

EuNC is Coming Home – Next Steps

Over the last several years, as many of you know, EuNC has been in a process of transition. The school has been moving from a residential model to a model of decentralized education, with 15 learning centres in 17 countries. Those of you who have been making this transition with us have seen several stages of change, and EuNC has come to another crossroads. With this edition of *In Touch* we want to inform you of the most recent developments at EuNC, and we hope that the news will inspire you to praise God for his guidance and to pray very specifically for EuNC.

European Accreditation

In order to decentralize and make EuNC education more readily available to students, it was important that EuNC find a European accreditation body that would be able to monitor and support the educational programmes in the learning centres. For this, EuNC has turned to the European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA), an accreditation body with a large amount of experience in decentralized education and over 60 member schools. On March 21-23, a team from the EEAA visited the campus to evaluate the new model of decentralized education that EuNC has been working to provide. This visit went very well. EuNC received a very positive report in which it was stated that the college “has put in place the necessary academic support structure for a successful operation of decentralized education.” The visiting review committee also sensed “a spirit of dedication and diligence in all efforts to invent and implement new ways of programme delivery. Mutual relations among all those working and studying with EuNC contribute to a situation highly favourable to reaching the goals the school has set itself.” EuNC receives this report as a great encouragement and an affirmation of the transitional work that has been done, and we are very thankful for their consideration. We anticipate receiving “Candidacy Status” in April and the full accreditation visit, which will include a visit to several of the learning centres, will take place within a year from now.

Good Stewardship

Now that the decentralized model has launched and is growing, EuNC leadership needed to turn its attention to other important, practical – and sometimes difficult – questions and concerns. It is critical that this new model of theological education be sustainable, which is both a major challenge and an utmost necessity in times of decreasing financial resources. Throughout its history, EuNC has been blessed by the financial support of our general church, friends, and the European districts.



In 2010, 48% of all income came from the general church, 9% from the friends of EuNC, 10% from the European districts, and the remaining 33% from tuition and the operation of the campus.

Without this support, having a campus and offering educational programmes in Europe would not have been possible.

Developments over the last three to five years, however, have also made it clear that even this level of support is not sufficient to continue running a residential, full-time campus programme. The declining number of campus students and the ongoing growth of the learning centres demand a clear shift in financial priorities. After much prayer and consideration, the school's Board of Trustees unanimously agreed that sustaining the residential programme was not the wisest use of the funds that were available; they voted to discontinue the residential programme and fully concentrate on the decentralized model of education. This difficult decision was made in an effort to be good stewards of limited financial and human resources and to become more effective in fulfilling our mission "to enable disciples of Christ to participate in the mission of God and serve local communities of faith." Decentralized education not only allows EuNC to work more closely with the local churches and districts, using the facilities already available, but it also makes it possible to do more with less.

The Campus

As a decentralized model does not require a campus, the school has explored other options for the facilities. The initial hope was that other Nazarene schools might be interested in using the property for their semester abroad programmes. However, because this could not be realized at the pace we expected and no final agreements could be made for the academic year 2011-12, it has become necessary to accelerate changes related to the campus operation. In a special meeting of the Executive Committee and the Leadership Team of EuNC on March 25-26, the decision was made to terminate all contracts of the campus operation staff in order to avoid liquidation by the end of this calendar year. Communicating this decision to the staff members, who see their work at the campus as a God-given call, was a heavy burden.

Invitation to Prayer

As you can imagine, this is a very challenging situation for EuNC, and we ask for your prayers. Please pray specifically for those who will lose their jobs over the next months; pray for the



Leadership Team, the Executive Committee, and the leadership of the Eurasia Region as they develop plans for a future use of the campus. Please pray also for the faculty at the campus who will be moving to the learning centres or ending their contracts. As we have been reminding ourselves in this process, we believe that we serve a God who is, and has often been, a God of new beginnings, and we desire to face the closure of the campus with such a faith and hope.

Invitation to Graduation 2011

Though it is changing, EuNC is not coming to an end! For several years already, the number of credits earned in the learning centres has been higher than the number of credits earned on campus, and the student numbers have been rising in the learning centres, as well. Currently, EuNC has more than 300 active learning centre students, and the EEAA report mentioned above validates that EuNC is becoming well-equipped to serve these students, moving toward the future. Yet, we mourn the loss of the EuNC Büsingen Campus, a special place of blessing for so many people who have studied and visited through the years. This 2011 graduation will most likely be the last EuNC graduation in Büsingen, and we anticipate 15 graduates, one of the largest graduating classes in the history of EuNC to date, including seven students from the learning centres who have already received their certificates in the district assemblies of Armenia, Bulgaria, Central Asia, Russia-South, and Ukraine.

We invite all who can to join us in this special celebration. As has been our practice over the last few years, we will begin with a service in the Bergkirche on Thursday evening, June 23, at 19:30, which will be special this year as we give thanks to God for all his blessings bestowed on all those who studied or visited the campus. The following evening, Friday, June 24, at 18:00 we will gather in the Village Church for the graduation ceremony, followed by a reception in the Town Hall of Büsingen, and as the circumstances move us forward, who knows what other special activities may still be organized for these days?

In all of the changes, we continue to seek God's leading, and we thank you, both for your support of EuNC and for your prayers.

EuNC Leadership Team: Klaus Arnold, Rector; Antonie Holleman, Academic Dean

