

The development of intercultural competence in teacher training language learning programs: The EUDOIT project

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This presentation focuses on describing the development of intercultural and plurilingual competence in teacher training environments. It discusses the need for intercultural competence to be included within all educational settings and analyses ways in which this competence can be worked on in class. More specifically, it points to how intercultural and plurilingual competence needs to be addressed by focusing on the need to rethink learning and teaching strategies regarding language learning and language acquisition within an intercultural lens. Much of the data presented is based on the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project EUDOIT "European Digital Online-Game for Intercultural Learning and Translanguaging". EU·DO·IT is an interactive multilingual language learning tool helping learners who need to rapidly acquire a basic A1 level of a language. It supports their language learning, and it can complement formal language classes or self-learning activities. Based on a plurilingual approach to language learning and teaching, it underlines the importance of learners' existing linguistic knowledge by using the players' own languages for learning additional languages and developing their intercultural competence. Initial conclusions reveal that an effective development of intercultural and plurilingual competences in both formal and informal settings by using EUDOIT leads to overall language wellbeing of the learners and enhancement of their plurilingual identity which, in turn, reverts positively on their academic performance.