



## How to promote professional integration of international teachers and the cultural diversity in schools

**May, 27th 2023**

**University of the Aegean,  
Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece**

*Final Workshop-Conference of the project ITTS*

## The idea behind the Workshop-Conference

The ITTS Workshop-Conference aims to support schools in regards to the professional integration of international teachers by providing, exploring and discussing material, guidelines and methods for teachers, mentors and principals. The focus is on discussing content and sharing experiences using different creative formats.

The Workshop-Conference is based on the work of the European project ITTS – International Teachers for Tomorrow's School (<https://itts-europe.org/>) that aims to support cultural diversity in schools and international teachers in a strength-oriented way. At the same time, it wants to support schools and the people working in schools to reflect on their understanding of culture and to foster school development in the migration society. The workshop-conference is designed as an all-day hands-on conference.

### *Session Types*




**ITTS presentations:** ITTS members will provide an overview of the ITTS project, its results and the outputs.

**Panel discussion:** A group of experts will discuss the challenges of the international teachers' integration in European education systems in front of the ITTS conference audience.

**Workshops:** Interactive experiential sessions rooted in participation and active learning will take place. They will offer participants a chance to try out new methods on the integration process of international teachers in schools.



# Programme

8:30-9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration of Participants</b>				
9:00-9:10 a.m.	<b>Welcoming: Professor Thanasis Kizos, Head of the Department of Geography, University of the Aegean</b>				
9:10-10:00 a.m.	<b>Introduction to the Workshop-Conference by the ITTS project team: The situation of international teachers in the seven partner countries of ITTS</b>				
10:00-11:00 a.m.	<b>Keynote: Mariya Filipchuk (Μαρία Φιλίπτσουκ), international teacher</b>				
 <i>Coffee break</i>					
11:30-12:30 a.m.	<b>Panel discussion</b>				
12:30-1:00 p.m.	<b>Creative exchange on the Keynote and the Panel discussion</b>				
 <i>Lunch</i>					
2:00- 3:30 p.m.	<i>Workshopsession 1</i>				
	Artemis Christodoulou & Zoi Marmouri <b>The impact of migration trauma on students learning in the school environment: how to understand and deal with it as teacher?</b>	Renate Schüssler <b>Experiences of international teachers at school - which factors contribute to satisfaction and support? Presentation of the findings of the ITTS-survey with international teachers in seven countries</b>	Vana Chiou & Mihaela Brumen <b>Welcoming and mentoring new (international) teachers at school: benefits, challenges, and reflections</b>	Maria Aleksandrovich <b>Construct your school of diversity: plasticinography as inclusive method allowing fine motoric development</b>	Grzegorz Piekarski & Hanna Rugała <b>Board game as a tool for developing intercultural competence</b>
 <i>Coffee break</i>					

4:00-5:30 p.m.	<i>Workshopsession 2</i>				
	Maria Aleksandrovich <b>Veronica Sherborne Developmental Movement as an inclusive approach to teaching and working with movement</b>	Renate Schüssler & Oliver Holz <b>International Teachers at Tomorrow's School - Challenges and opportunities for schools in the migration society: concepts and practical exercises</b>	Katrijn D'Herdt & Nesrin Oruç Ertürk <b>Toolbox for international teachers: materials</b>	Guðrún Pétursdóttir <b>Intercultural/anti-discrimination education. Special focus on everyday discrimination/racism at schools as a workplace and educational organization</b>	Aynur Yürekli <b>Being an active bystander</b>
5:30-5:40 p.m.	<b>Closing remarks</b>				

# Workshops

## Session 1

### **Experiences of international teachers at school - which factors contribute to satisfaction and support? Presentation of the findings of the ITTS-survey with international teachers in seven countries**

*Speaker: Renate Schüssler*

ITTS stands for International Teachers at Tomorrow's School. The project aims at supporting international teachers with and without a refugee background in their professional re-integration at school. In the first part of the project, a transnational survey has been realised. 158 international teachers from seven countries took part. In the first part of the workshop the results of the transnational ITTS-survey will be presented. The focus of the presentation is on two questions: 1. Which factors influence if the international teachers feel valued and satisfied while working in school in their host country? 2. How can international teachers be supported in their re-entry in new schools? The second part of the workshop will be interactive. Exercises, discussion and exchange will be enabled.

### **The impact of migration trauma on students learning in the school environment: how to understand and deal with it as teacher?**

*Speakers: Artemis Christodoulou & Zoi Marmouri*

10' - introduction & theory

40' - first activity: participants will be divided in smaller groups, they will be asked to reflect on different learning behaviors and needs they have observed and on different teaching practices from their experience

40' – second activity: participants will be divided in different smaller groups and will be asked to brainstorm possible adaptations to those teaching practices in order to be more responsive

10' – conclusions

### **Welcoming and mentoring new (international) teachers at school: benefits, challenges, and reflections**

*Speakers: Vana Chiou & Mihaela Brumen*

Two activities will take place in this workshop:

1. Participants will be divided in groups with different roles (principals, mentors, teachers, school administration). They will be asked to discuss, consider and present possible benefits and challenges of having a new international teacher at their school.
2. Some reflection sheets from the "Mentoring Guide" will be introduced to the participants. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on integration practices for international teachers, and to propose recommendations on the reflection sheets.

