if you remember the first meeting, which was full of needles, now they are in a much safer place, and they have the readings in there own language, they have pamphlets, it's not approved but it's something. I think we did a real good job, we safe lives, we gonna safe more, it's a start.

Task Team 2: Latvia (Report: Andrey/Russia)

I will tell you about our team and about Latvia and will show you a presentation, because it will help you to understand the situation better. The activity has not yet been done, it's not finished yet, it will be finished next weekend after Malmö. A few months ago the Latvia community asked EDM for help and to share experience about conventions.

Latvia is very small and there is a thing, that sometimes for some reasons, it is really hard for them to get accepted from Lithuania and Estonia. I don't know why, but maybe there are some problems with communication among these communities. Maybe it has cultural reasons or something like that.

We have some ideas what we can do for them. We made a scan according to our planning tools and we realized that we need them to ask us questions, to tell us more about the situation there, so we can be prepared more and to fulfill their needs more.

We received information about Latvia, the community is just a few years old, and they have around 100 members.

They have 6 groups, and they have service committees, small subcommittees. They try to do some service and this service, they also have translated the IP booklet.

They don't have the Basic Text in their own language. They are trying to work on this, but they have a small number of members and because of that they can't do it good and fast.

The goals of this activity are to train people to support them to share experience how we do it in our communities and how we can establish contact with them, that we show them that we are available for them.

We can support them, we can share experience, we can do presentations, we can give workshops, and all that things, and we can involve more people in service, show them how attractive service is and how it's good to do service in Europe and in NA as a whole.

In Russia we have enough resources to fulfill their needs in PI and H&I, because our experience in PI can be really useful there, and all these 100 members can speak Russian, so there is no cultural problem between us and them, we can be there speak in one language and it can be very good also for us, and also for them.

We have an upcoming convention, so everybody will be there, and we don't need to organize a special event. We have a special workshop and we want to make this workshop attractive for them.

Everybody will be on this convention and we can use this convention to show both sides of a convention: the service side and the entertainment side.

We ask them to organize an accommodation and hospitality for us, so we as EDM pay only for travel expenses, that's all. They will give us homes, and food, and so this is their side of responsibility.

Today we have prepared some workshops for them, drafts, but we know what we will do there for them.

The budget is 650 €. First we were thinking about inviting another delegate from Spain (Sergio). We talked about his participation at this workshop, but at the end the amount of budget we would need was too high. So we decided to reduce the budget and to do it by ourselves. This is the result of our team for this moment, and thank you.

Task Team 3: Poland (Report: Agnieszka/Poland, Helge/Germany)

At the beginning I would like to thank you all, that we could have this two task and I would like to thank everyone who helped us, and that we could get money to do this. I thought we could see pictures first, everything was at the same time at our regional convention, we had there workshops, PI workshops, in which Helge from Germany helped us and we had 5 friends from Czech Republic also at the same time at this convention, so I will talk about this after the powerpoint presentation. (Agnieszka shows Powerpoint Presentation)

Let's start with the Czech task, the goal was to bring Czech members to Poland and to talk about what they need. Do they need meetings with someone sharing, do they need workshops? What kind of topics would they like to have there? We thought that would be easier to meet personally to talk about this.

The place of the convention was very close to Czech Republic, so it felt as a good opportunity to meet together and talk. No good news: As most of you know, in Czech there was Ludwig, we were talking about him, he is not in service anymore.

Since that there is lack of communication, we are waiting a longer time to get answers. It's the present thing that appeared, that there is not a good communication. I'm in service for a couple of years and I remind the new coordinator of the Czech Republic, that this is my personal experience for me as well.

Another thing, it's not only me who hasn't an alternate.

To have an alternate, this is for the safety of the delegate, that is my experience. Very soon we had the workshop and it's an overload to put the task on only one person. As one delegate, he needs more resources, there are some delegates in some regions and more people helping, but there is only one delegate with no alternate.

The budget was okay, we didn't have problems with the transfer. The good idea was that it's not so strict if we would need some more. I had the feeling it would have been okay to ask for.

Helge: The FD committee ask me, after request from Poland, to do a PI workshop at the Polish Convention. There was no guidance from FD or EDM, because FD was not available at this time (FD was offbeat). I ask NAWS to give me guidance and input, and I also do a lot of workshops in Berlin, so I had a little bit experience. We had a speaker right in front of my workshop and he told everything I wanted to do in the workshop. I had 10 seconds to create a new workshop, but it was okay. Aga ask me a lot of things to do, and I knew I had just 90 minutes. I can't do a PI workshop and create a structure for PI committee in 90 minutes, that is impossible.

