

European Coordination



**Orientation
Guidelines**

2025

2028



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Foreword

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.”

Romans 12:4-6

As Catholic students, we are called to embody our faith through responsible action in the world. This vocation invites us to discern the signs of our time and to respond with conviction, guided by the principles of justice, solidarity, and service. Across Europe’s many nations and contexts, JECI-MIEC provides a common platform through which young Catholics can exchange experience, reflect collectively, and act together for the common good.

The European Coordination JECI-MIEC, which brings together member movements of IYCS-JECI and IMCS-MIEC, works to strengthen the witness of Catholic students within academic and social life. The Orientation Guidelines 2025-2028 serve as a strategic framework for this mission, setting out the principal thematic priorities that will guide our collective work in the coming years. These priorities reflect the multifaceted identity of Catholic students, encompassing the personal, spiritual, organisational, and social dimensions of formation and engagement.


To be Catholic students in contemporary Europe is to play an active part in building communities characterised by dialogue, inclusivity, and respect for human and environmental dignity. Through the Review of Life – *See, Judge, Act* – JECI-MIEC supports the integral development of its members, fostering critical awareness, moral discernment, and a commitment to justice and peace grounded in the Gospel.

These Orientation Guidelines invite all member movements to pursue this path in collaboration, ensuring that faith continues to inspire action and that the values of the Gospel are made visible through our shared service to humanity.

The Personal Aspect

The personal dimension lies at the heart of our movement. Before acting in society or within structures, we must first recognise our own dignity, responsibilities, and capabilities. The development of self-awareness, critical thinking, emotional maturity, and confidence enables members to contribute meaningfully to the mission of JECI-MIEC.

Through the Review of Life, members are encouraged to see the realities of their time, judge them in the light of faith and reason, and act responsibly. In doing so, they grow not only as students, but as individuals conscious of their God-given dignity and vocation.



Help our members to SEE the realities of our time and our movement, and to recognise their God-given human dignity and their ability to contribute to our mission.

How:

- *Highlight the need to form a self-confident new generation that promotes Catholic values, Catholic social teaching, and the dignity of the human person in contemporary discussions, while encouraging renewal within the Church, including the call to Synodality.*
- *Recognise the perception of a high threshold for national organisations to encourage participation and for individuals to engage in JECI-MIEC activities, as well as the limited recognition given to long-term members.*
- *Proactively acknowledge and address the mental health crisis affecting our generation, including the widespread experience of loneliness.*

Help our members to JUDGE from an optimistic and Catholic standpoint, enabling them to engage in discussions, speak openly about their feelings and experiences, contribute to our mission, and discern the goodness and order in God's creation.

How:

- *Encourage members to inform themselves about contemporary discussions, particularly through Catholic sources and Catholic social teaching, in order to understand the Christian standpoint.*
- *Highlight the benefits of the intercultural and international nature of JECI-MIEC activities.*
- *Ensure that participants in both JECI-MIEC and national organisations' activities feel welcome to share their experiences and feelings, both personally and in group settings.*

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:2

Help our members to ACT by using their abilities and talents to make a lasting impact within JECI-MIEC, their national movements, and wider society.


How:

- *Encourage organisers of JECI-MIEC and national events to promote knowledge and discussion of Catholic social teaching and the Christian perspective on contemporary issues.*
- *Ensure low-threshold opportunities for national delegates to participate in JECI-MIEC activities; actively request member organisations to nominate candidates for open positions; and duly recognise and highlight the merits of long-term members, including through website, newsletter, and social media coverage.*
- *Organise a Study Session on mental health and ensure that its outcomes are shared and actively promoted within national movements and at national activities.*

The Spiritual Aspect

As a Catholic movement, our spiritual life is not an additional element but the foundation of our identity. Our faith informs our values, shapes our discernment, and inspires our commitment to service and justice. The spiritual dimension strengthens both the individual and the community, fostering unity across cultures and contexts.

Spiritual formation within JECI-MIEC seeks to accompany members in discovering their personal relationship with God, deepening their understanding of Church teaching, and integrating faith into daily life and social engagement.



Encourage members to live their faith within the movement not only through participation, but also by contributing their own ideas, initiatives, and witness.

How:

- *Begin and end activities with prayer, and invite members to take an active role in preparing and leading moments of reflection.*
- *Support members in discovering their authentic relationship with God, discerning their vocation, and recognising that they are a gift to the world.*
- *Foster open and natural conversations about faith and spirituality in both formal and informal settings, including practices such as life review, communal experiences, and reflection on the sacraments.*

Suggestions:

Prayer boxes, life review, communal life experiences, franciscan spirituality, discover the role and the power of sacraments.

Offer a space in which members feel engaged and guided through Christ's teachings, as transmitted through the Church, while feeling free to express their own way of living the faith.

How:

- *Encourage movements to appoint either an ecclesiastical or lay spiritual assistant and promote opportunities for their formation and ongoing support.*
- *Organise activities that foster reflection and discussion on the Christian faith, including Lectio Divina, retreats, theological reflection, and initiatives.*
- *Create spaces for open dialogue on current topics within the Church and Catholic social teaching, supporting members in discerning how to live their faith as lay people.*

Suggestions:

Lectio Divina, spiritual retreats, theological reflections, European CAFE (Chaplains Animators Formation Exchange).

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

Incorporate spiritual moments into our movements and activities so that they are experienced not as separate elements, but as an intrinsic part of our identity and programme.

