

International Training Circle

Basic Principles and Ways of Working

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1 Basics and tasks

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

In 2002, at the meeting of anthroposophically oriented professional education and training centers for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professions, an International Training Circle was founded by the then Curative Education and Social Therapy Conference in the Medical Section at the Goetheanum (now the Section for Inclusive Social Development). The founding members were the professional education and training centers represented at the meeting in Kassel. These guidelines were adopted by them and have been further developed since then.

1.2 Basis

The Training Circle of the Section for Inclusive Social Development at the Goetheanum is an association of professional education and training centers for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields that are responsible for training and professional education questions.

1.3 Membership

The professional education and training center notifies the Training Council in writing of its interest in membership and appoints a contact person. The Training Council confirms the membership to the contact person. Members are expected to participate regularly and actively in the annual meetings, as well as to show interest in the internal recognition process.

1.4 Tasks

1.4.1 Further development of the foundations and methods for professional education and training in anthroposophical curative education, social pedagogy, and social therapy

- Working together on relevant issues
- Joint exploration of the foundations and principles of professional education
- Initiating and supporting research, in particular practice-based research
- Comparability and recognition of professional education and training programs
- Recognition of professional education and training centers under the umbrella of the Section for Inclusive Social Development at the Goetheanum
- Recognition within the international and national contexts
- Development of qualitative criteria for comparability and recognition

1.4.2 Quality development of the professional education centers

- Further development and implementation of current training methods based on the trinal approach as laid out in the Handbook for Training in Curative Education and Social Therapy and the Charter on Professional Education
- Peer consultation and support, including in the establishment of new professional education and training initiatives
- Further education and training of instructors and mentors in professional education
- Developing opportunities for student exchanges

1.4.3 Representing the professional profiles involved in anthroposophical social work worldwide. Collaborating with other training and professional associations, representing the professional profiles within international and national contexts.

- Collaboration within the professional and academic field

1.4.4 Developing, facilitating, and adapting appropriate international network structures

- Maintaining a comprehensive awareness of the international network
- Offering opportunities for joint action
- Financing of common tasks
- Development of joint projects

2 Organization and ways of working

2.1 Professional exchange and annual conference

The annual conference of the Training Circle is primarily dedicated to professional exchange in the sense of the tasks listed above. All persons involved in professional education and training centers for curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields are invited to attend. Membership in the Training Circle is not a precondition for participation. More than one person from each center is welcome to participate.

Within the context of the annual conference, a plenary meeting of the Training Circle is held. When voting on common decisions, each member organization has one vote.

The Training Circle mandates the members of the Training Council. As a general rule, mandates for participation in the Training Council will be taken on by those working in member organizations of the Training Circle. The Training Circle decides on justified exceptions.

2.2 Training Council

2.2.1 Basis

The Training Council is the coordinating body of the International Training Circle. It represents the Training Circle internally and externally and is responsible for carrying out its tasks. It consists of seven to nine members.

2.2.2 Tasks

The tasks of the Training Council include in particular

- Preparation and follow-up of the meetings of the Training Circle
- Implementation and facilitation of initiatives of the Training Circle
- Coordination of the recognition process
- Supporting the Section's leadership and office in the area of professional education and training
- Perceiving, addressing and working on current issues

The Training Council regularly reports to the Training Circle.

2.2.3 Mode of operation

In addition to the International Training Circle Conferences, the Training Council usually meets two to three times a year to carry out its tasks. Special tasks can also be delegated to smaller groups. These are then accountable to the Training Council.

2.2.4 Requirements

The members of the Training Council are expected to

- Hold a representative awareness of the totality of the international context
- Take initiative out of an awareness of the whole
- Be engaged in the big-picture questions in the field of professional education and training
- Participate in the planning and implementation of tasks and projects.

The members of the Training Council must be able to carry work and awareness between the meeting rhythms of Training Circle and Training Council. The costs associated with attendance at meetings are usually borne by the training center where the members work.

2.2.5 Composition

Regional and professional aspects are taken into account in the composition of the Training Council. The working languages are German and English. A member of the Section for Inclusive Development's leadership is represented ex officio on the Training Council. The members of the Training Council mandated by the Training Circle may co-opt additional persons for task-related participation if needed.

2.2.6 Term of office

The members of the Training Council are appointed by the Training Circle for a period of four years. Re-election is possible.

2.2.7 Mandate

The members of the Training Circle can propose persons for the Training Council. The proposals are forwarded to the Training Council. The Training Council holds talks with possible members in advance. It can also become active itself and nominate new members.

Based on the proposals, the Training Council draws up a slate of nominations, which is submitted to the Training Circle as a whole for approval. Individual elections are possible at the request of 2/3 of the member representatives present and entitled to vote. The members of the Training Council shall abstain from voting. Individual elections shall be decided by a simple majority of the member representatives present and entitled to vote. Individual elections shall be conducted in writing and by secret ballot.

