

# Day 1

## Integrating minority, migrant and refugee children at European schools and society



# Welcome and Introductions



# Introduction to Cultural Awareness

- Personal Experiences
- Knowledge
- Icebreaker



# Course Goals

- By the end of the course;
- Deal with cultural differences inside the classroom and make the most out of cultural diversity
- Embrace cultural diversity and best practices for integration
- Develop and implement desegregation policies
- Understand the importance of national language acquisition for integration of minority groups and migrants
- Implement best diversity policies and take affirmative actions



# Introduction to Cultural Awareness

- Immigration has and will be in the future, a main feature of European Societies and social structures.

- Why?

Political instability

Labour demands

Economic Crisis

Urbanization

Entrenched Poverty

Conflict



# Key Terms

- Migrant
- A person who;  
“chooses to move, often motivated by the desire to escape economic hardship, poor governance or to unify a family.”
- Refugee
- A person who:  
“owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”
- *According to the 1951 Convention on Refugees*

# Understanding Culture

Having respect for Cultural differences and learning basic characteristics of other cultures can help you to avoid misunderstandings and unintentionally offending others.





**In Pairs;**

Discuss any issues / problems / differences that we may need to address in our multi-cultural societies.



# BREAK



# Energizer

RE-ORDER



# The Importance of Intercultural Communication

- Intercultural Communication defined;

IC involves the sharing of information across different cultures and social groups, including individuals with different religious, social, ethnic and educational backgrounds.



# Intercultural Communication defined...

It seeks to understand the differences in how people from a variety of cultures act, communicate and perceive the world around them.





# Understanding Culture

- Effective Communication
- Overcoming Language Barriers
- Politics and governance
- Food, Dining, Dress
- Hand gestures around the World
- Religion, Education, Housing



# Effective Communication

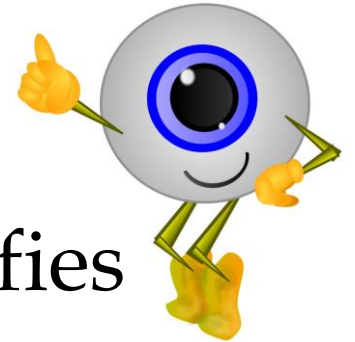
Communication can be an area that is especially challenging for those un-informed about cultural differences. A simple nod of the head or smile may be interpreted as something you had not intended.



# Eye Contact

Eye Contact varies around the world.

- In some cultures, eg Asian and Latin American and African cultures, people avoid eye contact as a sign of respect.
- In Western Europe, by having good contact, it signifies that you are interested in what the person is saying.





# Eye contact in the Middle East



- Eye contact is much less common and considered less appropriate in many Middle Eastern cultures.
- In Muslim culture, they have very strict rules connected to religious laws. Only a brief moment of eye contact would be permitted between a man and a woman.
- Western Women travelling in Muslim areas may receive eye contact from men, but must be aware that this may be considered as saying, “Yes, I’m interested!”
- On the other hand, eye contact between the same gender can mean, “I am telling the truth, I am sincere.”

# Overcoming Language Barriers

Perhaps the easiest and most obvious way to effectively communicate with students and colleagues is the ability to speak their language.

However, at the very least, try to learn words of greetings, thanks and questions.

Other ideas....



# Overcoming language barriers..



- Translate all relevant documents
- Use an interpreter
- Provide language classes
- Use both showing and telling methods of learning
- Use visual methods of communication
- Use repetition
- Never raise your voice or over-enunciate your words
- Use less complex vocabulary
- Have the person demonstrate their understanding

# Hand gestures

Hand gestures have different meanings around the world.

- American OK symbol: considered obscene, offensive or vulgar in Brazil, Russia and Turkey



- Nod of the head: means NO in Bulgaria and Greece, in most other countries it means Yes!

# Hand Gestures

- Thumbs Up: considered rude in Australia, Afganistan, Nigeria, Greece and in some Middle Eastern Countries, means OK in most other countries. 
- Crooked index Finger (Come here gesture): considered an obscene gesture in Japan, used to call animals in Yugoslavia and Malaysia, used to summon prostitutes in Australia and considered a threatening symbol to children in Southeast Asia.

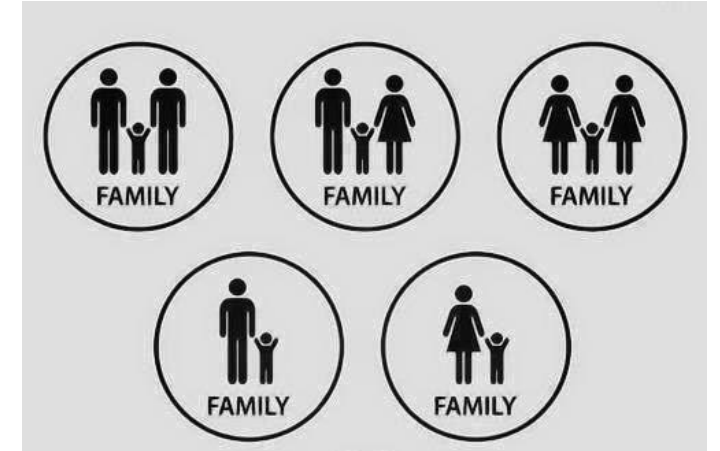
# Food and Dining

- What and when people eat varies around the world.
- Understanding customs is very important.
- Making noises is considered polite to show appreciation in Asian and Saudi Arabian countries.
- Spitting seeds, eating with hands, not taking food away are considered to be polite in some countries
- Understand traditional dishes



# Dealing with Cultural Differences

- Religious differences
- Gender-equity issues
- Children with disabilities
- Single-parent / Same- sex households
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Multi-linguistic
- Long / Short term Settlement



# Day 2

- Policies and Measures in Educational Establishments



1. The teacher- student relationship
2. Organizational Adaptions
3. The school and its environment
4. Relations to parents and communities of migrants and refugees
5. Desegregation policies and procedures



