



– European Lifelong Learning by Intercultural Dialogue
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<http://www.weReurope.eu>



Consortium:

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University of Jena / Intercultural Business Communication, Germany
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Who is Europe?

The expanding EU needs innovative instruments to promote social cohesion among member states. (Everyday) culture and art can serve as intermediaries for a sustainable approach to learning and for bridging cultural gaps. Can we identify a common cultural heritage on which a shared future vision of Europe can be built and can we put such findings into transferable training tools that help to overcome xenophobia and favour diversity? We are Europe.

Coming together: ICD-Conferences

The project consortium will jointly develop, test and evaluate a model of "Intercultural Dialogue Conferences" (ICD) as a branded tool, which helps to create pathways for adult learners to improve their knowledge about the EU and their intercultural and key competences via Adult Education Agencies. Learner-centred approaches and use of art and culture as intermediaries provide a rich methodology (which was successful in former GRUNDTVIG projects e.g. ARTEMIS) to motivate learners' activities, to raise their self-confidence and support creative expression, communication and intercultural exchange. Five regional ICD-Conferences will involve participants via partners' regional/national networks and experts from all 27 EU member states. They are not only invited to discuss relevant questions and obstacles related to European integration (e.g. border conflicts/resolution, work-migration, the Lisbon Treaty...), but also take an active role in developing the pedagogical strategies and the ICD-Conference Script. Being multipliers, all participants of ICD-Conferences will reach out to an EU-wide audience via their institutions, disseminating the project idea in everyday work, through postcards, newsletters and lectures. As a result Adult Education Institutions will be provided with an ICD-Conference Script (brochure, CD) as a methodical and didactic concept developed for further use: The ICD- Conference Script comprises ICD-methodology for the hosting (Adult Education) Institutions and low level motivating methodologies when learning processes with target audiences from various cultural backgrounds are initiated.

The Carpet of Symbols and Memories

Throughout the whole project duration an inspiring "carpet of symbols and memories" (real and virtual) will be created to emblemize diversity in unity. All participants of the 5 ICD-Conferences will be asked to bring along an object, related to one of the neighbouring countries together with a story in their own language and English. By the end of the project, symbols and stories from all member states will be collected, thus showing the rich potential for international communication contained in objects and their meanings for individuals and groups. This "carpet of symbols and memories" will be launched on the project's website and continued beyond the lifetime of the project.

European Pedagogical Strategies

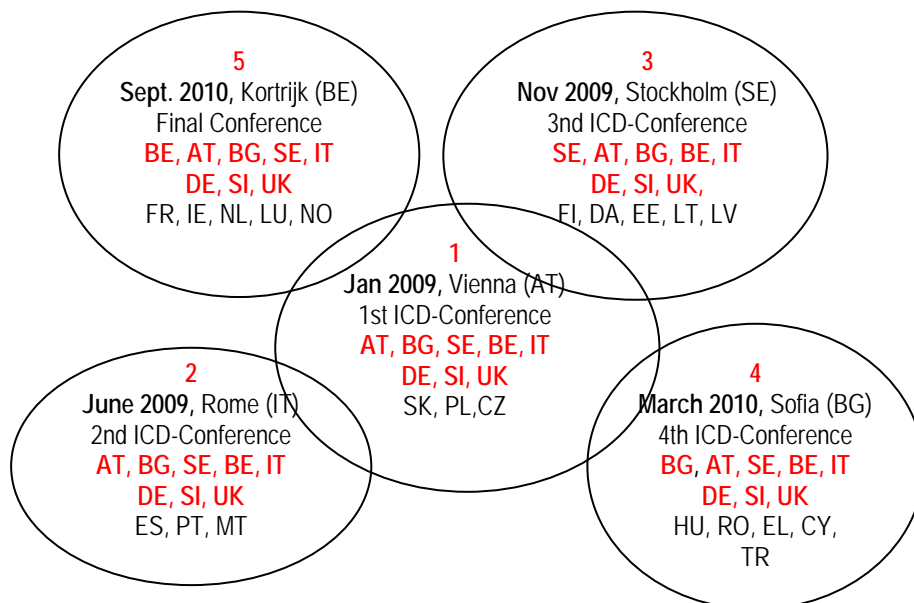
One of the major issues in the debate about EU's future development is how to motivate people to learn, especially in marginalised groups of society. Project partners of weReurope and experts will discuss and jointly develop a European pedagogical strategy to motivate learning using culture and art to create a sense of ownership through active involvement of learners. The project will describe the learning outcomes for participants and project partners and

devise a strategy for recognition and validation of these learning outcomes from (informal and non-formal) inter-cultural learning.

weReurope - Key activities:

- ◆ Presentation of didactic methodology as starting point for ICD-Design (1st Intercultural Dialogue Conference)
- ◆ Launch of an interactive website and “virtual carpet of symbols and memories”.
- ◆ Joint development of key methodological strategies and recommendations in 5 ICD-Conferences.
- ◆ ICD-Design with methodological tools for monitoring (competence compass, ICD-Learning Diary), quality assurance and permanent adaptation)
- ◆ Publication of ICD-Script.
- ◆ Identification of and strategy for recognition of (informal and non-formal) intercultural learning outcomes.
- ◆ European pedagogical strategies to motivate marginalised groups
- ◆ Dissemination of outcomes and products

ICD-Conferences (geographical structure)



Main ICD-Conference topics:

Vienna: “(Past and Present) Border Conflicts and Intercultural Competence”

Rome: “Culture and Art as Intermediaries to Motivate Marginalised Learners, Artistic Expression and Self Consciousness”

Stockholm: “Popular Culture and Cultural Heritage and its Relevance for Lifelong Learning”

Sofia: “Basic requirements for Lifelong Learning (focusing on South-East Europe) - infrastructure for motivation”

Kortrijk: “Intercultural Key competences, Impact on Business Culture and Labour Market”