

From physical to virtual mobility: Experiences from the teacher education field

Method box for teaching intercultural competence in virtual mobility

Dr. Kathrin Wild

Internationalising Teacher Education in Europe – Is virtual collaboration the "new way to go"?

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Agenda

1. Project „Partners in Mobility“
2. Study abroad@home
3. Method box for teaching intercultural competence in virtual mobility
4. Perspectives

Project „Partners in Mobility“

Overall aims and objectives

- to increase international mobility in teacher education by establishing effective and sustainable structures, processes and support services according to the specific motivations and needs of students, international partner universities, schools and internal university stakeholders
- to develop a portfolio of flexible mobility pathways embedded in the student journey, including the traditional term abroad as well as innovative combinations of shorter-term mobility and participation in ‘internationalisation at home’ activities (*flex-mobility*)
- to adapt and enhance relevant information, advice and support services for students, teaching staff and professional services staff
- core feature: active involvement of students – as well as international partner universities, schools and internal stakeholders – as ‘*partners in mobility*’

Project „Partners in Mobility“

Stakeholders

- Teacher education students starting their studies
- Lecturers in teacher education in Flensburg and its partner universities
- (Europe-)School Teachers in Schleswig-Holstein
- Flensburg University staff

Partner universities

- University College South Denmark (Denmark)
- University of Linköping (Sweden)
- University of Jyväskylä (Finland)
- Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary)

Project duration

- Autumn semester 2019/20 – end of 2022

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- **Videoconferences:** online seminars, Autumn/Winter School, all kinds of meetings
- **Online seminars:** teacher education lecturers teach subject didactic and pedagogical contents
- **Digital Autumn/Winter School** for students from all partner universities, jointly organised by their lecturers on interdisciplinary topic, e.g. internationalisation of teacher education
- In **workshops**, didactic and pedagogical contents can be developed and taught in a practical and problem-based way in cooperation between teachers of the EUF, school teachers and students.
- **Virtual teaching traineeships**

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- **Exchange and training** for universities and schools on internationalisation and digital teaching
- **Webinars:** how can didactic goals be implemented in digital teaching, acquisition of intercultural competence
- **Individual coaching** for digital implementation of joint international online seminars, focus: realisation of the didactic objectives in a digital format -> sustainability
- **Platform für digital teaching:** links, teaching materials, tools, tutorials, information on learning platforms , forum, sought and offer, FAQ
- **Database on internationalisation** in teacher education subjects: search and find -> make the technical expertise visible to the public

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- **Project website:** information on project, digitisation measures with contact persons, news, presentation of international teacher education
- **Podcasts on didactical and pedagogical contents**
- **Instagram:** students and lecturers from all project partner universities, school teachers
- **Method box** for teaching intercultural competence in virtual mobility

Method box for teaching intercultural competence in virtual mobility



Starting point

- If physical mobility is not possible, a certain degree of intercultural experience should be possible.
- Personal contacts between those involved in digital formats should be established, on which later in-depth measures can be built.
- The digital formats should become more exciting and memorable for the students.
- Especially those who cannot be physically mobile for personal reasons can benefit from alternative forms of internationalisation. Students, teachers and also employees will find information, contacts and opportunities for intercultural exchange in the digital method box. This box should be able to be supplemented by anyone and thus "live".

Method box for teaching intercultural competence in virtual mobility



Aim

introductory information, practical tips and suggestions for the design of virtual mobility

Target group

university members working in the field of internationalisation and promotion of student mobility and planning digital event formats for internationalisation

Parties involved

The individual virtual mobility activities are organised and supported by the participating universities. Teachers and students from all the universities involved in the project collaborate, use the various formats and methods and develop them further on the basis of their needs, ideas and tests.

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Components

- Concept paper
- Manual
- Methods

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Methods

- for teaching regional studies
- for teaching intercultural competence
- for designing a leisure programme

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Example: Discussing norms and values

- *Numbers of persons:* unlimited
- *Requirements:* none
- *Goals/functions:* Participants learn that values and norms depend on our experiences, attitudes, education and cultural background. They are sensitised to differences, learn to relativise and question their own values and norms and to tolerate other points of view.
- *Material/Links:* Corder, Lloyd E. et a. (1989): Intercultural Training: An Overview, Program, and Evaluation. Pp. 12-14.

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- *Instructions:* The teacher reads the above story, in which five characters represent different values and norms, or the story is made available as a text for self-reading. Afterwards, each participant evaluates the behaviour of the five characters and ranks them. Afterwards the different rankings are explained and discussed in small groups in escape rooms. The group should reach a consensus on a common ranking. No more than 15 minutes should be allowed for this, as a final evaluation of the behaviour of the individual persons is not possible and does not correspond to the purpose of the exercise.
- *Remarks:* The text should be made available digitally for reading beforehand.

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Considerations

- digital alternatives cannot replace all aspects of the physical stay abroad
- multitude of digital offers can quickly lead to a decrease in motivation to participate
- How can physical activities can be included (e.g. moving in a room)?
- transformative education and intercultural experience reaches its limits in online based formats, but dependent on the means and possibilities available
- a lot can also be conveyed or experienced virtually -> become creative and think differently
- The more asynchronously offered, the less exchange can possibly take place and the lower the intensity of the transformation or experience might possibly be.
- The experience of another culture in the form of online formats can already encourage people to self-reflect and question their own and other cultures.

Perspectives

- Method box to be made available on the website of the DAAD/BMBF-funded project Partners in Mobility (<https://www.uni-flensburg.de/portal-internationales/partnersinmobility/>) of the Lehramt.International programme
- Hopefully, many interested parties from different universities will contribute to the further expansion of the collection of methods.
- Proposals for methods to be included can be sent to mobility@uni-flensburg.de.
- Europa-Universität Flensburg: maintenance, care and quality assurance of the method box

Спасибо!

Tak!

Merci!

Kiitos!

Danke!

Tack!

Obrigada!

Hvala!

Takk!

Thank you!

¡Gracias!

mobility@uni-flensburg.de