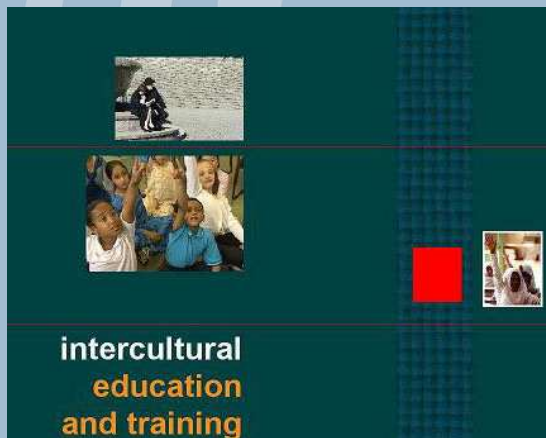


Project n° EL/05/B/PP-148245

Newsletter n°3

November 2007

As we announced in our second Inter-Tie newsletter (March 2007), specific Distance Training Educational material has been developed to train the trainers in intercultural education by Robert Ferguson (Institute of Education - University of London).



Inter-Tie

INTEgrated
tRaining
system
for **T**rainers
in **I**ntercultural
Education

According to the project workplan, a piloting of this educational material has been organized in Greece by INEGSEE and in Finland, by OPEKO, supported by a web based communication platform (Distance Training program for Trainers in Intercultural Education) developed by EKEPIS.

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<http://www.inegsee.gr/inter-tie/inter-intro.htm>



Reminder: information about the training programme

The training materials are aimed at either trainers or trainees and are structured in such a way as to be the core of a distance training programme. Participants can use the materials at home and the training period is punctuated by face to face seminars called 'residential's'.

Main objectives:

The slide features a dark background with a navigation bar at the top containing 'index', 'main menu', and 'exit' buttons. On the left side, there are two small images: a portrait of a man with glasses and a mustache, and a group of people in a colorful outdoor setting. The main text lists five aims:

- We have five main aims:
- To know, understand, value and promote the rationale of Intercultural Education (IE)
- To achieve personal and professional development through the IE programme.
- To critically examine ourselves, our attitudes, our values and explore our personal philosophies regarding the key concepts of IE.
- To develop something useful for the work of CVT trainers, including awareness and understanding of the range of teaching and learning strategies including experiential learning and training situations.
- To support participants in valuing diversity, flexibility and open mindedness.

Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom left and right corners.

Main contents:

The slide features a dark background with a navigation bar at the top containing 'index', 'main menu', and 'exit' buttons. On the left side, there are two small images: two people in winter gear standing in a snowy landscape, and a man with a long white beard in front of a white dome. The main text lists the key themes:

We will explore the aims of the project through four key themes. These themes are:

- Identity**
- Culture, ideology and power**
- Ethnicity, 'race' and diversity**
- Equality, equity and democracy**

Navigation arrows are visible at the bottom left and right corners.



The piloting in Greece

The pilot application of the educational material started in Athens on Friday 30th March 2007. It was a successful attempt to test the educational material on intercultural education and the electronic platform, developed by our partner EKEPIS, which aimed to support the implementation of the distance training seminar.

After the publication of the announcement of the piloting in the web site of KEK INE GSEE and of EKEPIS there was a warm response of several trainers who wanted to take part in the piloting.

14 participants were finally chosen, having different profiles and educational backgrounds, in order to form a representative audience. Most of the participants came from Athens and 3 of them from rural areas (Thessalonica, Ptolemaida, Amfissa). The main trainer of the piloting has been **Mr Kostas Magos**, an expert on intercultural issues.

The first face to face meeting (residential), was held the 30th of March 2007 and included

- a **demonstration and testing** of the platform from the participants
- an **introduction to the program**, its goals and contents
- a **brief discussion about Intercultural education**.

From this first meeting it became evident that there was active participation and a high degree of interest from the participants on the matters of intercultural education

Two more residentials took place : **Friday 11th May 2007** and **Friday 15 June 2007**, having as main subject the issues that came out from the exercises addressing to the participants, for example: subjects connected with identity, equality, the power of media in the formation of identities, etc...

In the meanwhile the trainer and the trainees had been in contact by using the electronic platform: the forum of the platform has been an active place, where trainees kept exchanging information and material connected to the subjects of the training.

The evaluator of the educational material and of the piloting **Mrs Giorgos Simopoulos** (EKEPIS) was also present at the residentials.

The feedback from the participants was, in general, very positive, with several remarks on how to make the material more attractive. These remarks will be taken in consideration in the process of re-shaping and adapting the material, which will follow.

The material will be revised, taken in consideration issues coming from the Greek society, and more relevant chapters will be added. Our goal is to make a friendly and useful tool for the trainers and to distribute it to them on a CD form.



The piloting in Finland

The piloting of the material in Finland took place during one and a half months, from the 4th of May to the 19th of June.

- 1) The target group was to be only trainers of trainers,
- 2) The emphasis was to be on a web-based course with only two face-to-face meetings, and
- 3) We would concentrate on trainers in our county, the largest in Finland (Western Finland).

The justification of these decisions was that we would need more trainers of trainers for the field of intercultural dialogue, and that we wanted to test the usability of a mainly web-based programme that could be used by one person only. Also we wanted to enhance the professional skills of the trainers with whom we cooperate in several continuing education programmes.

Thus we invited sixteen trainers to join the piloting, of whom two did not attend full time. **Mr Jari Kivistö**, an expert on global education, was asked to be the tutor of the piloting with back-up help from **Dr Löfman**.

The piloting was a very positive experience. Most of the participants knew each other from earlier cooperation and felt free and relaxed to give their comments and opinions on the programme. They were also very active in writing their assignments and feedbacks. However, there were big differences in the written work. A number of participants wanted to go very deep into the intercultural education methods and materials - they were the real enthusiasts with several new ideas and experiences of their own. On the other hand, part of the participants found the texts and assignments rather difficult and wished to have more clarifications added in the form of subtitles or explanations of terms. The tutoring was very active and the tutor received positive feedback from all the participants.

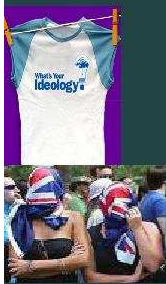
The main results from the piloting were:

- 1) After a few final finishing touches we can say that the Intercultural Education programme was useful and we are going to use it in our courses
- 2) The programme can be used as a web course with only the initial and final face-to-face meetings
- 3) The trainers of trainers said they could and would use the programme in their teaching
- 4) The programme deserves wide international distribution.



Inter-Tie in France

For the training of French speaking trainers, an adaptation of the Inter-tie training materials is in progress. The CD-ROM should be available in December 2007.



Qu'est-ce que l'idéologie ?

Pour certaines personnes, l'idéologie fait référence à des systèmes de croyance.

Certains pensent que c'est une chose qui fait partie de leur esprit, comme une invisible bulle autour de nos têtes.

D'autres expliquent que l'idéologie correspond aux croyances (généralement peu louables) de ceux avec lesquels ils sont en désaccord.



Nous traiterons les quatre thèmes clés suivants :

Identité

Culture, idéologie et pouvoir

Ethnicité, « race » et diversité

Egalité, équité et démocratie



CULTURE, IDÉOLOGIE ET POUVOIR

Objectifs des sessions :

Amener les participants à comprendre les éléments clés des notions de culture et d'idéologie, et aussi des relations entre culture et pouvoir, en se référant plus particulièrement à leurs propres contextes interculturels.



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