

# STRUCTURES FOR THE ANIMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LASALLIAN MISSION IN RELEM

(v3)

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*RELEM is a geographical area officially designated as a union of the Districts of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Europe and the Mediterranean. It is not constituted as a juridical or canonical entity, but rather as a structure of animation and support for the Districts in the Region.*

## **Vision – Introduction**

- 1. Structures that contribute to the development of the Educational Mission should always be at the service of Lasallian Identity and charism.**
- 2. Districts in RELEM show an immense diversity in terms of structures.** In some Districts, Lasallian centres enjoy the benefits of a high level of autonomy whereas other Districts have a tradition of more **coordination** and centralized control.
- 3. Lasallian establishments (including other Lasallian-inspired centres and of other charisms) are ideally embedded in bigger, supportive networks – e.g., District MEL, national network of Catholic Education, Foundations and Trusts, RELEM, and the International Institute.** Local centres are at all times recognised as fully-fledged members. In the above-mentioned 'higher' structures they participate in the realisation of the Lasallian Educational Mission (MEL) through a 'bottom-up' approach.
- 4. RELEM is expected to develop forward-looking, visionary and open-minded strategies** that cope with future developments (socio-cultural, social, religious, political, economic, etc.) at local, District and Regional levels. Therefore, RELEM requires the services and talents of motivated people who have knowledge of the current situation and the foreseeable evolutions in the Districts. These collaborators form a 'reflection group' which studies, investigates, predicts, elaborates proposals... that anticipate developments that could have an impact on MEL and its effectiveness.
- 5. RELEM is expected to respond to the need for international meetings at different levels.** Such meetings ought to strengthen the connectedness and the sense of belonging at District and Regional levels. **This aim can be achieved through cooperation with the existing structures and different groups of the Region, such as Young Lasallians, UAMEL, ASSEDIL, IALU, RELEM Vocation Ministry, NGOs, etc. recognizing their experience and knowledge.**
- 6. RELEM is expected to respond to the call for solidarity, especially in the sharing of inspiration, formation, programmes, publications etc.** The better resourced Districts (not just financially), through an efficient deployment of their (limited) resources available, ought to help others.



7. **The importance of communication and mutual understanding is recognised in order to facilitate collaboration and inter-District formation.**
8. **To find an adequate response to structural developments, RELEM may find inspiration in other Regions of the International Institute.**
9. **In the case when a particular District/delegation can no longer exist in its current configuration RELEM is expected to be attentive and to accompany that process in accordance with Proposition 48<sup>1</sup> of the 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter.**

## Propositions

### PROPOSITION 1

Each Lasallian Network in RELEM will have structures that respond to the specific context in which it operates. The main goals of these structures would include:

- to bring the schools together in a network committed to the Lasallian Identity guiding and supporting the individual schools/centres (also taking into account the role of local Lasallian animators);
- to analyse and evaluate educational developments and how local circumstances can influence Lasallian identity and pedagogy;
- to continue the Lasallian mission when the current FSC-local structures can no longer offer direction to the mission.

### PROPOSITION 2

RELEM MEL Assembly decides that a RELEM MEL Council is to be set up. The present RELEM MEL group will propose the modalities of the RELEM MEL Council to the Brother Visitors for validation. The current draft organigram is to be used as a starting point of this reflection. The next RELEM MEL Assembly will evaluate the structure(s) in place.

### PROPOSITION 3

The RELEM Regional Team must be reinforced so that it can fulfil its responsibilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposition 48 of the 45<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (Circular 469, September 2014): That the General Councilor, with the Brother Visitors of the Region, consider the aging and fragile Districts as an area that affects the whole Region. They shall develop a vision, a structure and an administrative plan in order to guarantee the vitality and pastoral care of the Brothers, the patrimony of the Brothers, and all that is important for the continuity of the Lasallian mission.



PROPOSITION 4

The RELEM MEL Assembly will convene normally every four years. In so far as it is possible, future RELEM Assemblies will integrate (in terms of calendar and themes) the work of the International and District MEL Assemblies.

PROPOSITION 5

Where necessary and possible, and in order to cope with future challenges, collaborations will be sought with other educational congregations.

PROPOSITION 6

The RELEM MEL Council will organise international meetings in collaboration with existing groups in the Region or Districts, with special attention to:

- strategies for the future vitality of the Lasallian Mission;
- management and governance at all levels;
- Young Lasallians;
- formation sessions for those engaged in the mission within a realistic time framework;
- Social justice, peace and integrity of creation (cf. Laudato Si)
- the recognition of the work with the most vulnerable as an important part of the Lasallian Identity
- international exchanges; ...

PROPOSITION 7

The ASSEDIL Congresses and programmes are organised to reflect and respond to the needs of school leaders, as well as to facilitate networking of directors and Institutions. These Congresses should take account of the plans and policies of RELEM and be organized collaboratively by ASSEDIL and RELEM MEL Council.

By the next RELEM MEL Assembly, ASSEDIL and the RELEM MEL Council are invited to implement a shared process of merging structures, operations and projects

PROPOSITION 8

The RELEM MEL Council will explore the possibility of access to subsidies from the European Union and other sources.

PROPOSITION 9

The RELEM MEL Council will engage in a thorough reflection so that communication and mutual understanding in RELEM are facilitated taking note of its pluri-lingual reality.

