



9. INTERACTIVITY

How to take into consideration people from different cultures and languages in interaction

CONTEXT

It is very important to establish new relationships between people from different parts of Europe through cultural and/or linguistic exchanges. In particular, inhabitants of remote areas using media libraries should be able to interact with those from other remote areas (other regions or other countries).

THEORETICAL BASIS

One of the most effective ways of developing speaking and cultural skills is to practice the target language or culture in interaction during the accomplishment of a task – here, the presentation of cultural elements and the construction of a shared narrative. Virtual platforms provide an interesting tool through which to talk to inhabitants from distant regions or countries.

ACTIVITY IN A NUTSHELL

Presenting an element of a target culture to members of that culture. Each participant presents an element of the interlocutors' local or national heritage based on research carried out online before the meeting. The group of interlocutors validates/invalidates the information and provides details and perhaps personal or family anecdotes about this element of the heritage.

Activity/Solutions

CONTACT TYPE

Online

TIME NEEDED

1 hour

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

6-10

ACTIVITY TYPE

Group work
(requires at least two groups from different regions/countries)

TARGET GROUP

- All target groups

VARIATION OF THE ACTIVITY

The activity can also be used by language teachers to develop linguistic exchanges with native speakers.

Recommended level for learners: from level B1 (CEFR).

Goal

- To facilitate encounters between members of a group in the context of an intercultural exchange.
- To improve cross-cultural knowledge among European regions.
- To improve digital literacy skills (search and use information collected on the web) among European citizens.
- To improve online interaction skills (through practising talk in interaction) among European citizens.

How to prepare

- Choose a target heritage element. It can be something that can be easily identified from a search engine, for example: “Turku culinary speciality”, or “monument in Vilnius”. The search can also be based on a proposal by the facilitator.
- Choose at least one item per member of each group that should be researched. For example, a group of three participants researches three cultural elements.
- Advise each group, in advance, to look for information concerning these elements, images for preparing a few minutes presentation of each element.
- In the case of interaction with language learners, instruct the students to prepare the initial presentation.

Activity step by step

1. Before starting, ask each participant to present themselves. Possible questions for the introduction: name, place of residence, hobbies, what interests them in the other’s culture.
2. During the activity, instruct the group from the target culture to listen to the presentation of the element from “their” culture. In the interaction with language learners, it is recommended that the students do the initial presentation.
3. Invite each member of the “native” group to react to it, preferably by mentioning experiences they have had in relation to this element or similar elements.
4. Instruct the two groups to jointly develop an advertising slogan, or a short text for a tourist office, presenting each cultural element for people who do not know it. Depending on the time, the slogans can be made for all or some of the elements.
5. Possible extension: instruct each group to create an exhibition or poster on the target heritage elements they have presented. The exhibition or poster can then be used as a resource for other classroom activities or displayed in a media library.