



CercleS policy paper applied Best-practices on COIL formats

Wednesday 15.11.2023

16:00-18:00 CET

Karen Abel, Dr. Natalia Carbajosa, Chaya Fischer, Nadia Fischer, Alix Glotz, Uta Hameister, Sabine Kasten, Dr. Stefanie Morgret, Dr. David Prickett, Dr. Catherine Spencer and Dr. Ruth Tobias



CercleS Policy Paper 2022

The possibilities of personal academic development created during the pandemic could further contribute to a **new quality of international academic relations**. By implementing formats such as:

- Joint online modules, including virtual classrooms
- Opening already existing language courses to students of other institutions to extend language choices
- International student tandems
- Telecollaboration
- Joint/blended intercultural competence classes
- Guest lectures
- Tutored workshops
- International language meetups (cafés).



Best-practices on COIL formats: Schedule

- DACADU – an intercultural and multilingual project within the European University Alliance EUt+ (20')
- INTERFACE – INTERcultural proFiciency and orAI CompetenCE in English (20')
- “What do you mean” - Experiencing Cultural Perspectives through Language – a joint online course Hebrew-German (A1) (20')
- Discussion: 3 groups in breakout rooms: 25' (Questions in chat)
- Report from breakout rooms: 15' (5' each group)
- Wrapping up/Next steps: (3')



DACADU – an intercultural and multilingual project within the European University Alliance EUt+

Project partners:

Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany; Polytechnic University of Cartagena, Spain; TU Dublin, Ireland; Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus; University of Technology of Troyes, France

Website: <https://interculturalblog-hda.de>

Presenters:

Dr. Stefanie Morgret and Sabine Kasten (Hochschule Darmstadt)

DACADU guests: Dr. Natalia Carbajosa (Polytechnic University of Cartagena), Dr. Catherine Spencer (TU Dublin) and Uta Hameister (Hochschule Darmstadt)



INTERFACE – INTERcultural proFiciency and orAI CompetenCE in English

Project partners:

Universität Potsdam, Germany and Beit Berl College, Israel

Website: <https://www.beitberl.ac.il/english/lecturers/pages/karen-abel.aspx>

Presenters:

Karen Abel (Beit Berl College) and Dr. David Prickett (Universität Potsdam)



“What do you mean” - Experiencing Cultural Perspectives through Language – a joint online course Hebrew-German (A1)

Project partners:

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Website: <https://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/aktivitaeten/projekte/huji-fub-joint-online-course/index.html>

Presenters:

Chaya Fischer, Alix Glotz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Nadia Fischer, Dr. Ruth Tobias (Freie Universität Berlin)



Leading questions for the discussion in breakout rooms (25')

Political issues:

- How can the format be sustainably integrated into the internationalization strategy of a higher education institution (HEI)?
- Which descriptors of these best practices would be best suited for a kind of a “modular framework” to scaffold future projects?

Pedagogical and organizational questions:

- Project development, Assessment, Course Design, Intercultural Awareness, linking language skills to intercultural communicative competence, EMI
- Tools, Data Security



Breakout Room 1 - results

I. Which factors have contributed to the project's success?

- Financial Aspect:
 - intercultural competence is important to institutions but not necessarily part of the curriculum. By process of elimination, the language center often ends up teaching this skill
 - Designing the course = “long term investment” - project leads can “volunteer” their time; hard to get additional instructors “on board” without compensation (or acquisition of additional instructors)
 - Getting to know how it can be done as well as whom to work with, even before the financial aspect is even looked at.



Breakout Room 1 - results

II. How can the format be integrated sustainably into the internationalization strategy of a higher education institution (HEI)?

- Some kind of virtual exchange like this could be incorporated into Erasmus programs (onboarding; awareness of intercultural “challenges” in advance)
- Curricular development with strategic partners / (European) university alliances
- Microcredentials (international internship / language / tandem ...); completing a certain number of microcredentials => “badge” or supplementary certificate to the diploma
- <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/micro-credentials>



Breakout Room 1 - results

III. Which descriptors of these best practices would be best suited for a “modular framework” to scaffold future projects?

- Any risks involved in making this a required format for students (“modular framework”)?
- Motivation for teachers: intrinsic motivation (!); how can COIL coordinators motivate instructors to test the COIL format (Some instructors feel that the format is being forced upon them; what are the needs of the curriculum?)
- Institutional benchmarks are needed to foster the development of COIL projects / courses (x number of COIL courses by [YEAR])

IV. **Additional Comments / Aspects**

- Pluricultural approach to teaching / course instruction. Example: “Israeli” and “German” groups are each very heterogeneous
- Course sizes: groups can be of varying sizes (one project up to 40 to 50 students; another project accepts 20 people). Asynchronous input might be essential for groups larger than this (videos, flipped classroom)
- CercleS Focus group to promote COIL in language programs



Breakout Room 1 - results

III. LINKS

- https://unipotsdamde-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/prickett_unipotsdam_de/EfBG1god8opKrxLsD7g_1_cBwHMLd00NAkOI47JbU5MVvg?e=yaPrgZ (this document)
- <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/micro-credentials>
- <https://www.rug.nl/rechten/education/international-programmes/gied/?lang=en>
- <https://bzhprogramm.tu-berlin.de/e/HOW2COIL>
- <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/coilup/>



Breakout Room 2 - results



Breakout Room 3 - results





Wrap up - Next steps

Dr. Sabina Schaffner, CercleS President





Thank you for your participation!

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