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InterTrainE Newsletter

December 2020

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of our Erasmus+ project **Intercultural Training for Educators (InterTrainE)**! The 2-year project is led by [Heriot-Watt University](#) and the Coordinator is [Dr Katerina Strani](#) from the [Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies](#).



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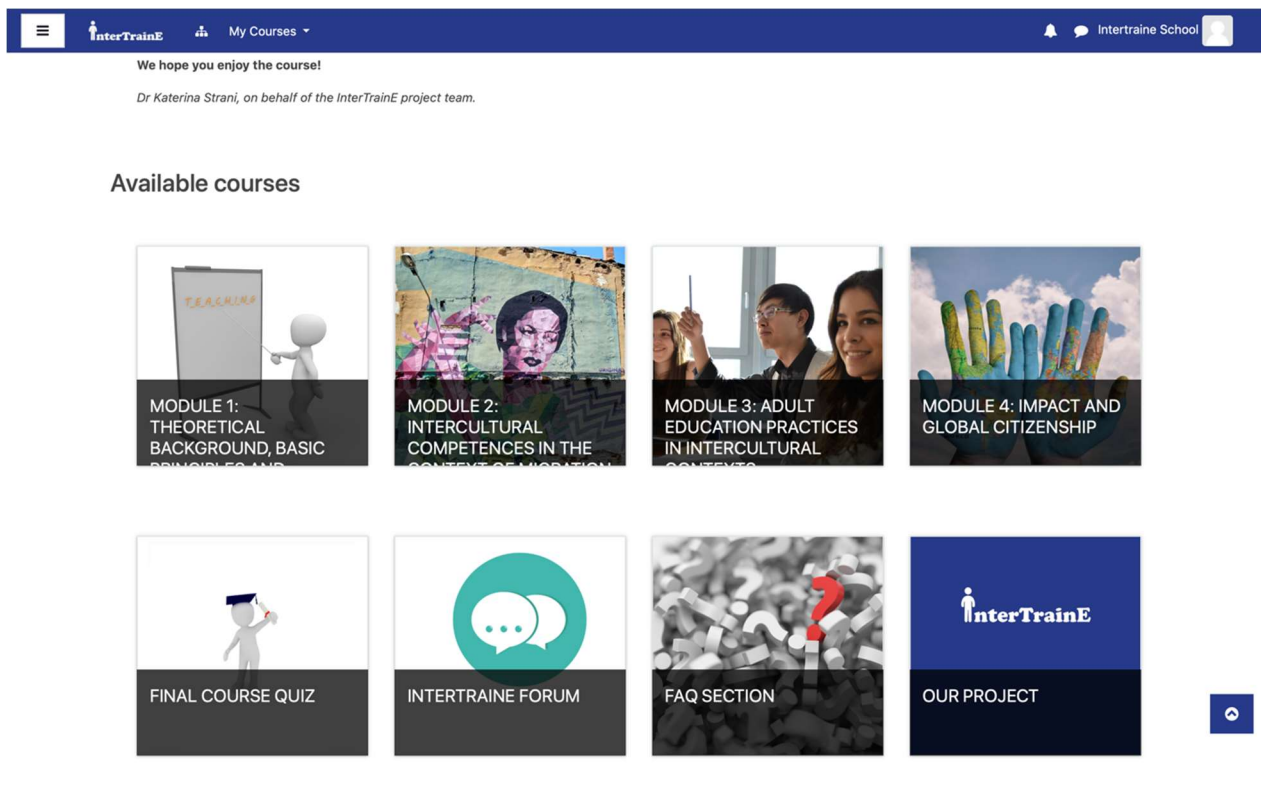


Baby news



Congratulations to Alastair Mackie (HWU) who became a Dad in July! Alastair, his partner Zoe and baby Mikkel are doing great. This is the third new member of the InterTrainE team, with Kalli Rodopoulou (EELI) and Kate Sailer (CLP) also welcoming bundles of joy last year 😊

Our course is ready !



