

**NECE Focus Group  
Intercultural Glossary Project/ IGP (CLEAR)**

Meeting, June 21-22 2013 (Berlin)

**Working Paper**

**Participants:**

Felisa Tibbitts, Lise Kvande, Kebir Sandy, Driss Sidi Maghraoui, Steven Stegers, Sigrid Steininger, Hildegard Wacker, Andreas Körber, Claudia Lenz, Benedikt Meurer, Florian Schmitt, Sonja Kmec, Peter Kirchschräger, Lotte Goos

**Introduction:**

Aim of the meeting – revisiting activities since Cordoba, discussing perspectives for the project to become sustainable and make an impact beyond the focus group, need to re-focus in the direction of documentation, production of materials/resources

The essential question seems to be “**what is unique about this project**”? The experiences from the group members so far point into the direction that the uniqueness lies the feature of linking concept learning to a consequent reflective methodology – this allows the application of the approach in formal and non-formal education and not only related to EDC/HRE and Intercultural Education but also in subject teaching, such as history and languages.

The group agreed that beside of broadening the scope of learning/educational activities, a documentation strategy needs to be developed that communicates the specific qualities and strength of the approach and allows educational practitioners to integrate it into their own activities.

**Update – what has happened since Cordoba?**

Review: Peer Learning activity at Harvard (Felisa Tibbitts)

Review: Tandem Luxembourg – Trondheim (Claudia Lenz)

Review: Student activity at the University of Hamburg (Hildegard Wacker)

**Lessons learned/ issues raised**

- Teacher’s/facilitator’s role in participatory learning activities on- and offline
- Assessing/ evaluating learner’s achievements
- language

## **Finances (Sponsoring, Applications etc)**

- Application for general support of project activities (Tandems) with specific focus on the development of materials/resources (Bosch foundation)
- Application(s) for research funding – eventually decentralized but “in concert” (three to five PhDs at different universities)
- Partnership with Anna Lindh Foundation and CoE North South Centre to establish and fund Tandems in the EuroMed region

## **Technical issues/ platform**

Benedikt Meurer introduced recent changes in the set-up of the IGP platform. Among the new features is the possibility to upload pdf-files.

The question of using the platform for social media purposes/ networking etc. was raised. It was agreed, that the interactions on the platform should be limited to the working processes.

Claudia suggested to establish a working group for the project within Share & Connect the communication platform for educational professionals, which intends to support a community of practice linked to the principles of democracy and Human Rights. The features of S&C were presented and it was agreed that this would be a good way of facilitating interaction among the group members but also to create outreach towards other educators. The question, if student teachers are allowed to access the platform was raised – to be clarified by EWC.

## **Re-naming the project**

Some of the group members reported that the project name (IGP) rather seemed to be a hindrance than a door opener regarding the generation of interest and cooperation. The term “glossary” seems to be misleading

Brain storming, clustering, deliberation and voting – resulting in

**Concept**  
**Learning for**  
**Empowerment through**  
**Analysis and**  
**Reflection**

## **Workings groups:**

### a) Documentation

The working group came up with a suggestion for a new project presentation including a documentation strategy. The suggestion covered the different target groups of the CLEAR project, suggestions regarding the facilitation of involvement of these target groups as well as resources which should be produced and published in order to increase the outreach of the project (a detailed plan will be circulated soon). A number of the suggestions require a further development of the “public” part of the platform

#### b) Learning activities

The working group exchanged experiences with previous teaching and learning activities and discussed how these activities could be developed further on.

In addition, the possibility of introductory “online lessons” about the CLEAR concept was discussed, linked to the opportunity to start that kind of activity in Austria (see <http://www.virtuelle-ph.at/>). The idea was welcomed and further developed, as all members of the focus group should video record initial lectures they might hold related to learning activities and/or project presentations.

#### c) Research

The working group came up with a suggestion for a possible research framework design, to be organized around the following principles:

- a. A research framework should consist of about three to five doctoral projects with different approach as to domain and methodology.
- b. It should be carried out by doctoral students, which are located at different institutions (universities), which are members of the CLEAR project framework.
- c. The doctoral students can be recruited within a spectrum of disciplines, from sociology, political and cultural studies, didactics etc.
- d. The doctoral students should be cooperating within the framework and with the focus group.
- e. The research framework should not only pursue research on educational aspects of *intercultural distance concept learning* as provided by the CLEAR project, but also contribute to its continuity, e.g. by organizing and facilitating additional tandems.

All working groups will follow up on the issues discussed at the meeting.

The next meeting of the group will take place at the NECE Conference 2013 in The Hague on November 14-16.