

Requirements for participation

- At least one year of teaching experience in a recognized institution of adult education.
- Teaching foreign languages or teaching one's native language as a foreign language.
- Working knowledge of English both written and spoken – equivalent to B1 in the Common European Framework of References 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 €200 to the costs of the residential week in Lithuania. Additionally, they will have to arrange and pay for their own travel to Vilnius. The rest of the costs (course and travel expenses) will be met from Grundtvig funding.

When?

The course lasts eleven months starting in December 2004.



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
Pilot Course 1



Socrates



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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. The focus is mainly on acquiring "culture-general" rather than "culture-specific" competence. You will learn how to integrate your intercultural competence into your own teaching.

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 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. Raising Cultural and Intercultural Awareness (Distance Learning)

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

2. Experiencing Intercultural Meetings and Didactic Approaches (One Week Residential Course)

- You learn the basic structure of a new language and experience living in this culture (e.g. by buying train tickets, going to public places etc.).
- You have workshops where you discuss lesson design and lesson-planning, combined with sessions dealing with media awareness.
- You experience a culture new to the whole group.



3. Classroom Application of Learning Experiences, Continuing Personal Development and Reflection (Distance Learning)

- 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 and 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 and increase competence which are suitable for 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.