We are very happy to announce that our online course is now ready and freely available through our platform ! <http://intertraine.eu/moodle/>

The InterTrainE course is divided into 4 Modules and each Module consists of 4 units.

**Module 1: Theoretical Background, Basic Principles and Concepts**

**Module 2: Intercultural Competences in the Context of Migration**

**Module 3: Adult education practices in intercultural contexts**

**Module 4: Impact and global citizenship**

A certificate of completion awarding 5 EQF credits is issued to learners who complete the course and achieve a minimum of 70% in each Module. Learners can choose to complete part of the course according to their training needs, however they will not receive a certificate of completion if they do not complete all 4 Modules.

There is a discussion forum where you are invited to ask questions and discuss key concepts or case studies in the course under the principles of peer learning.

The course is accompanied by a Course Syllabus and a Trainees' Handbook.

**You can find all our completed outputs, including research reports, curricula, the course syllabus and the trainees' handbook on our website: <http://intertraine.eu/outputs>**

**Remember that our website and our outputs are available in all project languages: English, Italian, Greek and Finnish.**

## Joint Staff Training Event highlights

Our online Joint-Staff Training Event took place on 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November. The JSTE was hosted by KEKAPER – Region of Crete, sadly not in Rethymno, but on Zoom. 22 participants from the 7 partners in 4 countries were trained on the basis of the InterTrainE course, provided feedback and critically evaluated the course content and impact.



Some highlights from the week's activities:

On Day 1, we focused on Module 1: Basic Principles and Concepts. We discussed interculturalism and intercultural education in the context of critical adult education. We looked at dimensions of privilege and their role in the classroom. This discussed included power dynamics in intercultural classrooms, motivation, language of instruction, languages of learners, empowerment and co-construction of knowledge.

The screenshot shows a Zoom window with a Moodle course page titled 'InterTrainE' on the left and a vertical stack of participant video feeds on the right. The Moodle page displays a 'Reflection' activity with text about privilege and a list of categories for reflection. The video feeds show several participants, including Mark, Maria, Yannis Kostopoulos, and Chrysi K.

**Reflection**

(From McIntosh's notes on her paper, published on her website <https://nationalseedproject.org/Key-SEED-Texts/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-k>)

Make your own autobiographical lists of privilege, for example, about:

Sexual Orientation	Employment	Families' languages of origin	Families' relation
Class	Physical ability	Gender identity	Education
Region	Handedness	Ethnicity	Money
Religion	Language	Housing and neighbourhoods	
Gender	Nation of Origin		

How do these privileges affect your positionality and role as educator? How many of these are systemic? **Self-reflection**

**Additional reflection**

- Do you agree with Peggy McIntosh's statements? Why / why not?
- Do you consider yourself privileged?
- Did you list any privileges in the exercise above? How did this make you feel?
- Try to think of an example when privilege was beneficial to you. Did you notice the privilege at the time?
- How is privilege evident in the classroom?
- What can you do as an educator to ensure fairness for all learners?

We will be revisiting the concept of privilege throughout this course.

**1.2 Educational equity**

Recognising privilege in the educational environment forces us to consider the value of equal education. As an ideal, equality in education is an attractive value as we want everyone to have access to the same opportunities.

Day 2 focused on Module 2: Intercultural Competences in the Context of Migration. We discussed stereotypes, bias, uncertainty, trauma, deskilling, confidence, motivation and empathy. Not bad for one module!

Day 3 focused on Module 3: Adult education practices in intercultural contexts. We revisited group dynamics in intercultural classrooms, and discussed racism and discrimination in the classroom with relevant case-studies. When we finished, Yannis asks us to state one word that we would take away from today. We all agreed on "Inspired" !

The screenshot shows a Zoom window with a Moodle course page titled 'InterTrainE' on the left and a grid of participant video feeds on the right. The Moodle page displays a 'Team spirit' activity with text about essential elements of an effective team. The video feeds show several participants, including Yannis Kostopoulos, Katerina Strati, Mark, Monica, Chrysi K., Gioula Stagati, Georgia Zervou, Kalli Rodopoulou, John Cleary, Adele, Irene Paloma, and Konstantina Triv...

