

Guidelines for reflecting our intercultural experience

I General questions

Personal expectations

What are my expectations and preconceptions?

Carrying out the project

What surprised me, caused joy, anger, doubt ... ?

What were my first impressions?

How did I feel during the encounter?

Have new intercultural questions occurred during the project?

Retrospective Reflection of the intercultural experience

To what extent has the project changed my ability to act in an international context?

What similarities and differences concerning linguistic and cultural phenomena was I able to observe? How do I evaluate my perception of these?

Which linguistic or cultural peculiarities of my own culture did I become aware of in the project?

Were there any difficult situations caused by linguistic or cultural differences?
How were they solved?

What have I learned in the project in terms of subject learning?

Do the intercultural encounters experienced in the project have any impact on my future plans?

II Questions of detail

Talking to each other

When you think about how you spoke to or communicated with the other people, do you remember that you made adjustments in how you talked or wrote to them?

Further ideas – for example:

I was talking to them in my own language and I noticed I needed to make adjustments to help them understand me, for example...

I was not speaking in my own language and I had to make adjustments to make myself understood - to simplify/to explain using gestures, by explaining a word, by...

I noticed things about how they spoke – that they simplified, that they used gestures, that they spoke more slowly...

Did you already have any knowledge or previous experience which helped you to communicate better?

Further ideas – for example:

I already knew things about how people communicate and behave in other groups which helped me to understand the experience and communicate better – I knew for example that...

I knew that other people involved in the experience thought and acted differently because of what they had learnt as children, for example...

Finding out more

There may have been things in the experience which puzzled you and you tried to find out more at the time.

If you did so, how did you do it?

If you have found out an answer since, how did you do it?

For example:

There were things I did not understand, so I tried to find out by asking questions at the time/ reading about it/looking on the internet/asking questions...

I used the following sources for information...

When finding new information I noticed the following similarities and differences with things I know from my own society...

The following things still puzzle me...

Using comparisons to understand

People often compare things in other groups or cultures with similar things in their own.

Did you do this? Did it help you to understand what was happening?

For example:

The experience involved some things which were similar to what I know in my own group and these are the things I noticed...

There were some things which were different from my own group...

Thinking back and looking forward

If, when you look back, you draw conclusions about the experience, what are they?

I liked the experience for the following reasons...

I disliked the experience for the following reasons...

There were some things which I approve of and these are my reasons...

There were some things which I disapprove of and these are my reasons...

Try to imagine that you are telling someone you know well about all this. It could be your brother or sister for example.

Do you think they would have the same opinions as you?

Would they approve and disapprove of the same things for the same reasons?

Try to think about why people you know well and who belong to the same group(s) as you (same family, same religion, same country, same region etc) might have the same reactions and write your explanation here:

Did the experience change you? How?

Did you decide to do something as a result of this experience?

What did you do?