Teachers Training course
Intercultural learning in education

My intercultural self
WHAT’S CULTURE?

In 1871, E.B. Tylor defined culture as

‘that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs and many other capabilities and habits acquired by … {members} of society’

This training has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. © AFS LEVEL W Training Manual
The iceberg concept of culture

**Primarily in awareness**
- Fine arts
- Literature
- Drama
- Classical music
- Popular music
- Folk-dancing
- Games
- Cooking
- Dress

**Primarily out of awareness**
- Notions of modesty
- Conception of beauty
- Ideals governing child raising
- Rules of descent
- Cosmology
- Relationship to animals
- Patterns of superior/subordinate relations
- Definition of sin
- Courtship practices
- Conception of justice
- Incentives to work
- Notions of leadership
- Tempo of work
- Patterns of group decision-making
- Conception of cleanliness
- Attitudes to the dependent
- Theory of disease
- Approaches to problem solving
- Conception of status mobility
- Eye behaviour
- Roles in relation to status by age, sex, class, occupation, kinship, etc.
- Definition of insanity
- Nature of friendship
- Conception of “self”
- Patterns of visual perception
- Body language
- Facial expressions
- Notions about logic and validity
- Patterns of handling emotions
- Conversational patterns in various social contexts
- Conception of past and future
- Ordering of time
- Preference for competition or co-operation
- Social interaction rate
- Notions of adolescence
- Arrangement of physical space
- Etc.

AFS Intercultural Programs Inc., Copyright 2010

This training has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. © AFS LEVEL W Training Manual
DIFFERENT BEHAVIOURS

SAME VALUE
SAME BEHAVIOUR

DIFFERENT VALUES
for example
**AFS Perspectives: Helping the world learn to live together**

Written by AFS experts from around the world, this blog champions diverse perspectives about culture and education, inspiring readers to become intercultural leaders of their communities.

[Read Perspectives](#)

---

**Connect: Intercultural Insights for Global Citizens**

This digital magazine explores intercultural and global citizenship education, voluntarism and social impact, through articles, interviews, and learning tools created by respected thought leaders and experts.

[Read Connect](#)

---

**Intercultural Learning (ICL) for AFS & Friends**

Series of insightful and concise essays on key intercultural concepts based on research and practical experiences. The series is produced by AFS education experts for anyone studying about or working with intercultural topics.

[Access the series](#)
Tools to Suspend Judgment

Overview of AFS Research

Concepts and Theories of Culture

Debriefing Experiential Learning

https://woca.afs.org/education/p/icl-for-afs-and-friends

This training has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
Think of a critical incident*…

* To be critical, the incident must have resulted in a conflict, in some sort of learning, and be rooted in an intercultural misunderstanding

• When and where did the incident happen?
• Who was involved? How did it begin?
• Who does what? Who says what? What’s the problem?
• How does the story end? What follow up is there?
Need to be more competent?

What is Intercultural Competence (IC)?

How can you learn to be more competent?
Intercultural Competence (IC)

Darla K. Deardorff (2006): “the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately in intercultural situations based on one’s intercultural knowledge, skills and attitudes.”

Martyn Barrett (2011): Intercultural competence is the set of attitudes, skills, knowledge and behaviours which are required for appropriate and effective interaction and communication with people who are perceived to be from a different cultural background from oneself.

Spitzberg and Changnon (2009): “appropriate and effective management of interaction between people who, to some degree or another, represent different or divergent affective, cognitive, behavioural orientations to the world”

Fantini & Termizzi (2006) “a complex of abilities needed to perform effectively and appropriately when interacting with others who are linguistically and culturally different from oneself”

CoE “Democratic and intercultural competence is defined as the ability to mobilise and deploy relevant values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and/ or understanding in order to respond appropriately and effectively to the demands, challenges and opportunities that are presented by democratic and intercultural situations. Competence is treated as a dynamic process in which a competent individual mobilises and deploys clusters of psychological resources in an active and adaptive manner in order to respond to new circumstances as these arise”

This training has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.
Intercultural learning is...

....a lifelong learning process which brings best results through conscious, planned, and facilitated experiential learning

D. Kolb, *Experiential Learning*, 1984