



# Itaka-Escolapios Network 2021-27 Strategic Plan Proposal

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## MISSION

Itaka-Escolapios is an international network, created and held 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

To be a significant Piarist entity so that Order and Fraternity may grow and progress together, from the own identity of each one, as well as to promote the Piarist mission in a shared way from a strengthened identity and commitment to participation.

## PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- **Christian and piarist identity.** Taking the Gospel as fundamental inspiration, Itaka-Escolapios participates in the Church from the charism of Calasanz and specific mission of the Pious Schools, to which it belongs.
- **Option for the poor.** Itaka-Escolapios responds to the reality of impoverished people and works to eliminate the causes of poverty and exclusion, with special attention to the needs of children and youth.
- **Integral Mission.** Itaka-Escolapios acts on the three dimensions of the piarist mission (education, evangelization and social transformation), from the conviction that they enrich and provide feedback to each other.
- **Voluntary commitment.** Itaka-Escolapios bases its action on volunteer work, opening spaces and giving it priority and promotion in all its projects, for its educational value and as an expression of generous commitment to others.
- **Responsible management.** Itaka-Escolapios is committed to teamwork, building trust and austerity in performance, as well as to long-term sustainability (people, identity and economic resources) of its projects.
- **Networking.** Itaka-Escolapios understands itself as a piarist network operating with criteria such as solidarity, interdependence and shared responsibility.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### I. Towards a shared Piarist subject

In addition to the religious persons of the Order, today the Piarist subject comprises many other people who share efforts, projects, work, missions, spirituality, community, life, and charisma 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 calling together to comprise part of the Piarist reality, each one, according to their vocation, in different modalities, always in a coordinated, complementary way across an international network. This goal aims:

- 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 letter;
- I.2. to contribute and foster 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 promote the implication and joint responsibility in the **pastoral and social action** of our work, in the Calasanz Movement and in the voluntary work, as privileged spaces of personal and Piarist growth for the people and for the Piarist presence;

- I.4. to provide **comprehensive training** to all those who are part of the Piarist subject (participants, families, contributors, volunteers, educators, members of the Fraternity, religious persons, and others) to make progress in the Piarist identity, the model of Piarist presence, the joint effort of actions, and the project work;
- I.5. to expand the international awareness of Itaka-Escolapios, growing in **global mindset**, overcoming individualism and localism, and creating moments for meeting and sharing; and
- I.6. to accept and promote **interculturality** across our network, as well as to make progress in the immersion of the Itaka-Escolapios model into the different settings of presence.

## 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, coordinated and adding the Piarist people and actions. Our network seeks to grow in a shared Piarist mission in each presence, in each country, as well as internationally, joining efforts and sharing what we are and what we have, with increasing joint responsibility in the context of global crisis in which we find ourselves. This goal aims:

- 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-Escalapios;
- 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 take care of and develop **the transformative dimension of the Itaka-Escolapios projects**, ensuring the incorporation of this key dimension for the evangelizing and educational mission of the Piarists;
- 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 richness;
- II.5. to create channels for the **participation** of the people of 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, in the Church, in society, and before the institutions, through them conveying our identity and fundamental values.