



STRATEGIC GUIDELINES 2026 -2032 EMERGING FROM THE WORKING GROUPS AS PART OF THE 2026 WORLD CONGRESS

Summary of the group work on 7 May : A JOURNEY UNDERTAKEN.

1. **A strong Salesian identity** : the centrality of Don Bosco's charism and the Salesian lay vocation emerges clearly.
2. **Belonging and family spirit** : fraternity, communion and family spirit are perceived as fundamental strengths.
3. **The centrality of young people** : young people are recognised as the heart of the mission and the primary recipients of our commitment.
4. **The value of formation** : initial and ongoing formation, together with knowledge of the PVA, is seen as essential.
5. **Concrete spirituality** : prayer, the sacraments and a living relationship with God underpin identity and mission.
6. **Weaknesses in generational renewal** : one of the main concerns is the difficulty in attracting and engaging new generations.
7. **Weaknesses in formation** : although a strength, formation sometimes appears insufficient, theoretical or lacking practical impact.
8. **Decline in participation and shared responsibility** : there is a sense of weariness, a lack of continuity, and difficulty in taking on responsibilities.
9. **Limited external visibility** : the Association struggles to make an impact outside the Salesian environment and to have a significant public presence.

The groups' contributions point to a very clear conclusion:

what is perceived as the main strength (identity, formation, young people, belonging)
is also what is most feared to be lost .



Summary of the group work on 8 May : A LOOK INWARD

1. **Identity is the central issue**: there is a strong and recurring need to strengthen the vocational awareness and sense of belonging of Salesian Cooperators.
2. **The PVA is considered crucial**: many contributions call for a better understanding of it, for it to be lived out in practice, and for it to be used as a true point of reference.
3. **Formation is seen as the main lever for renewal**: it must be initial, ongoing, integral, up-to-date and practical.
4. **There is a pressing generational challenge**: the ageing of the Association and the distance from young people emerge as one of the most widespread challenges.
5. **Young people are asking to be listened to and given a real space**: not merely as recipients, but as protagonists in decision-making processes, in leadership and in the life of the Association.
6. **The mission must move beyond traditional spaces**: there is a sense of urgency for a more visible, impactful presence capable of networking within society, the Church, culture and the local community.
7. **The Salesian Family is a constant point of reference**: there is a call for greater communion, shared responsibility, collaboration and mutual understanding among the various groups.
8. **Associative autonomy must be strengthened**: there are calls for stronger lay leadership, independent structures, self-management and financial sustainability.
9. **The family is an increasingly central theme**: it is recognised as a place of vocation and as an area that calls for pastoral accompaniment in situations of fragility.
10. **Cultural and digital transformations challenge the Association**: technology, AI, social media and new languages require discernment, skills and an educational presence.



Summary of the group work on 9 May: A LOOK OUTWARDS

1. **Co-responsibility** is the strongest value: the Association is seen as a shared mission and a common responsibility.
2. **A sense of belonging** and **Salesian identity** emerge as central and deeply felt elements.
3. **Family spirit, fraternity and communion** are considered essential features of the Association's style.
4. **Consistent witness of life** is considered decisive: credibility, authenticity and consistency with the Gospel are priorities.
5. **Young people are at the centre**: not merely recipients, but protagonists of the mission and of the life of the Association.
6. **Integral and ongoing formation** is the most important factor for the future of the Association.
7. **Synodality and a shared journey** are seen as a concrete method for living communion, discernment and a shared mission.
8. **Autonomy and sustainability**, including financial sustainability, are considered necessary for a stable and mature mission.

The Association we dream of:

an Association **that is more missionary, visible and present in society, close to families and the peripheries**, and at the same time **younger, more united and capable of hope**.