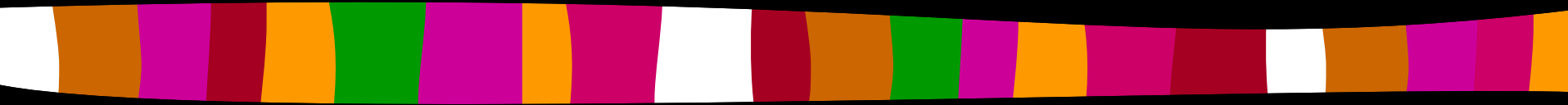


Celebrating the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue: Theory and Practice
in Intercultural Education
(Warsaw, 30 June- 3 July, 2008)

State of Innovation on Intercultural Education within the INTER Network



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INTER Network

<http://www.internetwork.up.pt>

- To define, exemplify and promote intercultural education as an approach to deal with cultural differences at school in terms of theoretical foundations and practical implications
- To critically assess the European, national and local educational policies and practices developed in relation to meeting the needs of culturally diverse students and communities, specifically those initiatives named 'Intercultural'
- To elaborate and implement teacher training initiatives in the network institutions (masters and other postgraduate courses, seminars, workshops, etc.) in order to support teachers to deal with cultural diversity in a flexible way by adopting an intercultural approach in their daily practices.
- To elaborate, implement and disseminate tools to analyze, support, manage and improve the intercultural approach in schooling practices, in relation to curriculum and institutional dimensions



State of Innovation Questionnaire

■ **Theoretical Foundations**

- What do you think Intercultural Education is?
- Is it different from how is it used in your context?
- Please, give us five meaningful theoretical references and tell us why did you choose them

■ **Teacher Training**

- Competences and skills an Intercultural teacher should have
- Programs in Intercultural Education you are aware of
- Needs or gaps you see in this area
- Further comments and suggestions to improve Intercultural Education

■ **School Practices:**

- Practices you know which follow Intercultural Education Perspective
- Gaps between Theory and practice (including Teacher Training Programs)

■ **Resources and Communication**

- Resources you are aware of following an Intercultural perspective
- How do you think communication among members of a school community should be from an Intercultural approach?
- Gaps you see from this perspective



Culture
Cultures
Cultural awareness

Intercultural Education is:

- *The promotion of practices and knowledge towards the development of a critical cultural awareness, involving the fostering of an active citizenship*
- *One important element is to reflect on the concept of culture as a dynamic element. It prevents from the danger of categorizing people in an essentialist way*



Equity Inclusion

Intercultural Education:

- *Makes people ready to live in a fairer and plural society, recognizing cultural diversity. It intends to promote active participation and to assure equal opportunities*
- *It is to include everyone as they are and see differences as enrichment in the society*



Collaboration
Exchange

Participation
Relation

Intercultural Education is:

- *An educational practice to build a curriculum as a participative process including different social actors, necessities, and educational demands*
- *It emphasizes interaction, dialogue and considers relationships as a chance of growing*



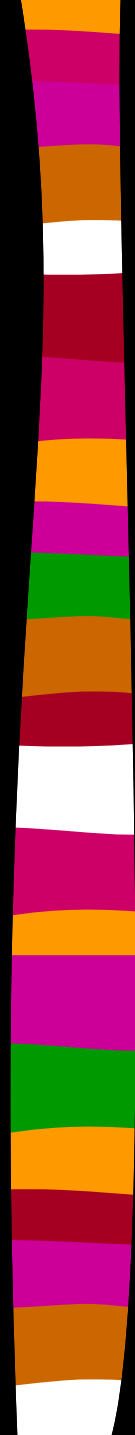
Learning

Understanding

Questioning

Intercultural Education is:

- *Linked to action and implies continuous reflection and questioning*



■ Cultural awareness

■ Diversity

■ Inclusion

■ Equity

■ Participation

■ Communication

■ Understanding

■ Questioning

■ Collaboration

■ Relation

■ Respect

■ Learning

■ Europe

■ To be sensible to cultural diversity

■ To recognize and use diversity

■ To be able to use strategies to include

■ To be able to use mechanisms to neutralize socio-economic differences

■ To be able to develop mechanisms to facilitate participation

■ To be able to promote intercultural communication

■ To be able to comprehend situations, relationships and contexts

■ To think critically

■ To be able to promote cooperative work and action

■ to be able to develop interactions and networks

■ To be able to unconditionally accept and positively value everybody as social beings

■ To commit to lifelong learning

■ To prepare students to be European citizens



Teacher Training

■ NEEDS

- Involvement
- Interdisciplinary training
- Experiential learning
- Avoiding assimilation perspective
- Avoiding identification of special groups
- Practical knowledge
- Tools to be easy implemented

■ GAPS

- Lack of connection between theory and practice
- Lack of connection between policy and practice
- Teachers are not selected according to IE principles



Disagreements to enhance discussion

- We agree more on theoretical ideas than in what we consider an intercultural practice. **How can we overcome this gap?**
- Some people relate intercultural education with the building of Europe. **In which sense do you think both ideas can be related?**
- Regarding the concept of difference. **Do you think that intercultural education has to do with differences? In which sense?**



Disagreements to enhance discussion

- Many partners think that intercultural competences cannot be taught and/or learned. **Do you agree? Why? And, which do you think are the implications of both positions in the selection of teachers?**
- Some of the identified teacher training needs on intercultural education focus on practical knowledge and tools to be easy implemented, others insist on research and reflection. **Which aspects do you think should have more weight in the teachers curriculum?**