Challenges of Interculturalism

8th. Edition 2016-2017

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3 ECTS

Trimester: 1

Dates and time

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 Nov</td>
<td>14h-17h</td>
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<td>Friday 25 Nov</td>
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<td>Friday 2 Dec</td>
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<td>Monday 12 Dec</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14 Dec</td>
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<td>Monday 19 Dec</td>
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Room:

1. Description

In today's world learning to live together in diversity is a global and shared challenge. Achieving a complex balance between unity and diversity that combines respect for and recognition of differences, but at the same time places emphasis on the common bonds that unite us more than they separate us, has become a challenge for most present day societies.

In view of the problems suffered by the traditional models of integration and accommodation of diversity, the interculturalist approach has gradually gained ground in certain academic, political and social fields.

For the interculturalist approach, avoiding segregation and ghettoization, discrimination and racism are fundamental goals. And so it is to take the “diversity advantage” by translating cultural diversity as a positive resource for the development and enrichment at all levels.

In order to advance towards this twofold goal of ensuring social cohesion and at the same time exploiting the advantages deriving from cultural diversity, it is essential to focus on the domain of public policies, and especially in the crucial role of cities.

The main objective of these sessions is to provide a broaden perspective of the intercultural approach and to bridge the gap between the theoretical framework and
the design, implementation and evaluation of concrete public policies that pursue to build more intercultural societies. Conceptual frameworks, debates and analysis of political strategies and best practices will be included in the sessions, and special attention will be paid to how local authorities deal with diversity from an intercultural perspective to strengthen social cohesion and promote development.

2. Competences

General skills

• Ability to express and use theoretical concepts
• Ability to search, manages, analyse, interpret, produce and apply information.
• Ability to organize and plan programs.
• Ability to communicate with experts from other areas and to manage conflict situations.
• Relational skills for conflict resolution.
• Valuation of diversity in information management and in the news.
• Ability to apply knowledge into practice.
• Ability to learn, to adapt to new situations.
• Capacity for innovation.

Specific skills

• Ability to identify and compare programs and intercultural policies
• Ability to identify the theoretical assumptions on intercultural relations and identify conflicts that may arise.
• Ability to identify and apply the principles and tools of Public Management applied to intercultural
• Ability to identify good and bad intercultural practices
• Ability to assess applications intercultural practices from a contextual and comparative perspective.
• Relational skills to manage cross-cutting policies, and linguistic pluralism and other social, cultural types of nonverbal communication, etc.

3. Contents

The first session will introduce the module to all participants, paying special attention to main goals and objectives to be fulfilled. All sessions will include a first part, in which concepts, main ideas and theoretical approaches will be discussed, and a second part,
which will include a more practical approach, mainly through working groups and role play dynamics. The sessions will be developed as following:

**Session 0: Introduction**

- General objectives and sessions’ contents.
- Methodology and evaluation

**Session 1: The intercultural approach**

- Why interculturalism?
- Main concepts and principles
- Debate on the challenges of the intercultural approach

**Session 2: From theory to practice (1): The design of an intercultural city strategy**

We will analyse some crucial aspects of the process to design and implement a city strategy and we will make a comparative analysis of 3 city strategies (Barcelona, Copenhagen, Reggio Emilia)

- Political leadership
- The need for a global and transversal approach
- Participation of civil society
- Evaluation

Debate on the challenges of designing an intercultural policy strategy

**Session 3: From theory to practice (2): The ICC project of the Council of Europe**

The session will pay attention to a pan-European initiative such as Intercultural Cities, as an example of networking and commitment with the intercultural approach. Examples of initiatives and instruments will be included in the session.

- The role of the Council of Europe and the interculturalism discussion
- ICC as a networking at local level
- Instruments and practices
Session 4: Analysing intercultural best practices

What makes a best practice “intercultural”? 

We will analyse two best practices: the antirumours approach and Fuenlabrada’s local police approach.

Debate about the challenges of designing and implementing intercultural best practices

Session 5: Evaluation and comparative indicators: ICC index and how to evaluate the impact of a best practice

- Presentation of the ICC Index
- Working groups to identify the “most relevant” indicators
- Debate on the main challenges of evaluating intercultural strategies and policies

Session 6: Practical exercise to design an intercultural practice

Students must choose a concrete intercultural challenge and design a specific policy/practice to deal with that challenge from an intercultural perspective

- Identifying the challenge and the goal: what do we want to achieve?
- Applying the intercultural approach on the design of the policy/practice
- Identifying the most useful indicators to measure the impact
- Designing methodology and actions
- Presenting the proposal

Debate on the challenges found on the process
4. Evaluation

We will provide further information on the evaluation process in the first session.

10% participation
20% in-class exercises
30% group’s project
40% final paper

5. Selected bibliography

Complementary references will be provided during the sessions.

- Council of Europe (2013): The Intercultural City: Step by step guide. Strasbourg: Council of Europe
  - [https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMCont ent?documentId=090000168048da42](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168048da42)


