



Erasmus+

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Starting point: reflecting on one's own experiences

Before we start discussing basic concepts that can accompany us in rethinking identities, interculturality and interaction with newcomers, let us take some time to reflect on our previous engagement with the topic (alone or with colleagues).

About yourself

1. Have you had yourself any experiences abroad? Long-term? Short-term? What was your status? Immigrant? Tourist? How did it feel to be an 'other', i.e. a member of a minority?
2. Have you ever studied abroad? What challenges and opportunities did you experience? What did you learn about yourself and others?
3. When you were abroad, did you experience some form of discrimination? In what contexts? Education? How did you react? Did anyone help you?
4. Do you think that your social, ethnic and linguistic background has an influence on how you are treated when you go abroad? Do you feel privileged or 'unlucky' in a sense?
5. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you could not interact with people abroad, and maybe felt a bit rejected because you did not speak the language? How did it feel? Did you find ways of dealing with this kind of situation?

About school and newcomers

6. How much experience have you had of newcomers?
7. What is their general experience of your school?
8. Do you find working with the challenging or 'ordinary'? Explain why.
9. When you hear the words 'identities', 'interculturality' and 'interaction', what comes to your mind when you think of newcomers in your school??
10. Do you think that you are well prepared to work with newcomers? How much your initial teacher education and training as well as continuous professional development have helped you in your (future) work with newcomers?
11. Do you often consult other teachers and principals about newcomers? Do you find it useful?
12. What sort of support mechanism has been established in your school?

About stereotypes

1. Like everyone, you probably have certain stereotypes about different kinds of students. Are you aware of your own stereotypes about newcomers? And those of your colleagues? Do you have any idea where they come from??
2. Many stereotypes can be harmful and lead to some students being 'mistreated' by us educators. How can we challenge these stereotypes and change our views on certain people?
3. Do you think that newcomers and their parents also have stereotypes about you and other teachers? What could they be? Why do you think they have these stereotypes?
4. Newcomers are usually underprivileged and experience different forms of social injustice in our societies. How do you personally try to give them a boost? What about your school and your municipality?