Promoting Virtual Exchange in Teacher Education through Cooperation and Training of University Lecturers – the Project “Lehramt.International” at University of Education Weingarten

Session 3 – Transforming mobility through virtual exchange 12/12/2023; 10.00–11.00 a.m.
Agenda

- Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?
- Project framework: How to promote Virtual Exchange (VE) as part of internationalization of teacher education?
- Project activities: What strategies and activities are being carried out?
- Project achievements: What are the outcomes?
- Challenges & lessons learnt within the project: What are the experiences so far?
Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?

Professional key competencies of teachers:

- Dealing with culturally heterogeneous learners
  - Manage linguistic and cultural diversity, understand prejudices/stereotypes and educate for justice, peace and tolerance
    (KMK, 2000; KMK, 2004/2019)

For teacher training, this implies:

- Guaranteeing the acquisition of key competencies
  (Bildungsplan Baden-Württemberg, 2016)

Intercultural experience is indispensable!

(HRK, 2013)
Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?

Possibilities for intercultural experience within teacher training:
- Internationalization abroad: Semester / internship abroad
- Internationalization@home: Intercultural / international / virtual learning opportunities

Challenges for the organization of teacher training:
- (Non)-Flexibility of curricula, support of professionalization, intercultural and digital competences of university staff, semester times, language, financing, recognition, etc.

DAAD Germany launched project “Lehramt.International”
Political and professional background: Why internationalization of teacher education?

University of Education Weingarten (UEW) receive project funding

Background UWE

- University of education: Mainly **teacher training** programs
- 3,100 students in total (2023): **2,130 teacher students** (2023)
- Student exchange: **40 outgoing** students; **20 Incoming** students (2023)
Project framework: How to promote VE as part of internationalization of teacher education?

Initial situation/hurdles at UEW

- Internationalization abroad & at home on site -> Pandemic promotes online formats

- Back to onsite teaching -> Risk of losing all online formats

- Promising experience but little expertise -> Support required for professional realization

Idea: Pilot project to try out and establish VE as part of internationalization at home
Project framework: How to promote VE as part of internationalization of teacher education?

Pilot Project:

- **Funding** by: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- **Time frame**: 2023-2024 (second project phase)
- One project **goal**: Foster internationalization at home through Virtual Exchange (VE) together with six partner Universities

> VE: learning opportunities in which learners with different cultural backgrounds are guided to learn together online by means of different methods (O'Dowd, 2023)
Project activities: What strategies and activities are being carried out?

Strategies and activities within the project:

- **Inspire and motivate** for the goal to establish VE:
  → kick-off meeting, good practice…

- Facilitating getting to know each other and **making contacts**:
  → networking week, zoom meetings…

- Learning and **training opportunities** as well as individual coaching:
  → networking week and further trainings/coachings…

- Enabling the **exchange of information**:
  → Newsletter, online platform…

- Create a contact and **support structure**:
  → project staff from University of Education Weingarten
Project achievements: What are the outcomes?

Outcomes: VE

- **Four VEs** in winter semester 23/24; one as BiP
- **Three VEs** (maybe one BiP) are in planning for summer semester 2024

Outcomes: more general

- Two further international lecturers engaged and five lecturers from UEW
- One newly conformed student exchange agreement
## Project achievements: VEs running in the winter semester 2023/24

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<td>Partners &amp; Lecturers: PHW &amp; all partner Unis; Gabriella von Lieres</td>
<td>Partners &amp; Lecturers: PHW &amp; UFSC, Sabine Lang</td>
<td>Partners &amp; Lecturers: PHW &amp; UFSC; Dr. Schweigkofler-Kuhn &amp; Prof. Weininger</td>
<td>Partners &amp; Lecturers: PHW, ULE, UdeC, UoB; Prof. Theilmann, Dr. Fernandes-Raga; Prof. Arenas; Prof. Villard</td>
<td>Partners &amp; Lecturers: PHW &amp; Sakhnin College; Gabriella von Lieres &amp; Dr. Manal Yazbak Abu</td>
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<td>Title of course &amp; Credit points: Building Bridges across Cultures; 3 ECTS</td>
<td>Title of course &amp; Credit points: Globalisierung und Kultur als Herausforderung für Lernen und Lehren; 3 ECTS</td>
<td>Title of course &amp; Credit points: Phonetik, Phonologie und Grammatik für DaF/DaZ; 3 ECTS</td>
<td>Title of course &amp; Credit points: Observing and learning from the past to protect our future: water; 3 ECTS</td>
<td>Title of course &amp; Credit points: Advanced Foreign Language Teaching Culture: Integrating the SDGs &amp; Culture in EFL classroom; 3 ECTS</td>
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Project achievements: VEs planned for summer semester 2024

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<td><strong>Partners &amp; Lecturers:</strong> PHW &amp; NOVA; Dr. Spägele &amp; Prof. Chamberlin</td>
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<td><strong>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</strong> Advanced Literary Studies: Multicultural Literature; 3/4 ECTS</td>
<td><strong>Title of course &amp; Credit points:</strong> to be announced</td>
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<td><strong>Semester turnus:</strong> every summer semester</td>
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Challenges & learnings within the project: What are the experiences so far?

Challenges

- Personal hurdles: motivation, interest, willigness, …
- Capability hurdles: didactic skills, technical skills, language skills …
- Organisational hurdles: semester times, shared learning platforms, data protection regulations …
- Structural hurdles: curriculum, recognition for academic achievement …
Challenges & learnings within the project: What are the experiences so far?

Lessons learnt:

- Personal hurdles: role models, opportunities to meet (in person), personal and thematic interest…
- Capability hurdles: training, coaching, work shadowing, offer language support options / tandems…
- Organisational hurdles: flexibility, support through additional staff (Hiwis), support by team / superiors…
- Structural hurdles: commitment of all stakeholders involved, facilitation through ministerial decisions, require a lot of time…

Acceptance of certain given limitations
Financial and human resources are helpful (e.g. coordination office for VE)
Your questions...
Thank you for your attention!