



# OPEN ONLINE CATALOGUE OF INTERCULTURAL TOOLS **FOR VET TRAINERS**

Project n°2018-1-DE02-KA202-005051

May 2019 – September 2019

Newsletter n°2



## 2nd Partner Meeting – Torino/Italy

On 11th and 12th June 2019 partners from six EU-countries involved in the CIT4VET EU-Project met in Torino, Italy to discuss the forthcoming progress of the project. The partners focused on two main topics:

### Collection of intercultural tools

For the past eight months the partners had been working on the first goal of the project: They gathered and described intercultural tools to be used in a culturally diverse classroom by VET-trainers. These activities resulted in an overview in tabular form. During the meeting in Torino the partners discussed the practicality of the gathered tools, the degree of difficulty of the tools and aligned their findings in order to get one coherent, final grid by the end of the month of June 2019. The grid is now being implemented online.

### Presentation of training material

As a second task of the first eight months of the CIT4VET Project, the partners developed content for online training modules containing basic concepts of intercultural theories. The partners presented five modules to answer the following questions:

1. What is culture?
2. How can we explain and visualise culture with cultural models?
3. How do we notice the impact of culture on VET?
4. How can resulting stumbling blocks be overcome?
5. Which are the most current trends in the intercultural field?. Additionally, the training content also contains an outline on how to develop intercultural simulations, which are a tool to create and enhance awareness for other cultures.

During the 2nd meeting, the partners discussed successfully the need to align cultural input between the different materials and the importance of balancing knowledge and cognitive understanding and practical application. To get an impression of the commitment to and engagement of partners in the project please have a look at the video below.

The 3rd meeting in Rzeszów (Poland) in January 2020 will be the next opportunity to discuss the next steps of the project: The user's guide and the testing phase of the online product.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdogdIU7DdQ>

# Working on the Online Catalogue

---

## The Grid

During the first months of the project lifetime all partners performed desk and Internet based research in order to fulfil the first step towards the creation of the database of intercultural tools. The partnership collected more than 100 resources (methodologies, OERs, evaluation methods; self-learning materials, etc) in the sphere of intercultural learning and improvement of intercultural competences in the VET sector. The resources are grouped in a grid according to previously established criteria and sectors – description of the tool; sector of appliance; mode of learning and interaction, culture focus; target group; level of difficulty; available language versions, etc.

The first version of the grid with tools was finalised in April 2019 and was followed by proofreading and improvements on the basis of the feedback of external expert. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> partnership meeting in Torino, Italy, the partners discussed the collection of tools and resources, their applicability and appropriateness, as well as further improvements. The final version of the collection was provided in June 2019 and is currently being implemented online.

---

## The concept of culture

The training module related to " The concept of culture" will present three recent approaches which are particularly meaningful because they focus on the highly nuanced, multi-dimensional and dynamic nature of culture. It will start with an early definition of culture, explore where the concept of culture comes from, and then introduce the three recent approaches in more detail.

Thanks to this module, you will have the opportunity to learn about:

- culture as complex social construction
- the definition of “world culture” of Hannerz, and his thoughts on how local and global cultures are connected
- the “fuzzy culture” approach of Bolten, and his concept of intercultural competence
- the UNESCO focus on culture as creative diversity, and its concept of “culture identity”

The model of culture proposed by the anthropologist Ulf Hannerz is the first one we will present in greater detail. Hannerz considers national understanding of culture as insufficient in an ever-more interconnected world. From his perspective, there is now a world cultural framework which is created through the increasing interconnectedness of varied local cultures, as well as through the development of cultures without a clear anchorage in any one territory.

The second model is the “fuzzy culture” approach by Jürgen Bolten, who describes a multi-perspective observation of interaction between differently socialised persons. Bolten developed a model of intercultural action competence which considers the effective integrated interaction between personal, social, methodological and professional competence in an intercultural context.

The third model is the UNESCO model of cultural identity, which is considered as a fluid, self-transforming process, best understood as a future project rather than in terms of past inheritance. For UNESCO, in a global world, cultural identities derive from multiple sources; the increasing plasticity of cultural identities reflects the growing complexity of the global flows of people, goods and information.



## Models of culture

The Irish partner (ITT Kristin Brogan) was responsible for the content of the training module dealing with models of culture.

The **iceberg model**, the **onion model** and the **cultural dimensions** are essential in any Intercultural course and were the focus of this training module. These models try to explain the differences and similarities when comparing various cultures and sensitises the learner to the concept of diversity.

The learning outcomes of this training module are as follows:

- how to appreciate cultural diversity,
- to be able to compare and contrast various cultures,
- to understand your own cultural background,
- to evaluate how useful the application of "cultural dimensions" is to your relationship with other people.

The informed learner can compare and contrast the iceberg model in comparison to the onion model. The cultural dimensions assist us in recognising that there are various behaviour patterns we could be faced with when dealing with people from other cultural backgrounds. The most relevant cultural dimensions are listed and explained in detail. Another way to use the cultural dimensions is to increase the "Awareness of the self and the other" by discussing preferences in relation to awareness of one's own cultural background when working in multicultural teams.

Apart from many relevant links to deepen one's knowledge there is also a quiz at the end of the module.

## Partners



### Project Coordinator : assist GmbH

assist GmbH is a medium-sized private limited company with a Head Office in Paderborn, central Germany. They offer training in the areas of intercultural skills, leadership skills, communication skills and trainer skills.



### Institute of Technology Tralee

ITT has been at the forefront of learning since its establishment and has since gained a reputation as a centre of distinction for teaching, learning and research.



### Danmar Computers sp z o.o.

Danmar Computers is a private company providing vocational training in the field of Information Technology and developing e-learning and customised ICT solutions.



### Diciannove Società Cooperativa

Diciannove's vision is to match the need of innovative ICT solutions with free and open source software and social purposes.



### Runi Center

The activities of RUNI Center are aimed at developing social skills and personal qualifications by creative thinking, partnership and team work.



### Centrum Kształcenia Edukator

Is a company operating on the Polish vocational training market. The main thematic areas of training and consultancy are entrepreneurial processes and information technology.



Intercultural Business Improvement

### Intercultural Business Improvement b.v.

Founded in 1996, Intercultural Business Improvement (IBI) has extensive experience in intercultural training, coaching and consulting.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ program Cooperation for innovation & the exchange of good practices, Strategic Partnerships for adult education. All the publications and communications reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein Project number: 2018-1-DE02-KA202-005051