So, a good follow up would be to have some service days in this area, and I think we could put some task together, so we could do a learning weekend for the Polish Region, and the Czech Region and Slovakia. Maybe in Krakow, it's central for all of them, and I think all of us could benefit from this, and we could have the cost down.

The other thing to improve the EDM task would be to create a broader FD board or some kind of European Board like World Board (FD comment: this will go over your task). Maybe to develop some standard workshops, in what we trained here, so everyone is possible to go there to do this work. And it would be good, if we would have a standard format.

Task Team 4: Italy (Report: Louisa, Italy)

In fact this venture was born as a follow up from the original fellowship development to Italy 2009, made by Simon and Sigg. Which was very very successful and the topic have been on „Communication in Service“ and it was done in a workshop mode which was quite novel for us in Italy, it went very well. So when I heard that FD was offering to do follow ups I quickly ask if we could be venture from that and kindly Joao and Wolfgang agreed. When I went back then to my regional meeting after the last EDM in Malta, and put forward the proposition to them, they were also very keen, but they went keen to do it before this meeting in Malmö. They recognized that we needed more time to set it up and I was disappointed. I thought, it was a bit left out.

I could than quite quickly see there were right because the topics that we set up for the workshop need to be translated. Both topics were also booklets in the Service System Proposals and the Planing Basics, that would imply a great amount of work for the translation committee. So they were right, we will not be able to do that by June, so instead of that it was agreed that we would postpone these workshops at our service conference weekend in October which is what we are still planing to do.

A lot of excitement has come from that, a lot involvement , so my problem was that I did get come back from FD committee, but not too much from my task team as much as I would ask them what they felt would be good topics of discussion for the workshops in Italy.

But then when I thought about it and I realize that it would have been hard for them to know what we needed in Italy , what stage we were at, and so I talked to Guiseppe, our alternate RD, and he too felt that the Service System Proposals and Basic Planing would be good topics, and so we moved forward. I think a mistake we make was perhaps that we might have a reposition funds, because now in the interim perhaps the funds that you agreed to dedicate in Malta to this particular task team, weren't used and I think they may have gone back, and I'm not sure now if you need to revote this. Everybody in Italy thinks that we gonna be doing this that we really hope that you still feel that this is a good idea. (Jim: The money is still allocated to you).

Task Team 5 Iceland (Report: Erik/Denmark)

We had a small group, we were low budget, kind of no budget group. Because we just had to take the temperature, what is going on in Iceland. After the visit we had some difficulties of being together online. We had technical problems, we had problems with time difference, but somehow we succeeded with a lot of Skype talkings and lots of emailing on Facebook and our official mails. During the last 6 month, especially me with a lot of contact with Iceland (Delegate Elan), there were two requests from the fellowship over there, the funding for the Basic Text, in one way or another, that's what they decided. I just spoke with two guys who were former delegates on this body, the worst case senario could be to get a No,

but I know Travis from WSO will help. The other request is, that the fellowship would love to have a follow up visit with new workshops and some guys from here coming up there and continue what we did the last time when we were there.

I had some problems. We had so many different kind of talks, on Facebook, Skype meetings, and I was not involved in all of them. We could have been better, emailing each other and taking the minutes of what we talked about. Also we would have need more clarity about specified communication, the minutes and what we have to deliver to each other. A little guideline for task teams would be nice. On the positive side we had a vision, Christin and I we shared it, the vision was to motivate and inspire Iceland to be active part of the task, to participate at EDM. Finally we were succeeding in that. That makes us very happy, because we easily can think about what we think is good for Iceland, but they found out by themself with our support and that what matters. So, I think our task team succeeded and the follow up could be learning days that you suggest.

Task Team 6: Finland (Report: Tomas, Finland)

The main goal in our task was to have more cooperation with the Swedish fellowship. We went to Sweden. We had 5 members from Finland and the task was two weeks after the EDM in Malta, to went to the service conference in Sweden. We didn't have lots of time to make planing or getting ready. It was kind of impulse. It was a great idea to go there, and still is a great idea, but I think we should have more time when we do a task like that, to have more time, more preparation, and more communication, between us. But we found out that we, in our region, we got a very concrete help from EDM, this task give us something concret, and that was very great. We found new contacts, we found new ways of doing service, we get practice for our web forum, so we can use the swedish service material we want. And 2 of our 5 members in team were new members, but have never been in Na outside of Finland or do any kind of International service. That was very eye opening for many of those, because it's a different point when I as a delegate bring information here to our region, or they can count on there experience themselves what it could be. Budget went a little bit over and also the information that what we have , we didn't know that the conference was started on friday morning so we went there at friday evening and the region meeting was already almost over and that was also one difficulty. The information communication and planing and I think the planing is the most important thing to do in this kind of task, and than we found many ways , new wys of doing service in our region, example, translation committee, our translation committeee is now working a whole different way.