**And remember:**

Team spirit, consensual team action, mutual trust and support are essential elements of an effective and well functioning group!

Now do Activity 3 "Just a word".

Last modified: Thursday, 10 September 2020, 3:29 PM

Section 1: Group dynamics

Activity 1: Greeting

Module3

Data retention summary

Day 4 was focused on the final module, Module 4: Impact and Global Citizenship. We discussed our role as educators, taking into account everything we had learned and discussed so far. We looked at both personal and social impact, which sparked a debate on age and gender bias.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide from the 'InterTrainE' platform. The slide is titled 'Discussion task' and lists 10 questions related to the impact of the course on migrants and educators. The questions cover topics such as the course's impact on migrants, the development of an ethno-relative mindset, and the value of the course from a social perspective. The slide also includes a 'Discussion task' section with 6 numbered points for discussion. The Zoom interface shows a grid of participants on the right side, with names like Argy Peraki, Katerina Strani, Monica, Maria, Irene Paloma, Mark, Jim's iPad, Gioula Stagi, Kalli Rodopou, Tania Piers, Georgia Zeri, Yannis Kodo, Mira Rozani, Chrysi K, Eleni Tzortza, and Dimitra Tsek. The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom toolbar with options like 'Unmute My Audio', 'Stop Video', 'Security', 'Participants', 'Polls', 'Chat', 'Share Screen', 'Pause/Stop Recording', 'Breakout Rooms', and 'Reactions'.

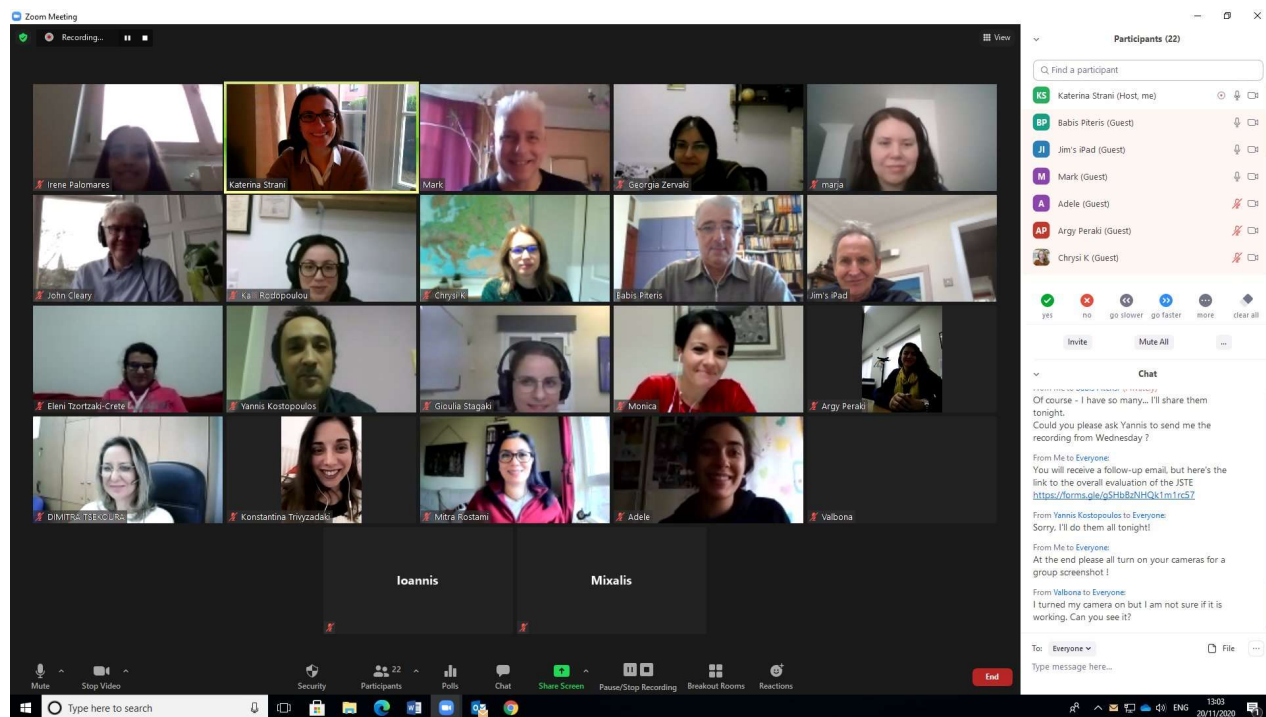
Who says the online medium limits engagement? We had a long and interesting discussion on Intercultural v. Global education.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide from the 'InterTrainE' platform. The slide is titled 'Education' and features the 'InterTrainE' logo. The slide content includes a list of 6 points related to education and multiculturalism. A chat window is open over the slide, showing messages from participants. The chat messages include: 'I'll join you!', 'From Mark to Everyone: Woohoo!!!', 'From Me to Everyone: We also have Scots and Gaelic! Agree with Yannis', 'From Mark to Everyone: Yep', and 'From Me to Everyone: Heterogeneity of cultures is very important'. The Zoom interface shows a grid of participants on the right side, with names like Maria, Katerina Strani, Monica, Mark, Jim's iPad, Tania Piers, Yannis Kodo, Kalli Rodopou, Gioula Stagi, Chrysi K, Georgia Zeri, John Cleary, Argy Peraki, Dimitra Tsekoura, Valbona-LFI, Fini..., Adele, Konstantina Triv..., and Eleni Tzortzaki-. The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom toolbar with options like 'Unmute My Audio', 'Stop Video', 'Security', 'Participants', 'Polls', 'Chat', 'Share Screen', 'Pause/Stop Recording', 'Breakout Rooms', and 'Reactions'.

