

Anthroposophic Council for
Inclusive Social Development



Education
Wellbeing
Community

International Training Circle

Basis and Mode of Operation

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1 Basis and functions

1.1 International Training Circle of the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development at the Goetheanum

The Training Circle of the then Curative Education and Social Therapy Council, now the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development at the Goetheanum was established at an international meeting of centers for training in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields with anthroposophical orientation held in Kassel in 2002. The training centers represented at the meeting in Kassel became founder members. These guidelines were agreed on by them and have been further developed since then.

1.2 Basis

The Training Circle of the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development at the Goetheanum represents the union of training centers for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professions, and of the national associations responsible for training issues.

1.3 Membership

The Training Center informs the office of the Council in Dornach in writing of its interest in membership of the Training Circle and designates a contact person. Membership is applied for by a written declaration and the name of an appointed delegate which are sent to the office in Dornach and confirmed by the Training Council. Members are expected to attend the annual meetings regularly and participate actively. Members are also expected to take interest in the internal recognition process.

1.4 Functions

1.4.1 Further development of the basis and methods of anthroposophical curative education, social pedagogy and social therapy with reference to training

- Working together on relevant issues
- Exploring the bases for training
- Encouraging research, especially in practice
- Comparability and recognition of training courses
- Recognition for training centers within the Medical Section
- Recognition at international and national level
- Establishing qualitative criteria for comparability and recognition

1.4.2 Quality development at training centers

- Developing and implementing up-to-date training methods based on the trinal approach given in the Training
- Handbook for Curative Education and Social Therapy and the Charter on Professional Education
- Mutual consultation and support also in establishing new training centers
- Further and additional training of teaching staff and mentors
- Developing opportunities for student exchanges

1.4.3 Representing the professional profile of the anthroposophical curative educator, social pedagogue and social therapist

- Collaboration with other training and professional associations
- Representing the professional profile at international and national level
- Collaboration within the specialist field

1.4.4 Development, maintenance and updating of relevant international networks

- Cultivation of comprehensive awareness
- Offering opportunities for concerted action
- Financing work of common interest
- Developing shared projects

2 Organization and mode of operation

2.1 Professional exchange and plenary meeting

The annual meeting of the Training Circle is primarily dedicated to professional exchange related to the tasks listed above. To that end, anyone is invited who is involved with a training center for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy or related fields of work. Membership in the Training Circle is not a requirement for participation. Several members of the same training center may also participate.

The conference includes a plenary meeting of the Training Circle at the same time. For decisions in the plenary meeting, every member organization has one vote.

The Training Circle appoints the members of the Training Council and the Recognition Group and establishes their organization and mode of operation. Only representatives or delegates of member organizations can be appointed.

2.2 Training Council

2.2.1 Basis

The Training Council coordinates the international Training Circle, represents it within and outside the Council and is responsible for implementing the functions of the Training Circle. It has seven to nine members.

2.2.2 Functions

The functions of the Training Council are above all

- Preparing and following up the meetings of the Training Circle
- Implementing and monitoring initiatives of the Training Circle
- Coordination of training centers
- Supporting the Council's office in the field of training
- Observing, taking up and dealing with current issues

The Training Council regularly reports to the Training Circle.

2.2.3 Mode of operation

The Training Council meets two or three times a year as well as at the international meetings for trainers. Specific functions can with the agreement of the Training Circle also be delegated to smaller groups which are then accountable to the Training Council.

2.2.4 Requirements

Members of the Training Council are expected to

- have representative awareness of the international situation as a whole
- show initiative in their awareness of the whole
- be committed when it comes to greater issues in the field of training
- collaborate in planning and implementing work and projects.

The members of the Training Council must be able to sustain the extensive and varied rhythm of work and awareness between Training Circle and Training Council. Expenses connected with their meetings are normally paid by the training centers where the members work.

2.2.5 Composition

Regional and professional aspects are considered for the composition of the Training Council. The official languages are German and English. The Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development's leadership has an = ex officio seat on the Training Council.

2.2.6 Term of office

The members of the Training Council are elected by the Training Circle to serve for four years; re-election is possible.

2.2.7 Election procedure

The members of the Training Circle can put forward candidates for the Training Council. These proposals are submitted to the secretariat in Dornach. The Training Council have pre-election talks with possible members and also have the right to take action themselves.

