

JECI-MIEC Orientation Guidelines 2017-2020

"Fight the good fight of the faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:12). We have chosen the path of those who do God's bidding on earth: make right from wrong while professing the Gospel. We, although working in different countries with different realities, are hence united in this **European platform, JECI-MIEC**, guided by the International Solidarity which remains one of our fundamental values.

JECI-MIEC is a regional coordination of several IYCS, IMCS Movements and other Organisations of Catholic Students from European countries. The Orientation Guidelines are a series of themes spanning over four years that will be focused upon by JECI-MIEC. These themes are related to JECI-MIEC's identity.

However, do we have a common identity? What is it that defines us? How can we reach true connections within our diverse countries and organizations? The answer is quick to most of us - we are **Catholic Students**. Its meaning, however, is more complex than one could think at first glance. Therefore, the proposal of these orientation guidelines is to identify what it means to be Catholic Students and reach a more profound depth on the specificities and challenges of living in Europe with this identity. We believe that our first and most important common point is our **Christian faith** and the values that it implies. These are realized through our identity of being Catholic and the way we live them in our **society** and our **educational realities**.

JECI-MIEC's methodology is the Review of Life (See – Judge – Act) that has direct impact in improvements that are necessary in our eyes. It also provides self-development to the students by giving them a voice and guiding them to live in a responsible way.

We would like to achieve this ambitious goal by incorporating, in our proposal, the image of a tree. Our identity as Catholic Students can be seen as the roots, where all the life and activity flows from. Then we can compare the trunk of the tree to the European Coordination that in itself includes its Member Organisations. This would divide into branches covering the topics of "European Coordination JECI-MIEC", "Family and Sexuality", "Spirituality", "Education" and "Society". These branches could be divided even further. Each topic would then be the basis of the European meetings promoting exchanges between the participants, while inviting the National Organizations to act on them.

Thus, our Orientation Guidelines 2017-2020 are:

European Coordination JECI - MIEC

- Promoting Identity
- Internal Cooperation
- Evaluation Process
- Sustainability

Family and Sexuality

- Family Values
- Gender Issues
- LGBT*

Spirituality

- Interreligious and Ecumenical Dialogue
- Charity Acts
- Spiritual Crisis
- Personal Growth

Education

- Formal /Non-Formal and Informal Education
- Leadership Skills

Society

- Youth Participation
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Media and Technology
- Environmental Issues
- Refugees, Migrants and Nationalism
- Human Rights and Social Inclusion
- Controversial Issues in the Church

The first topic approaches the internal development and external appearance of JECI-MIEC that includes a yearly reflection and an evaluation of the last four years at the end of 2020. The following four themes were identified by most Member Organizations as their working or interest areas. These topics are dealt with using the meeting structure of the European Coordination JECI-MIEC, such as summer weeks, colloquiums, study sessions, training sessions, theological sessions etc. Furthermore there is a wide range of methods – publications, campaigns, lectures, group works, visits, role plays, forums etc. This structure and respective contents can only be considered as possible paths to reflect on the Catholic Students. These thematic and methodological possibilities could be carried out within the Member Organisations, on European and even on Global level.