



STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2027 ITAKA-ESCOLAPIOS NETWORK

MISSION

Itaka-Escolapios is an international network, created and maintained by the Order and the Fraternity of the Pious Schools, consolidated and locally rooted, integrated into the life and the mission of the Demarcations and Fraternities of the Pious Schools, the driving force of the Piarist Christian Community and in its evangelizing, educational, and social work, bringing the steps of St. Joseph Calasanz to the modern world.

VISION

We seek to be a meaningful and significant Piarist entity so that Order and Fraternity may grow and progress together, through everybody's own identity, as well as to promote the Piarist mission in a shared way through a strengthened identity and through commitment to participation.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- **Christian and Piarist Identity.** Taking the Gospel as our primary inspiration, Itaka-Escolapios partakes in the Church following the charism of Calasanz and the specific mission of the Pious Schools, to which it belongs.
- **An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.** Itaka-Escolapios seeks to address the reality of impoverished people, focusing especially on the needs of children and young people, aiming to eradicate the underlying causes that bring about poverty and social exclusion, thus generating social change.
- **Overall Mission.** Itaka-Escolapios is active in the three facets of the Piarist mission: education, evangelization, and social transformation, based on the conviction that the three are interrelated, that they enrich each other, and that they are mutually beneficial.
- **Voluntary Commitment.** Itaka-Escolapios bases its action on volunteering, opening spaces for this purpose: prioritizing, promoting, and making volunteering the leading role in all its projects due to its educational value, as well as being an expression of generous commitment towards other people and social transformation.
- **Responsible Management.** Itaka-Escolapios is committed to implementing teamwork, trust-building, accountability, and austerity in all its projects, as well as economic sustainability, the growth of the Piarist identity, and the care of everyone involved.
- **Networking.** Itaka-Escolapios views itself as a network based on the criteria of interdependence, solidarity, shared responsibility, and mutual support.

STRATEGIC GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL I. Towards a shared Piarist subject

Beyond the religious persons of the Order, today, the Piarist subject is made up of many other people whose initiatives, projects, work, missions, spirituality, community, life, and spiritual gifts come together in different ways. In this rich and plural reality, we have to highlight, together with the Order, the Fraternity. Both entities, the Order and the Fraternity, institutionally share the Itaka-Escolapios international network to promote this model of Pious Schools. As such, they are called together to comprise part of the Piarist reality, each one aligned with their vocation, in different modalities, always in a coordinated, complementary way across an international network. Itaka-Escolapios seeks:

- I.1. to encourage the growth of each of the Demarcations and Fraternities that make up Itaka-Escolapios in **identity and commitment** from the values of the Programmatic Charter, with awareness surrounding their leading role in the network;
- I.2. to drive the dissemination, the call for and formation of all **modalities of participation** acknowledged by the Order, giving particular priority to the Piarist religious life and to the Fraternity;
- I.3. to encourage the implication and joint responsibility in the **pastoral, educational, and social action** of our work, in the Calasanz Movement and in voluntary work, as privileged spaces for the personal and Piarist growth of the people and of the Piarist presence;
- I.4. to seek integral training of all the people who constitute the Piarist subject (participants, families, collaborators, volunteers, educators, members of the Fraternity, religious persons and other people who drive and lead Itaka-Escolapios in each place) in order to shape and strengthen the Piarist Christian Community, to develop the Piarist identity, to deepen the role of the Piarist presence, and to continue promoting awareness of Itaka-Escolapios and projects, with the focus always on people;
- I.5. to expand networking and to achieve a **global mindset**, overcoming individualism and localism, and creating moments for meeting and sharing; and
- I.6. to accept and promote **interculturality and inclusivity** across our network, as well as to make progress in the immersion of the Itaka-Escolapios model into the different settings and languages of the network.

STRATEGIC GOAL II. To grow in a shared Piarist Mission.

Our globalized and interconnected world demands global, educational, economic, and solidarity agreements. Within that context, the Piarist mission has to progress as a network, coordinating and bringing together Piarist people and actions. Our network seeks to grow as a shared Piarist mission in each presence, in each country, as well as internationally, uniting efforts and sharing what we are and what we have, as well as driving joint responsibility in the context of the global crisis in which we find ourselves and coming together and accepting today's ecclesial challenges:

- II.1. to spread and consolidate the **culture of projects, of teamwork and of comprehensive sustainability** of the mission across the entire network, from joint responsibility and the solidarity that are the very identity of Itaka-Escolapios, training all the people who make up the network and working as a whole;
- II.2. to prioritize the needs and the aspirations of the **poorest and most excluded people and communities** in all our actions, always seeking to understand reality from their perspective;
- II.3. to care for and develop the transformative sphere of the Itaka-Escolapios projects, ensuring the integration of this key aspect into the Piarist evangelization and educational mission and, through it, responding to the great challenges of our time, such as integral ecology, equality between women and men, and universal solidarity as proposed by the Pope in the encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, promoting *Educa* as an educational network for social transformation;
- II.4. to make progress in **pedagogical, educational, and pastoral quality**, taking care of the training of all agents, comparing the results, and introducing innovation and relevant improvements, as well as sharing the existing Piarist wealth;
- II.5. to create channels for the **participation** of the people from our projects, giving them the voice and the centrality, they deserve and overcoming merely aid-based perspectives; and
- II.6. to promote the **significant presence and alliances** of Itaka-Escolapios in Pious Schools, above all in the Order and the Fraternity, as well as in the Church, in society, and before the institutions, through them conveying our identity and fundamental values, joining the Global Education Pact proposed by Pope Francis.