

Supporting multilingual classrooms

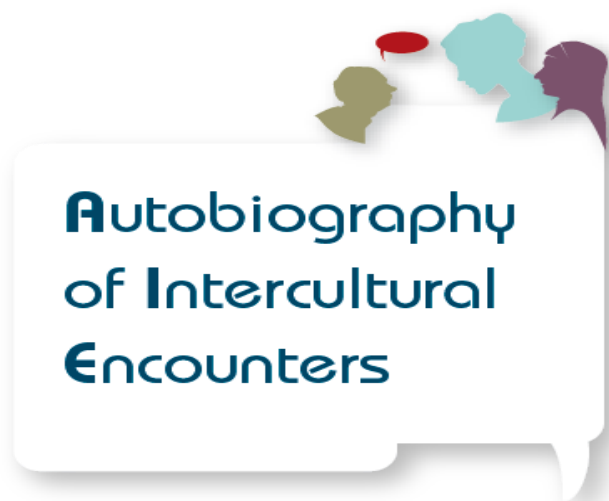
Teaching Unit 7

Developing intercultural competence

Reflecting on the competences that may be developed through intercultural encounters in order to achieve a sustainable way of living together in multicultural societies

- How can we support learners to learn from intercultural encounters (values, attitudes, skills and knowledge)?
- How can reflection on intercultural encounters address the challenges that we experience, such as intolerance, prejudices, etc.?
- How can reflection on intercultural encounters help us to live together peacefully with others in culturally diverse societies?

Exemplar classroom resource 1



- 1) Think about an intercultural encounter you had.
- 2) Write a short paragraph about your intercultural encounter.
- 3) Answer the following questions:
 - How did you feel in that intercultural encounter?
 - How do you think the other people involved felt in that situation?
 - How do you see your own thoughts, feelings and actions now?
 - Did the experience change you? How?
 - Did you decide to do something as a result of this experience? What did you do?
 - Would you do something different now as a result of this experience? What would you do?
- 4) Make groups of 4. Share with your colleagues your intercultural encounter.
- 5) Look for values, attitudes, skills and knowledge that, as a group, you learnt from those intercultural encounters.
- 6) Present in a plenary session one of the intercultural encounters that you found interesting.
- 7) Present the results of your discussion about attitudes, skills and knowledge that you learnt from the intercultural encounters you shared in your group.

Source: Council of Europe Democracy Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters
https://www.coe.int/t/DG4/AUTOBIOGRAPHY/AutobiographyTool_en.asp

Possible objectives for learners

- Learning through reflection on personal intercultural experiences
- Identify similarities and differences between different intercultural experiences.
- Identify values, attitudes, skills and knowledge learnt through intercultural encounters.
- Become aware of cultural diversity, experience it as something positive, and develop a sense of togetherness.

Reflective questions

- How do these resources address the initial questions?
- How do learners benefit from them?
- What other objectives could you achieve with these activities?
- How would you use these resources and adapt them for your own context?

Food for thought

Council of Europe (2008), White paper on intercultural dialogue: “living together as equals in dignity”

https://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/whitepaper_interculturaldialogue_2_en.asp

UNESCO (2007), UNESCO Guidelines on intercultural education, Paris.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000147878>

Council of Europe (2016), Competences for Democratic Culture. Living together as equals in culturally diverse democratic societies.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/competences-for-democratic-culture>