3 Recognition in the network of professional education centers for anthroposophic curative education and social therapy

3.1 Basic principles

Through their international cooperation, the professional education and training centers for anthroposophical curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professional fields form a network which is characterized on the one hand by the fact that each organization has its own distinctive profile, and on the other hand by the fact that a connection of mutual perception, learning and development has been formed which creates a coherent and integrated professional education training network with its own identity.

The members of the International Training Circle of the Section for Inclusive Social Development understand recognition as a reciprocal peer-to-peer process. This approach to quality development consists in a commitment among equal partners to a process of shared learning, which opens new possibilities for action.

The basis for the questions concerning recognition is spelled out in the Charter on Professional Education. In this document, the fundamental aspects of quality and cooperation on professional education in the international network have been articulated for further elaboration.

The need for recognized professional education and training programs arises from different perspectives for:

- Students or applicants in the choice of an educational institution
- Institutions and organizations with regard to the quality and competence of staff
- Professional education and training centers looking for partnership in a network of shared goals and interests
- The Training Circle itself and the international network in representing the professions in the field of anthroposophical curative education and social therapy to internal and external stakeholders

Recognition within the curative education and social therapy network does not replace the recognition of the professional education and training centers within their respective jurisdictions. There, they are integrated into national regulatory contexts and conditions. These are the basis for the implementation of the professional education and training programs with regard to the state/public recognition of their diplomas and certificates and the legal status of the graduates as professionals.

Recognition at the level of the Section for Inclusive Social Development signifies that the contents and methods are in accord with the shared principles for professional education and training in anthroposophic curative education and social therapy. It can be awarded to professional education and training programs of different durations, levels and specializations within the spectrum of the professional field.

3.2 Conditions of recognition

The following conditions form the basis for the recognition of a professional education or training center in the network of the International Training Circle:

3.2.1 Active collaboration in the Training Circle

Recognition can be given to professional education and training centers that regularly participate as members in the international and national networks of the Training Circle of the Section for Inclusive Social Development. This includes participation in the conferences and joint continuing education processes, as well as the sharing information about the development of their own center in the network.

3.2.2 Transparent sharing of information about concept and current situation of the professional education and training center

In the course of the recognition process, the professional education or training center provides a portfolio with detailed information regarding the concept and implementation of their programs and their current situation. This also includes a self-evaluation report.

3.2.3 Collegial perception

For the recognition process, the professional education and training centers have recognition partners who visit them for observation and dialogue in the format of a peer evaluation.

3.3 Recognition process

3.3.1 Functions, roles and tasks

In order to implement the recognition of professional education and training centers within the Section for Inclusive Social Development, the Training Council appoints a Coordinator and a group of Peer Reviewers.

Together with the Coordinator and the Peer Reviewers, the Training Council is responsible for the process of recognition as described in the paper Guideline Recognition Process.

3.3.2 Requirements Peer Reviewers

As a rule, Peer Reviewers have several years of responsible experience in the field of curative education, social pedagogy, social therapy and related professions and are representatives or delegates of member organizations of the Training Circle. They are also willing to participate in the annual meetings of Peer Reviewers to share and review experiences.

3.3.3 Competencies

The Training Council appoints the Peer Reviewers in consultation with the Coordinator. Based on the report of the Peer Reviewers, the Training Council and the Coordinator decide on the recognition of training centers, the denial of recognition or conditional recognition with requirements for remediation and recommendations. The Training Council also ultimately decides on the scope and form of recertification.

3.3.4 Finance

The costs associated with the regular meetings and continuing education of Peer Reviewers are clarified in advance with the Training Council. Travel and accommodation costs are usually borne by the training centers of the participants. Exceptions must be arranged in advance with the Training Council.

3.3.5 Accountability and documentation

The Training Council regularly reports to the Training Circle on the recognition processes. The Coordinator documents and archives the records in the Council's cloud-based system.

3.3.6 Guideline Recognition Process

Further questions regarding the recognition process as well as its practical implementation are clarified in the Guideline Recognition Process.

The paper "Basic Principles and Ways of Working" of the International Training Circle of the Curative Education and Social Therapy Council was adopted in its first version by its general meeting in 2002 and revised in May 2007. The present extended version was adopted and put into force by the Training Circle on May 13, 2011. Confirmed by the International Training Circle April 2015 in Kassel.

A slightly modified version was confirmed on May 4, 2017, at the meeting of the Training Circle. In April 2019 this was adapted by the Training Council to the Council's new name, Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development.

In April 2023, the Training Council developed fundamental revisions to the organization of the recognition process and, to this end, revised the papers "Basic Principles and Ways of Working" and "Guideline Recognition Process" and submitted them to the Training Circle as drafts for adoption. This version was adopted by the International Training Circle on April 29, 2023.

In April 2025, the papers were adapted to reflect the founding of the Section for Inclusive Social Development, which took over the the work previously carried under the umbrella of the Anthroposophic Council for Inclusive Social Development within the School of Spiritual Science (Goetheanum).