

Intercultural communication in teacher education - a trainer training seminar

National Training Event held in Riga, Latvia Project ICCinTE

Report

- Course facilitators: Ildikó Lázár (Hungary)
Aina Kackere (Latvia)
- Place: Faculty of Education and Psychology
Teacher Education department
University of Latvia
Jurmālas gatve 74/76
Riga, LV1083
- Time: 13 – 14 May, 2005
Four sessions on both days
- Number of participants: 20
University based methodologists – 8
In-service teacher trainers- 6
Mentors- 6

All the participants are involved either in pre-service or in-service teacher education and have a great potential for the dissemination of the information learned during the workshop.

Themes covered:

- Defining the key concepts of ICC (culture and Culture, cultural awareness, acculturation, stereotyping, intercultural competence, etc.)
- Research and development in ICC (reports on quantitative and qualitative studies carried out in the framework of two ECML projects on the role of culture in language education)
- ICC in teaching materials (evaluation of teaching materials from an intercultural perspective, practical training in adapting existing coursebooks to suit our needs)

- Course design (goals and types of ICC courses, the most important components of a language teacher training course that incorporates ICC)
- Assessment of intercultural competence (the means and challenges of assessing the relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes)
- Intercultural activities (role-plays, simulations, ethnographic projects, grammar and vocabulary activities with a cultural focus, etc.)
- Further readings, useful websites and materials relating, for example, to other ECM projects with a focus on intercultural learning.

Feedback from the participants:

1. I learned very much new information, received good handouts and new ideas to implement in my further work.
2. Cooperation between two facilitators was excellent!
3. It was a push to design my own programme for the teachers.
4. Such courses could be organised again to see how we have progressed
5. My personal intercultural awareness has been considerably raised.
6. I got useful experience of working in a group.
7. I got new ideas, inspiration, great participants, perfect management and very professional guest facilitator.
8. We need more such courses.

The course was evaluated on all criteria as excellent.

A two-day workshop for teacher educators and mentors
organised by Aina Kackere (Latvia, May 13 – 14, 2005)
Participants: 20 pre-service and in-service teacher trainers, mentors

Day 1

| Time | Topic | Aims | Facilitated by |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| 10-11:30a.m | Intro+needs analysis Defining key terms Guest speakers' expertise | Icebreaking Needs analysis To introduce topic To reach common understanding To get to know each others' expertise | Aina Kackere Ildikó Lázár Guests: I.Kramina V.Kalnberzina |
| 12.00-1p.m | Intercultural activities based on <i>Mirrors and Windows</i> | To link theory to practice To provide participants with techniques to incorporate ICC | Ildikó Lázár |
| 2-3p.m | Needs and difficulties Course design | To learn how to design an intercultural communication course | Ildikó Lázár |
| 3:30-5p.m | Intercultural activities | To link theory to practice To provide participants with techniques to incorporate ICC | Aina Kackere |

Day 2

| Time | Topic | Aims | Facilitated by |
|----------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| 9-10.30a.m | Intro to research in ICC ICC in teaching materials | To introduce more background theory | Ildikó Lázár |
| 11-12.00a.m | Course design | To give guidelines for ICC course design | Ildikó Lázár |
| 13.00-14.00p.m | Assessment in ICC | To learn how intercultural communicative competence could be assessed | Ildikó Lázár |
| 14.30-16.00p.m | Intercultural activities based on <i>Mirrors and Windows</i> Evaluation of the workshop | To link theory to practice To evaluate the workshop | Aina Kackere Ildikó Lázár |