On the basis of the proposals, the secretariat consults with the Training Council to make a list which is presented to the Training Circle as a whole. Election of individuals is possible if applied for by 2/3 of the representatives with voting rights present; the members of the Training Council themselves abstain. For the election of individual members, a simple majority of representatives with voting rights present suffices. The election of individuals is in writing and secret.

2.3 Recognition Group

2.3.1 Basis

A Recognition Group is established to implement the recognition procedure for schools and training centers. It has three or four members.

2.3.2 Functions

Its organization and mode of operation are laid down in the paper 'Guiding principles for recognition procedures'.

2.3.3 Requirements

Members of the Recognition Group will as a rule have held responsible positions in training in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields for several years and be representatives or delegates of members of the Training Circle. They will also be prepared to attend the annual intervision meetings in Kassel.

2.3.4 Competencies

The Recognition Group in consultation with the Training Council appoint recognition mentors. On the basis of the report from the recognition mentors they decide whether to recognize training centers, refuse recognition, or grant conditional recognition with requirements and recommendations. The Recognition Group ultimately also decide on the extent and type of recertification.

2.3.5 Election procedure

The members of the Training Circle can put forward candidates for election to the Recognition Group. The proposals are submitted to the secretariat in Dornach. On the basis of the proposals and in consultation with the Training Council the secretariat make a list which is submitted to the Training Circle for election as a whole. Apart from this the modalities for Training Council elections also apply.

2.3.6 Finances

The work of members of the Recognition Group is as a rule supported by their own training centers. Exceptions require prior consultation with the Training Council.

2.3.7 Accountability

The Recognition Group make regular reports to the Training Circle concerning their work and that of the Recognition Mentors Group.

The documents are archived at the office in Dornach.

2.3.8 Term of office

Members of the Recognition Group are elected for four years. A simple majority of representatives with voting rights present suffices. Re-election after four years is possible.

2.4 Recognition Mentors Group

2.4.1 Basis

The Recognition Mentors Group is made up of recognition mentors and the Recognition Group. It includes the individuals who have done evaluations for the Recognition Group or are appointed to do this work.

2.4.2 Functions

The function of the Recognition Mentors Group is to do evaluations and further develop the recognition procedure qualitatively by means of regular intervision and further training in the sphere of its functions. Attendance at intervision meetings is obligatory.

2.4.3 Requirements

Recognition mentors will as a rule have held responsible positions in training in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields training for some years. They are also prepared to attend the annual intervision meeting in Kassel.

2.4.4 Competencies

The Recognition Mentors Group can submit proposals for improving the recognition procedure to the Training Council and formulate criteria for the appointment of recognition mentors.

2.4.5 Appointment

Recognition mentors are appointed by the Recognition Group in consultation with the Training Council. This automatically makes them members of the Recognition Mentors Group.

2.4.6 Finances

The expenses for regular intervision and further training work in the Group are agreed on in advance with the Training Council. The cost of travel, meals and accommodation is as a rule borne by the training centre concerned. Exceptions must be agreed on in advance with the Recognition Group.

2.4.7 Term of office

Recognition mentors should perform their function for a period of at least five years. Confirmation is by the Recognition Group.

2.5 Arbitration Group

2.5.1 Function

The Arbitration Group will on request deal with conflicts and disputes arising with the recognition procedures if these cannot be resolved in another way.

2.5.2 Procedure

The Arbitration Group is appealed to in writing, giving details, via the Dornach office. The latter pass the complaint on to the Training Council who decide on how to deal with it, appointing the Arbitration Group if required.

2.5.3 Composition

The Arbitration Group is newly convened in every case of conflict. It includes two delegated members of the Training Council and a representative or delegate from the Training Circle proposed by the training or educational center making the complaint.

Any member of the Training Council who is personally involved in the case will withdraw from the Council for the whole period of the procedure.

2.5.4 Powers

The Arbitration Group makes the final decision. Simple majority applies. A written report on the result is sent to all involved. When the arbitration is completed the Arbitration Group reports to the Training Council and is then officially dissolved.

2.5.5 Mode of operation

The members of the Arbitration Group are autonomous in organizing their collaboration; it is not absolutely necessary to have meetings of the whole group.

2.5.6 Expenses

Travel expenses for any member of the Arbitration Group must be borne by the complainant if the complaint is not upheld by the Arbitration Group. If the Arbitration Group accepts the complaint, the expenses will be borne by the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development.

2.5.7 Transparency

The members of the Training Circle receive an annual report on the work of the Arbitration Group.

