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Education and Culture DG

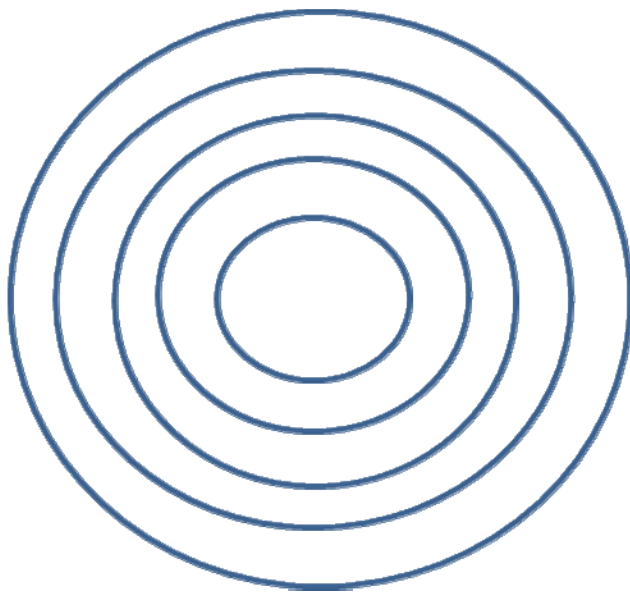
Lifelong Learning Programme

134317-2007-DE-Comenius-CMP

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Theoretical model for dealing with cultures

As the Tickle-project focuses on dealing with cultures it's important to understand the situation in one's country. In this we start from the ecological pedagogy. We choose this approach because it gives us a good insight in the (eco)system in which a person lives. This system interacts with the genetical potential of the persons and results in development and behaviour. These results are important as a person encounters other people from different cultures. To understand the ecosystem of a person, the ecological model of Bronfenbrenner can help us. It shows us 5 levels of system surrounding a person (insert explanation and model):



1. Micro system
2. Meso system
3. Exo system
4. Macro system
5. Chrono system

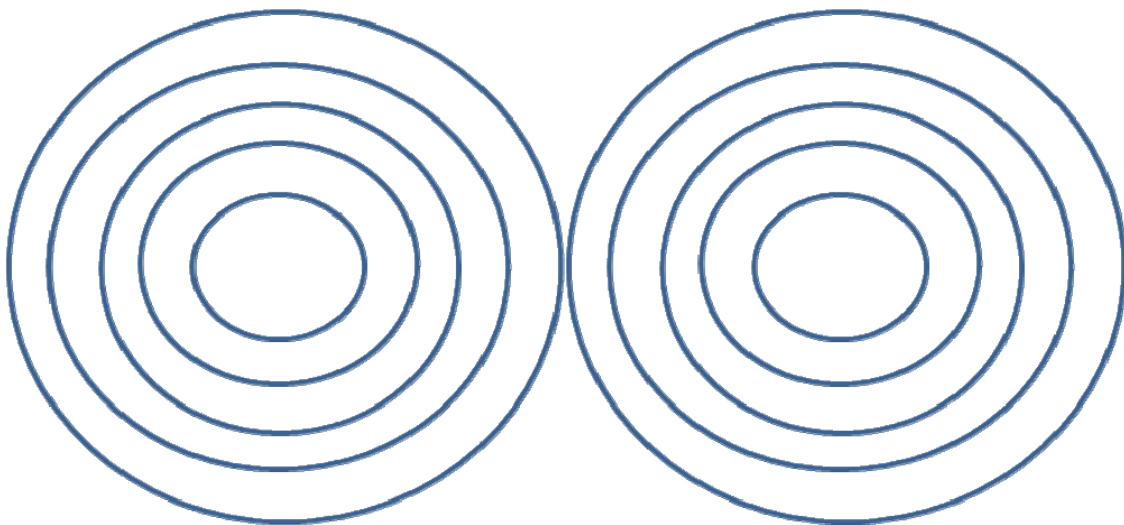
As one can see the part about culture is founded in the macro system. It is influenced by the chrono system and influences all the other systems. The chrono system is the same for all people, but the systems below can differ. So a person's culture has a big influence on one's personality. Therefore as two persons meet, their cultures interact.

This interaction most of the times is successful, but it can also conflict. To understand this interaction, the Johari-window can be helpful (insert explanation and model).

