



Sharing Worldviews

Learning in Encounter for Common Values in Diversity

The Project

A democratic society thrives on the peaceful coexistence of various cultures, religions, and views of life. In other words, the interaction of different worldviews. All citizens must play an active role in ensuring that diversity does not lead to the social polarization we are currently seeing in the rise of fundamentalism, racism, populism, and extremism. Citizens need strong interpersonal skills to be able to engage in a respectful dialogue of their individual worldviews while upholding shared common values. This crucial dialogue requires the willingness to encounter and learn from each other.

‘Sharing Worldviews’ refers to the ability to respectfully engage with different worldviews that can be acquired through a differentiated learning process. The aim of our project is to unite students of different cultures, nationalities, and subjects in a respectful discussion about their worldviews.

However, their teachers must be prepared before the students can be approached. For this reason, the project focuses on the education of teachers by developing a digital study program with an accredited additional qualification. Initially, this will be offered in post-secondary institutions in Austria, Germany, Greece, and Turkey.

The additional qualification prepares teachers to support students in improving their communicative skills and gaining a greater tolerance of ambiguity. These skills are essential for a respectful encounter. The “Four-Phase” model, a didactic tool that has been tested and evaluated since 2002 in schools, is utilized in the program. Teachers are invited to implement this model in their institutions.

Project Results

The operational project goals are in detail, each embedded in accompanying scientific research:

- Platform www.sharing-worldviews.com
Development of a multilingual digital teaching, learning, interaction and cooperation platform
- In Higher Education
Development and anchoring of a digitally supported, internationally profiled study program in teacher education/further education with didactic guidelines and innovative, digitally available teaching and learning materials (OER)
- In Teacher Education
Establishment of a transnationally recognized additional qualification
- In Schools
Development of a didactic guidance for the implementation of the Four-Phase-Model and innovative, digitally available teaching and learning materials for teachers (OER)
- Evaluation
Development of self-evaluation tools as continuous quality monitoring for the implementation of the Four-Phase-Model

For more information on the project you may also want to visit <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/de/projects/search/details/2021-1-DE01-KA220-HED-000032070> (05.09.2023)

The Additional Qualification

The additional qualification builds on the experience gathered from an earlier certification. Since 2013, the certification "Interreligious Encounter Learning" has been offered by Heidelberg University of Education's Institute of Philosophy and Theology in cooperation with the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies and the Karlsruhe University of Education. The project, Sharing Worldviews, brings together professors, lecturers, and teachers from eight universities and secondary schools in four European countries. The subjects of Religious Education, religion, Ethics, and Philosophy are school subjects that already deal with existential questions. This is why the project starts with student teachers studying these specific subjects.

Due to the socio-political dimension of the project, the project invites educators of other subjects to participate on the platform,

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Teachers, students, lecturers and whoever wants to join this Erasmus+ project, are invited to sustainably contribute to building a society with an improved culture of conversation and acceptance of diversity. We want to contribute to the Europeanisation, internationalisation, and digitalisation of teacher education and research. A deeper understanding of each other and improved conflict resolution skills will improve tolerance of all world views in teacher training, primary and secondary schools, and society. Our goal is to overcome barriers associated with discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion, belief, sexual orientation, and disability. The unique insights of encounter learning promote the awareness of shared values within a diverse community.

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Weltsichten im Dialog: Sharing Worldviews: Transnationales Begegnungslernen; in: Daktylos 27 (2022) 1, S. 22f.; online zugänglich unter: https://www.ph-heidelberg.de/fileadmin/ms-presse-oeffentlichkeit/presse/Daktylos/PHHD_daktylos2022_BildungsraumEuropa.pdf (16.05.2022). Updated Version.

Partners and Associates

Partner Universities

- Heidelberg University of Education/Germany
- Ankara University/Turkey
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki/Greece
- Eskişehir Osmangazi Üniversitesi/Turkey
- Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies
- University College of Teacher Education Vienna-Krems/Austria
- Karlsruhe University of Education

Associated universities:

- Freiburg University of Education/Germany
- Heidelberg School of Education/Germany
- University of New Brunswick/Canada

Associated schools:

- Gymnasium Bammental/Germany
- Platon Schools/Greece
- Eskişehir Eti Sosyal Bilimler Lisesi/Turkey
- HAK/HAS/AUL Sacré Coeur, Vienna/Austria

The joint endeavors of this project are visible on the platform

www.sharing-worldviews.com



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