On Day 5, which was the last day of the JSTE, we focused on case-studies prepared by the participants. These case-studies and personal stories sparked a discussion on the importance of

empathetic listening and attitudes as opposed to judging isolated behaviours. An interesting debate followed on politics in the classroom, languages in the classroom, group work and group dynamics, and the difference between individualist and collectivist cultures.

That's a wrap!!! We are all still buzzing. Cheers! متشكرم Grazie Gracias Kiitos Ευχαριστούμε  
Faleminderit



We have analysed the JSTE feedback and made minor changes to course material in response to participants' recommendations. Our External Evaluator, [Dr Jim Crowther](#) also provided us with comments and an evaluation of the final course. We are very grateful to our external evaluator for his feedback and guidance. His expertise and engagement with the project are invaluable.

Be part of our conversation! Register on our platform <http://intertraine.eu/moodle/> and follow the online course. Send us your feedback at [info@intertraine.eu](mailto:info@intertraine.eu)



## Next stages

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all our remaining activities will take place online until the end of the project in February 2021. Our national Multiplier Events and our project's Final Dissemination Event will take place in the coming months.

Watch this space for the dates of our national multiplier events and for our project's Final Dissemination Event, when the course will be formally presented !

In 2020, many aspects of our work and our lives changed and we are being affected in ways we could not imagine. Online education has a more crucial role than ever before to support and connect learning communities. Stay tuned and check out our activities on our website <http://intertraine.eu>

## Project website and social media accounts

Our [project website](http://intertraine.eu) includes information and updates on our project, as well as all Intellectual Outputs to date. The website is available in all partner languages - [English](#), [Greek](#), [Italian](#) and [Finnish](#).

Updates are published regularly on social media. To make sure you don't miss out:

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

Follow us on [Research Gate](#)

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*Our next and final newsletter will be out in February 2021, so stay tuned!*

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## Contact



*For any questions or comments, please contact: [info@intertraine.eu](mailto:info@intertraine.eu)*

*Or the project coordinator:*

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