

How is TICKLE funded?

The European Commission funds 75% of the cost of the TICKLE project through its Life Long Learning Programme under the COMENIUS Multilateral projects strand.

Why does the European Union support TICKLE?

By training future teachers to raise their intercultural competences, create learning materials and raising their awareness of the enrichment of classrooms by different European cultures in general, TICKLE will help to establish a culture of innovation in the schools in which they work. This will in turn contribute to achieve the aims of the Life Long Learning Programme:

- to develop knowledge and understanding among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European cultures and languages and its values;
- to help young people to acquire the basic life skills and competences necessary for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship;
- to enhance the quality and European dimension of teacher training;
- to support improvements in pedagogical approaches and school management;

to improve school education systems through the transfer of innovation and good practice; this may include developing, promoting and disseminating educational best practices, including new teaching methods or materials.

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Teachers' Intercultural Competences as Keystones for Learning in Europe

www.tickle-project.eu

A Comenius multilateral project (2007-2009)



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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What is TICKLE?

The TICKLE project aims to develop tools that can help to raise intercultural competences of teacher trainees, teacher trainers and teachers. Seven European teacher training institutions work together in the field of interculturality in European class-rooms. We believe, that not many teachers in European classrooms are prepared for the challenge of inter-cultural issues in schools, which arise from the expanded European Union partner countries and their diverse histories, cultures, habits, attitudes and values.

Who is it for?

The TICKLE project is designed by teacher trainers for future teachers, who have to face many intercultural challenges in the classrooms, when they start teaching. They must be prepared – this includes getting a closer view on each pupils own intercultural understanding as a prerequisite of awareness for other cultures in classrooms. The toolbox with practical materials and training units are geared to the needs of the classroom teachers, but also teacher trainers, support staff and also resource centre staff may find them useful too! It provides both practical support for teachers who want a 'hands on experience' and also help and information for teachers who just want to find out about intercultural competences.

Why TICKLE?

Due to changing labour markets and expanding economies many families with their children move to other European countries. They are no refugees or migrants, but European citizens under the European Union Charter. They look for a better living, but not necessarily for integration in the host countries. The richness of their home cultures and value structures can be used to create a richer learning environment in schools, if teachers know, how to deal with them.

Can we solve problems?

In all areas of education systems we can identify expanding figures of cultural misunderstandings, disrespect or value related questions between different groups. Blaming the others, „not being like us“ is not a good concept for the European future. The creation of tools, that can deal with diversities in classrooms is a need for the development of high quality content in schools. It is essential, that the potential of intercultural competences must be raised in a way, that stimulates and fosters Life Long Learning. It is important to train future teachers how to become aware of their own inner beliefs and values towards interculturality and to generate learning materials that can support this process.

This is the aim of the TICKLE project.

What exactly will TICKLE do?

- We present tools to create intercultural awareness in one day conferences in the partner institutions. We have already started with a conference in Arnhem (Netherlands) and will continue as follows:
 - Tallinn - Estonia, May 30th, 2008
 - Eger – Hungary, September, 19th 2008
 - Győr – Hungary, December, 12th, 2008
 - Guebwiller – France, March, 13th 2009
 - Lulea – Sweden, June, 5th, 2009
 - Offenburg – Germany, September 18th, 2009
- These conferences with workshops from the seven participating countries present the work of the TICKLE experts. They reflect and enable teacher trainers, teacher trainees and all other responsible persons in the national education system to identify and decide which tools and contents are most useful for common European purposes. They are meant to encourage the share of tools within the existing frames of national teacher education systems. We also support exchange of trainees between the participating countries and stimulate new approaches in teacher training related to the concept of lifelong learning, knowledge sharing and peer learning.
- The TICKLE homepage is constantly updated with all materials and results of the workshops and conferences: www.tickle-project.eu