### **Board game as a tool for developing intercultural competence**

*Speakers: Grzegorz Piekarski & Hanna Rugata*

Workshop will be about intercultural communication during which the participants will reflect on how culture influences behavior, and how to adapt the communication style to our interlocutors without losing own authenticity. The workshop will present the main concepts of intercultural communication and its importance in working with culturally diverse groups. In the practical part, the Culture Crossover board game will be presented, the aim of which is to develop cultural sensitivity. Participants will play the game and learn to use it as an educational tool in working with young people and adults at schools, universities, libraries, cultural institutions and NGOs.

### **Construct your school of diversity: plasticinography as inclusive method allowing fine motoric development**

*Speaker: Maria Aleksandrovich*

In this workshop, participants explore the possibilities of plasticine to strengthen students' fine motor skills and creative thinking. Participants will practice fun filled, innovative, activity mediated exercises that facilitate children to build on hand and arm strength. They stimulate the mind as well as the large and fine muscles of the hands to build on motor endurance efficiently and creatively. Come, join in, and have fun with plasticine!

## Session 2

### **Veronica Sherborne Developmental Movement as an inclusive approach to teaching and working with movement**

*Speakers: Maria Aleksandrovich*

Sherborne Developmental Movement is a method of working in which the movement is securely based in normal developmental movement experiences. It was developed by Veronica Sherborne in the later part of the XXth century. It is an inclusive approach to teaching and working with movement and one that is well grounded in Laban's Movement Theory, which has been developed over a period of 40 years. Used in early years, primary, secondary, and special schools, it is particularly popular as a means of developing movement opportunities for children with special needs, setting shared movement experiences within a safe space. It promotes confidence through guided exploration, body awareness, and physical creativity fostering a love of movement through a series of fun activities that can be experienced and enjoyed by children and adults of any ability. Come, join in, and have fun! (sport dress is needed, active exercises)

### **International Teachers at Tomorrow's School - Challenges and opportunities for schools in the migration society: concepts and practical exercises**

*Speakers: Renate Schüssler & Oliver Holz*

ITTS stands for International Teachers at Tomorrow's School. Materials for different target groups have been developed, amongst them mentors and principals. They play a key role in supporting and welcoming international teachers at their schools.

In the first part of the workshop, the concept of school development in the migration society will be presented and discussed.

The focus of the workshop will be practical exercises in its second part. Tools and materials to enable a warm welcome and a smooth inclusion of international teachers in the staff team will be introduced and be tested out.

### **Toolbox for international teachers: materials**

*Speakers: Katrijn D'Herdt & Nesrin Oruç Ertürk*

During this interactive workshop, we will be working with the materials of the IO2 Toolbox for international teachers. After a presentation of the materials, we want to share and collect thoughts on contextualisation and use of the materials.

Furthermore, participants will have the opportunity to try-out some of the materials and provide us feedback.

### **Intercultural/anti-discrimination education. Special focus on everyday discrimination/racism at schools as a workplace and educational organization**

*Speaker: Guðrún Pétursdóttir*

Short input about intercultural education - focusing on why and how participants will discuss some concepts in small groups and evaluate the situation in their own schools with suggestions for reactions.

### **Being an active bystander**

*Speaker: Aynur Yürekli*

1. Participants will be divided into two different roles: a) to be an international teacher, b) to be a teacher at a school with international teachers. They will be asked to list their experience, especially focusing on difficulties that they have faced. They will be asked to fill out a worksheet under the following headings:

- a) What happened?
- b) How many people were involved?
- c) What action was/was not taken?

2. After the introduction of bystander intervention strategies, the participants will be grouped (according to the total number) and given different cases to discuss and decide which intervention mode would be most suitable in the given context.

## Venue



UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN

University Hill, Geography Bldg. 811 32

Mytilene, Lesvos, GREECE

The University of the Aegean (<https://www.aegean.edu/>) was established in 1984. Its six campuses are organized as a network of schools and departments located on six Aegean islands: Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Rhodes, Syros, and Lemnos.

The resulting challenge of distributing and coordinating academic and administrative activities has driven the adoption of ICT in all academic practices and has enhanced the sense of unity across the University's academic community.

In terms of its educational strategy, the UAegean invests in multidisciplinary scientific fields that aim at addressing the needs of the modern world. It has led the way in the introduction of new undergraduate and postgraduate disciplines (such as environmental studies, multimedia and design, humanities, Mediterranean studies, innovation management), making the UAegean a pioneering and competitive institution by Greek and European standards.

Every year, the University of the Aegean organises a good number of conferences, scientific meetings and events in which distinguished scientists, scholars and artists participate. The organisation of the various conferences, meetings and events aim at exchanging ideas and information about the scientific domains relevant to the University's teaching and scientific activities.

## Contact information:

If you have any questions or need any further information about the ITTS Conference that will take place on 27th May 2023 in Mytilene, Greece, please contact [ittsconference@aegean.gr](mailto:ittsconference@aegean.gr)

If you have questions concerning the ITTS project, please contact [itts@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:itts@uni-bielefeld.de)