International Conference
ICOPROMO- Intercultural Competence for Professional Mobility

Sharing some reflections on Intercultural Learning

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To learn is to make meaning of one's own experience...

Before helping someone to read the word, help him to read the world.

Nobody teaches anything to anyone; people learn and build their own knowledge from each other.

Paulo Freire, 1972
(Transformative) Learning means:

The process...

- ... which transforms experience into knowledge, skills, and attitudes, values, feelings. It changes the reference frame, affecting the way one faces new experiences.
  - Jarvis, 1995

- ... of making meaning to previous experience; a re-interpretation by the light of new perspectives.

- ... of learning through critical self-reflection, leading to change of representations and to a more inclusive perspective integrating personal experience. It reflects on action.
  - Mezirow, 1990 (adapt.)
... Adult learning is...

- Actively built by the learner
- Derives from experience and is built upon it
- Socially mediated
- Influenced by cultural factors and by the context where it occurs.

Sonia Nieto, 1999
Goal: Perspective Change regarding assumptions on adult learning/training

PRESUMPTIONS /DISTORTIONS → NEW PERSPECTIVE

EPISTEMIC
The nature and use of knowledge

SOCIOCULTURAL
Value and belief systems

PSYCHIC
Psychological / Critical incidents

Mezirow, 1990
Training: from practice to theory - Meta-reflection

- Research and confront perspectives
- Examine one’s own expectations and assumptions
- Elicit and deconstruct (mis)conceptions
- “De-ethnicize” meaning of culture
- Reflect on personal stories and critical life events
- Cooperative work upon shared experiences
- Rethinking models of self-assessment of competences - Building a reflective portfolio
Promoting Intercultural Education

- better understanding of other cultures in modern society;
- better communication skills between people from different cultures;
- more adequate attitude in the context of cultural diversity and understanding of psycho-social mechanisms that create racism;
- ability to participate in social interaction, developing a sense of identity and common belonging to humanity.

Ouellet, 1991
Intercultural learning means...

- A learning process for all:
  - Capacity building process
  - Reject of all forms of discrimination
  - Participation in a more open and plural society

A DIMENSION OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP
The (intercultural) competences that were identified

**Knowledge**
- Immigration
- Culture, cultural diversity
- Citizenship
- Intercultural education
- Learning & communication
- Legal framework

**Skills**
- Listen to & dialog
- Reflect critically on own perceptions
- Manage misconceptions & conflicts
- Adapt to unexpected, accept risks
- Tolerate ambiguity
- Participate & debate

**Attitudes**
- Be aware of cultural constraints
- Open to diversity
- Respect others' way of acting
- Be flexible & empathic
- Assertive & proactive
- Put oneself in the other one's feet
References


Programme

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