

Requirements for participation

- At least one year of teaching experience in a recognized institution of adult education (any subject).
- Working knowledge of English both written and spoken – equivalent to B1 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Digital literacy, access to email and the Internet and a multi-media computer.

Assessment

Assessment is based on active participation and the completion of all set tasks. Successful participants will receive a certificate.

Costs and Funding

Participants will need to contribute €250 towards the costs of the course and the residential week in Spain. Additionally they will have to arrange and pay for their own travel to León. The rest of the costs (course and travel expenses) will be met from Grundtvig funding.

When?

The course lasts ten months starting in October 2005. The residential week in León, Spain, will take place from 13 to 19 March 2006.



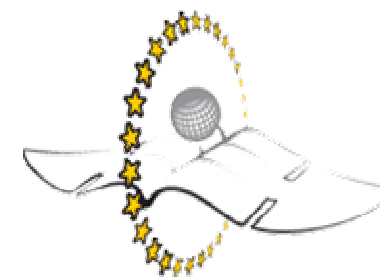
Project Partners

- AIACLA, **Ireland**
- Etnokultūros propagavimo centras, **Lithuania**
- FH Koblenz/RheinAhrCampus, **Germany**
- FUNIBER, **Spain**
- Grenaa Handelsskole, **Denmark**
- Institute inter.research e.V., **Germany**
- Umeå Universitet, **Sweden**
- Universidad de León, **Spain**
- University of Brighton, **UK**
- VHS Köln, **Germany**
- VHS Rhein-Sieg, **Germany**
- VHS Salzburg, **Austria**

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Teaching Culture!

Approaches to
Intercultural
Understanding



This course was developed by
"Teaching Culture!",
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funded by the European Union

The Course

The course offers you the opportunity to become aware of your cultural biases and acquire the ability to reflect on and get to grips with the challenges inherent in intercultural communication. You will learn how to integrate your intercultural competence into your own teaching.

The focus is mainly on acquiring "culture-general" rather than "culture-specific" competence. Both, participants and tutors come from different cultural backgrounds ensuring intercultural exchange throughout the whole learning process.

Course Structure

The blended learning course is divided into three closely interlinked modules: an initial distance-learning phase, a one-week residential course and finally a phase involving co-operative learning online. Each module has a number of units focusing on three aspects: cultural self-awareness, an understanding of common theories concerning intercultural competence, and practical application in the classroom.



The Modules

1. Intercultural Campus - Think of your experience as a treasure box!

- You work on your own cultural and intercultural awareness by interacting online with participants from other cultural backgrounds.

2. Intercultural Encounters - Think of your learning as a journey!

- You experience living in a new culture by meeting local people and by learning and using basic phrases of the language (e.g. buying a train ticket, asking people about aspects of their town etc.).
- You take part in workshops on methodology and didactics in adult education, combined with a bazaar of European adult education institutions, workshops to round off the intercultural topics of Module 1, and workshops dealing with media awareness.
- You experience participating in and working in an intercultural group.



3. Intercultural Classroom - Think of your lesson as an experiment!

- You work online in small international groups to develop teaching units for intercultural communication, to be integrated in your everyday teaching.
- You try out the units, discuss and evaluate them in your teams.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course you are able to:

- reflect on your own underlying cultural biases.
- see and analyze cultural differences.
- question cultural stereotypes.
- interact in new cultural contexts.
- develop teaching units that raise intercultural awareness, increase competence, and are suitable for the use in your field of work and the subject you teach.
- use new media in a meaningful and effective way to encourage continuing personal professional development.
- explore the possibilities offered by ICT in the context of autonomous learning.

Methodology

Co-operative Blended Learning

Co-operative means that you learn from each other, as well as from source materials. You work in teams and share your knowledge. Working in a self-directed way, but supported by the tutors, you create and use synergies.

Blended learning is used to designate the use of a variety of learning forms: individual and group learning, distance and face-to-face learning, experiential and theoretical learning.

Learning includes the discovery of concepts of intercultural communication and of concepts that promote such communication together with the development of personal intercultural awareness and media literacy.