How:

- *Share the Gospel and pray together at events, ensuring that sessions dedicated to faith and its role in the movement are integrated into the programme.*
- *Encourage reflection on how to witness to faith in the modern world, and promote the regular involvement and accompaniment of chaplains in the daily life of JECI-MIEC, including the European Team.*
- *Strengthen coordination at European level, including the establishment of a spirituality commission at events, collaboration with national chaplains, and the identification of a European Chaplain.*

Suggestions:

Spirituality commissions at events, updated list of national chaplains contact information.

Organisational Development

A sustainable and credible movement requires strong structures, clear identity, and effective communication. Organisational development ensures that our mission is not only proclaimed but also supported by responsible governance, transparency, and cooperation.

Strengthening our structures, enhancing participation, and fostering international solidarity are essential for the long-term vitality of JECI-MIEC. Organisational development is therefore not merely administrative; it is a concrete expression of our values, including responsibility, solidarity, and service.



Ensure that all organisational development is grounded in who we are as a movement.

How:

- *Emphasise our fourfold identity as a student and youth movement, a Catholic movement, an intellectual movement, and a branch of a global movement, ensuring that these dimensions are visible in our structures and activities.*
- *Integrate our identity and Catholic social teaching into leadership training, exchanges, subregional meetings, and activities.*
- *Strengthen visibility and coherence through updated statutes, clear communication, and a renewed website reflecting our identity and values.*

Suggestions:

Leadership training, 75th anniversary plan of action.

Develop structures that ensure continuity, transparency, and shared responsibility.

How:

- *Establish systems for memory transmission to preserve institutional knowledge and ensure generational continuity.*
- *Promote transparency and accountability in governance, including statutory development and an emergency plan for administrative challenges.*
- *Strengthen shared planning through coordination meetings, joint calendars, and inclusive decision-making processes.*

Suggestions:

Transmission of memories, advisory board, European Committee.

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:10

Ensure that communication fosters participation and responsibility at all levels of the movement.

How:

- *Establish regular and structured updates highlighting key information, decisions, and upcoming opportunities.*
- *Use diverse communication channels adapted to students, leaders, and movements, including social media, testimonies, reports, and publications.*
- *Encourage active transmission of information by delegates and promote engagement in European and international initiatives.*

Suggestions:

Newsletter, communication plan.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9

Strengthen financial stability in coherence with our values and responsibility for creation.

How:

- *Continue cooperation with European funding bodies while exploring Church-related and alternative funding sources.*
- *Develop strategic partnerships, particularly through interregional cooperation and country-specific projects.*
- *Promote environmentally responsible decision-making in travel, mobility, and event organisation.*

Suggestions:

Erasmus+, travel guidelines.

Deepen cooperation and mutual support between member movements.

How:

- *Encourage subregional and international exchanges, including stronger North–South collaboration.*
- *Develop practical tools to help movements identify similarities and build partnerships without creating hierarchies.*
- *Promote equal recognition of all movements while strengthening collaboration on shared challenges and initiatives.*

Suggestions:

Subregional meetings.

Social Action

As Catholic students, we are called not only to reflect, but to act. Our engagement with society is rooted in Catholic social teaching and directed towards the promotion of peace, human dignity, justice, ecological responsibility, and the common good.

Social action within JECI-MIEC seeks to empower members to become responsible citizens, capable of dialogue, advocacy, and concrete initiatives. Our European cooperation allows us to address shared challenges while respecting the diversity of local realities.

Through social action, we live out our faith in the public sphere and contribute to shaping a more just, peaceful, and sustainable society.

Promote peacebuilding rooted in dialogue, justice, and the spirit of Catholic social teaching.

How:


- *Provide platforms for dialogue that foster conflict understanding, reconciliation, and non-violent approaches to peace.*
- *Encourage reflection on different concepts of peace and peacebuilding in contemporary society.*
- *Promote intercultural and intracultural exchange, including the sharing of traditions and spiritual practices at local, national, and international levels.*

Suggestions:

Cultural exchange evenings, conflict management workshops, peace forums.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16




Promote and defend the inherent dignity of every human person.

How:

- *Ensure inclusive and synodal environments that welcome people of diverse backgrounds, including those facing social, financial, or structural barriers.*
- *Promote awareness-raising activities on dignity, inclusion, and respectful language within the movement.*
- *Strengthen collaboration with Church and civil society organisations to advance inclusion and solidarity.*

Suggestions:

Inclusive language, gender and regional balance, safe space.




Respond to the climate crisis as a moral and social responsibility.

How:

- *Integrate sustainability into the practical and educational aspects of all activities.*
- *Promote reflection and discussion on ecological responsibility at European and national levels.*
- *Encourage sustainable choices in mobility, food, waste, and location when organising events.*

Suggestions:

Travel guidelines, waste reduction, food plan.



Empower young people for ethical, peaceful, and sustainable engagement

How:

- *Empower young people for ethical, peaceful, and sustainable engagement*
- *Provide formation that strengthens critical thinking, moral discernment, and the capacity to engage constructively in addressing social, political, and environmental challenges.*
- *Create inclusive spaces where young people can collaborate across cultures, exchange experiences, and act together for justice, solidarity, and care for creation.*

Suggestions:

Youth leadership training, Advocacy Commission, peace forums, Study Sessions, moderated debates.

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