

Workshop: „ I – YOU – WE: My culture – your culture – our culture “

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Workshop content/theme

Culture - How many cultures do we belong to and what makes the difference between them?

Aims

- Deepening the understanding what we understand by the term “culture”
- Exploring our culture(s) through the “iceberg-concept” of culture
- Understanding better how prejudices and stereotypes are being created

Method(s)/Approach

Step-by-step approach:

- Collecting all the words for “culture” in the different languages present in the group and exchange what is being described with the term
- Presentation of the “iceberg-concept” of culture
- In national groups they created an “iceberg” for their collective culture
- Individually they created an “iceberg” for their personal culture
- Exchange in the group on the relation between individual and collective culture.
- In the whole group discussion and exchange on how stereotypes are being created and their roles.

Further tips, sources, resource material or links

For the “iceberg-concept” as well as other concepts and methods around Intercultural Learning see the

→ *T-Kit on “Intercultural Learning”* download for free: http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/publications/T-kits/T_kits

Impressions, Outcomes

The “iceberg-concept” of culture highlighted well how stereotypes and prejudices are often being based on the visible part only. And it is this part – the clothes, the food, the music, the rituals – which is often “used” to create difference(s) from the other(s). We had a very interesting discussion about this on the example of youth-cultures.

Youth cultures often are defined strongly through the visible part (clear signals when it comes to clothes, music etc.) and have very strong stereotypes about the other groups/youth-cultures. It creates belonging and very often at the same time it is based also on “negative identification” or exclusion:

“We do not like the group xyz or the group xyz are stupid; I would never be friends with one of them”.

Some pupils realised through the discussion that belonging to one group does NOT necessarily mean I can not connect to another person from another youth-culture. Even if the music and dressing codes are very different on themes like belief or family or friendship they might think similarly.

We also touched upon the topic of identity being very interlinked with the discussion on culture – the sense of belonging to a culture that helps shaping your identity.