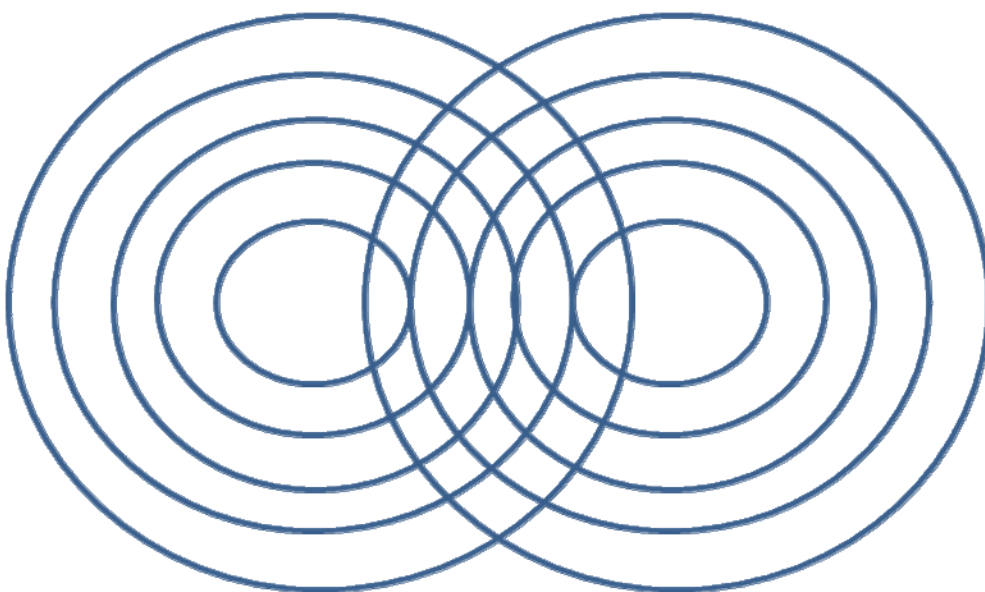
In the theory of the Johari-window it's important to get as much free space as possible. When cultures meet often the hidden area is big. The values underneath the messages are not clear. Often partners in conversation don't know the backgrounds of their values. Those values often originate in the system of the culture. As people are not always aware of their culture (blind spot) it's even more difficult to understand each other's values.

Taking both models into consideration, we can create a new model. This model can be used to look at the cultural issues in a country. There are 3 different levels in cultural interaction (insert model and explanation):

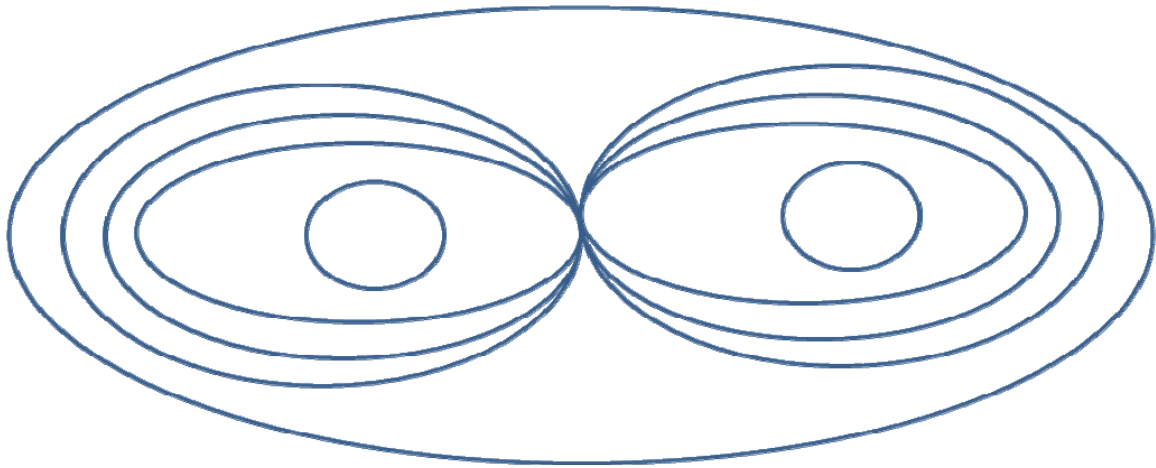
1. Different cultures live next to each other in the same area and don't interact at all.



2. Different cultures live together in the same area and they try to influence other cultures.



3. Different cultures live together live in the same area and try to learn from other cultures.



Looking at the chrono system of our world one can see all those different levels. However it is also possible that there are situations in between the 3 levels. It is possible that a culture wants to be left alone, but the surrounding cultures try to influence or learn from this culture. Another option is that a culture wants to influence the other cultures while the other cultures want to learn from the other culture. In cases of cultures wanting to influence other cultures it is very much possible that cultures will conflict. There are only 2 situations in which cultures don't try to influence one another, on level 1 and 3. Level 1 is almost impossible in modern situation, therefore one can conclude that level 3 is the goal.

To get to level 3 one needs to want to learn from other cultures. The difficulty is that you might have the intention to learn from the other culture, but the other culture might not be open to it. But if level 3 is possible, one can use the ABCD-crown, developed by Ibrahim (insert model and explanation).