



OPEN ONLINE CATALOGUE OF INTERCULTURAL TOOLS FOR VET TRAINERS

Project n°2018-1-DE02-KA202-005051

Newsletter n°3

Starting the testing phase

The testing phase for CIT4VET products has just begun. It is important to know the opinion of VET trainers and those who represent a VET institution in order to offer useful and effective tools. If you wish to participate, please contact us through our Facebook page, we will be happy to send you the link to the questionnaire.



Open online Catalogue of intercultural tools as Open Education Resource

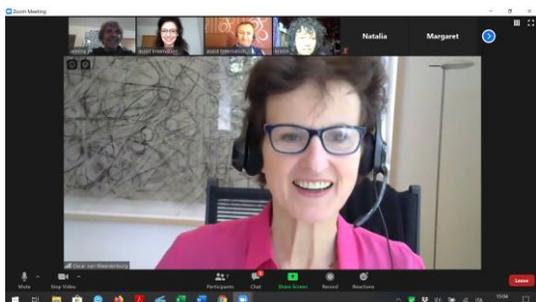
The catalogue is a collection of intercultural tools to be used by VET Trainers. The tools are gathered in a grid which classifies them according to defined categories like Mode of learning, Mode of interaction, Culture focus, Copyright status etc. Users can select the tools by searching for specific categories. They also have the possibility to rate the usefulness of the tools so that future users can benefit from the feedback of previous ones.

Last Project meetings

The partners of the project CIT4VET - Open Online Catalogue of Intercultural Tools for Vocational Education and Training met in Rzeszow (PL) on 17th and 18th January for the third project meeting. Wrapped in the still Christmas atmosphere of the city and cuddled by the always warm welcome of [Danmar Computers](#), the partners took care of the last finishing touches of the Catalogue and the Guidelines and set the testing phase that will take place in the next months.

As in every meeting, the partners discussed the project management talking about dissemination, evaluation and management in general.

The fourth and last meeting will be held in Hilversum (Netherlands) in September 2020.



May 11th 2020

Online Meeting to define the next steps of the project:
the finalisation of the project outputs and the beginning of the testing fase.

Introducing the Training Materials

In the second issue of our newsletter we have started to introduce the topics covered in the intercultural training modules; we will now move to the last three modules.

You can find all our newsletters on our website.

Training materials



The impact of culture on Vocational Education and Training (VET)

In the last decades societies within the EU have become culturally more heterogeneous due to migration phenomena. Not only EU societies in general have to be adaptive at all levels, including political, institutional and economical, but also each individual dealing on a daily basis with culturally diverse people.

The changes in EU-societies reflect also in the composition of classrooms that are becoming more and more culturally diverse with participants and trainers from different cultures. As a VET-Trainer you may have noticed that the cultural heterogeneity in your classroom comes along with new challenges. How to engage learners coming from another culture and with different learning habits? How can you take into consideration the participants' learning needs and adapt as a trainer? How do you know to which learning methods your participants may be used to because of their cultural background?

To be aware as a trainer of the importance of culture as a factor that shapes the effectiveness and sustainability of your training is an important step towards understanding the needs of your classroom participants. In module 3 "The impact of culture on Vocational Education and Training (VET)" of the CIT4VET Project you will get basic notions about the interdependency of cultural background and learning habits and learn more about the characteristics of certain learning cultures.



How to avoid cross-cultural misunderstandings in VET

Several reasons can lead to miscommunication in a cross-cultural encounter. On the basis of Module 3, where you are introduced to the stumbling blocks in cross-cultural communication, like the natural tendency each human has to assume or stereotype (Module 3), the training material of Module 4 ("How to avoid cross-cultural misunderstandings in VET") will help you understand how to avoid cross-cultural misunderstandings. The training material will give you the opportunity to enhance your intercultural awareness and will help you to understand the challenges of cross-cultural communication. Module 4 will give you the opportunity to improve your ability to assess a critical cross-cultural encounter by underlying the importance of neutral and unemotional observatory skills.

Another helpful tool you will be introduced to, is a model of self-reflection. This model can serve you as a practical tool to guide you through the adequate assessment of a critical cross-cultural situation in your classroom.

Trends in the field

In the module “Trends in the field” you will gain insights into how to:

- anticipate people’s responses to the topic of ‘culture’ and ‘intercultural competences’
- have a clearer frame of reference when discussing the topic
- have a more informed conversation with your clients and anticipate their interest and needs
- satisfy your curiosity about this important subject.

We distinguished four trends in the intercultural field. To identify these trends, we have considered many factors: developments in customers’ demands, discussions among colleagues in the academic environment, trends in publications and social media and our professional intuition.

Please note that the module was completed before the Covid-19 outbreak, which highlighted the need for online intercultural communication and online intercultural training. And as we are publishing this newsletter, the #BlackLivesMatter movement is rightfully demanding attention to the devastating impact of racism and institutionalized racism. This movement is likely to start new needs for intercultural training and development, and to shape the direction of current trends.

Trend 1 reflects on the shift from cross-border business interactions to interactions within culturally diverse societies. It focuses on how the notion of culture has changed from the era of globalization to the present.

Trend 2 concentrates on the intercultural training and its shift from stand-alone training to being part of a more complex package. This section discusses the importance of the trainer and how one could be an example and a support to its group when dealing with differences.

Trend 3 discusses the perspective on cultural differences as an obstacle to cultural diversity as an opportunity. This chapter gives an evidence-based overview on the perception of culture.

Trend 4 brings attention to the interrelation between culture and psychology. It focuses on several facets, such as Bolten’s “New thinking” approach; different kinds of unconscious biases and their impact; cultural psychology and cultural neuroscience; WEIRD people and transnational (feminist) psychology; cross-cultural psychology and its influence on individuals.

Partnership



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.

Let's keep in touch



cit4vet.erasmus.site



[CIT4VET](https://www.facebook.com/CIT4VET)



[@cit4vet](https://twitter.com/cit4vet)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which 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.