



# ISTO2 Day 3

September 7th 2021





# Internationalization interviews



# Participants

- Jagiellonian University
- Comenius University
- University of Passau
- University of South Bohemia
- Public University of Navarra
- Mentor teacher in Slovakia

# Questions 1-4

- 1. What particular input does your institution provide to prepare student teachers for international mobility ?
- 2. Which input have you found to be particularly useful ?
- 3. What else would you have liked to be included in the programme ?
- 4. What specific skills do you consider most important in an international teaching context ?

# Institutional input

- Very wide variations in types of provision
- A wide-spread feeling that more would be welcome !
- Main focus on providing some form of international contact-
- seen as crucial for promoting internationalization

# Types of international contact

- **formalized** via Erasmus exchanges /partner universities
- Contact with students from partner university
- Contact with students who have been abroad
- Provision of information about vacancies/opportunities
- Pre-departure information – guide provided
- **Informal** extra-curricular activities, e.g. theatre group
- Contact with international exchange students

# Pedagogical input

- background knowledge about teaching methodology and theories – relevant in all contexts
- teaching practice placements
- more input desirable on intercultural/ interpersonal communication skills and cultural studies

# Skills for teaching in international contexts

- 1. **Skills** can be taught
- 2. **Personal qualities/characteristics** can be taught ??
- Similar patterns emerged throughout the interviews and overlaps between this and questions on internationalization and employability skills.



# Key skills

- **Intercultural communicative competence and intercultural awareness**
- Including, but not limited to:
  - ability to express themselves clearly
  - ability and willingness to listen carefully
  - use of gestures
  - awareness of suitable topics in different contexts
- **In addition:**
  - knowledge of education system (preparation)
  - organisational skills
  - problem-solving skills

# Personal qualities

- **Flexibility**
- **Adaptability**      how to use existing teaching skills in different contexts/with different types of learners
- **Open-mindedness**

# Questions 5-7

5. What do you understand by the term internationalization?
6. Can you give some specific examples of internationalization from your own context?
7. Could you summarise, giving examples, what you consider to be the most important employability skills in an international context?

# What do you understand by the term internationalization?

“Free movement of the individuals, cross-culturally, with a desire to learn”

“the ability to convey meaning as you wish it to be conveyed so that you are understood by the other”

“experiencing your future career outside your country”

“any experience you get from people outside your local area or country, experiencing variety and getting out of your comfort zone”

“experiencing new ways of thinking and doing” (newness)

“acquiring skills that will enable the teaching of English to diverse groups of students in different sociocultural contexts”

“some skills taught are universal enough to be transferable to an international context”

“A portfolio of activities that will provide a window of opportunity to open doors for new perspectives to the European context”

# Can you give some specific examples of internationalisation from your own context?

Most common:

- Student teacher mobilities / Internship
- Staff mobility
- Receiving incoming students / staff (Erasmus+ and others)

Specific examples:

- A one-week course (35 hrs, credit-bearing)
- “Teaching in English” course ( a prototype of internationalization at home)

# Dimensions of internalization

- Teaching or studying somewhere outside your country
- Integrating into your own context those who visit your country as part of international exchange
  
- Physical
- Virtual
- “at home”

# Could you summarise, giving examples, what you consider to be the most important employability skills in an international context?

- Intercultural competence
- Intercultural awareness
- Flexibility (in teaching, in personal situations, in educational situations)
- Adaptability / willingness to adapt
- Listening skills
- Courage
- Empathy
- Resilience
- Open-mindedness
- Organisational skills
- Management skills
- Leadership
- Proficient knowledge of your subject
- Knowledge of the context
- Being self-reliant
- Having a degree of independence
- The ability to express oneself well
- Eagerness to understand the people in the new culture
- Eagerness to face new challenges
- Teamwork
- Negotiation skills
- Problem solving skills
- Critical thinking, critical reading, critical writing

# Developing employability

Two levels:

Individual attributes / personality traits

Competences and Skills

“To cope, to learn, to adapt”

Be open to others' reactions.

Don't give up!