3 Recognition within the network of training centres

3.1 Fundamental aspects

With their international collaboration the professional education and training centers in curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related fields of work form a network which is characterized on the one hand by each organization having its own, distinct profile, and on the other by a culture of mutual perception, learning and development which makes the whole training system a cohesive whole with its own identity.

The members of the International Training Circle of the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development see recognition as a process which is mutual. In terms of quality development, it depends on equality and commitment in collaboration, which leads to a shared learning process and new opportunities.

The basis for the questions relating to recognition is given in the Handbook published by the Council and the Charter on Professional Education, which contains the fundamental principles for training quality and collaboration in the international network as a basis for further development.

The need for recognized training courses exists at different levels for

- students or applicants considering the available options · centers employing trained staff, with reference to the quality and competence of individuals · training centers in their collaboration in a network with the same aims and interests
- the Training Circle itself and the international network when it comes to representing the professional profile of anthroposophical curative teachers and social therapists internally and externally.

Recognition within the Curative Education and Social Therapy network does not take the place of recognition given to training centers under the legislation pertaining in their region. There they are subject to national regulations and conditions applying to training, which are the basis for training given in the region where government recognition and the professional legal status of graduates are concerned.

Recognition by the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development implies that the curriculum and methods of a training course are in accord with training in anthroposophical curative education and social therapy. It can be given for training courses of different length, levels (see EU training levels, for instance) and specialist areas within the professional spectrum.

3.2 Conditions

The basis for recognition given to a training center in the International Training Circle's network are:

3.2.1 Active collaboration in the Training Circle

Recognition can be given to training centers which are regularly participating in the work as members of the international and national network of the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development's Training Circle. This includes attending meetings and

conferences and shared training events and providing information about developments at one's own center.

3.2.2 Transparency / Information concerning course design and the current situation at the training center

Once the application is running, the center produces a portfolio with detailed information on course design, training methods and the current situation. A self-evaluation report must also be included.

3.2.3 Colleagues to follow developments

Centers have partners for the recognition process. These visit, sit in and have talks for the purpose of peer-evaluation.

3.3 Procedure

Responsibility for the recognition procedure lies with the Recognition Group as owner of the process. It is assisted by recognition mentors who visit the centers.

3.3.1 Application

The center wishing to gain recognition informs the Recognition Group, submitting a portfolio containing full details of the training work (see Self-Evaluation Report and Portfolio questionnaire). Recognition can be requested by programs leading to first professional qualifications, post-graduate qualifications, further education programs, foundation studies programs and for training course that are only offered one time.

3.3.2 Method

The Recognition Group initiate the process, coming to an agreement with the center on the choice of mentors.

3.3.3 Implementation

The basic elements for recognition criteria are given in the Charter on Professional Education, the center's self-evaluation, evaluation of the portfolio with attachments and the perceptions of the recognition mentors.

The mentors visit the center and send a report to the Recognition Group in which they state if they support the application.

The Group makes the decision concerning recognition.

Recognition is granted for five years, after which it may be renewed. Renewal will also be necessary if there have been fundamental changes.

Possible decisions are

- recognition
- recognition after meeting further requirements
- recognition not granted

In the last two cases, the center will be able to appeal to the Arbitration Group via the office in Dornach and the Training Council.

Recognition may be withdrawn when the conditions for it no longer apply.

The decision will be in the hands of the Recognition Group and must be confirmed by the Training Council.

The degree and period of recertification after 5 years will be established by the Recognition Group in consultation with the school or training center concerned.

3.4 Certificate

A certificate of recognition will be issued by the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development. Centers may refer to this in their documents and in certificates/diplomas (e.g. using the formula 'Recognized by the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development at the School of Spiritual Science (Goetheanum).')

3.5 Costs

The Recognition Group and its mentors charge no fees. Their expenses are reimbursed as required. The center which has applied for recognition pays the necessary expenses of the mentors involved in the process. The issue of costs must be clarified in advance.

3.6 Regulations

All matters concerning procedure are laid down in the Guidelines for the Recognition Process, which is put into force by the Training Council on application from the Recognition Group.

The first version of the 'Basis and mode of operation' paper of the International Training Circle of the (then) Curative Education and Social Therapy Council was adopted at the plenary meeting in 2002 and revised in May 2007. The present, extended version was passed and adopted by the Training Circle on 13th May 2011. Reviewed and readopted April 2015 by International Training Circle, Kassel and again on 4th May 2017. It was adapted to reflect the new Council's new name by the Training Council in April 2019.