



# Teacher Training Thematic Group

## Thematic groups

The main thematic area of the network is Learning About Migration and Intecultural Relations (LearningMigration). This means sharing experience and best practice of how best to deal with the educational challenge of the increasing number of immigrants into Europe, and also the greater movement of people between European countries. It also means integrating a better understanding of the phenomenon of migration into daily teaching in all parts of the educational community. It further means involving educational authorities in this network of educators with the purpose of testing how governmental plans and reforms are implemented in schools and teacher training, and also involve research institutions and NGOS in this process.

To turn this into practical working areas the large number of institutions in the LearningMigration network has been organised into four transnational seminar groups of (a) local schools, (b) teacher training institutions, (c) institutions of didactical research, and (d) educational authorities that will discuss educational challenges in a comparative and sharing manner (an independent group for NGOs will not be set up).

Each of the four thematic seminar groups will be active in CLUSTERING networks, projects and initiatives in the area of migration and intercultural relations, thereby fostering long term collaboration with other networks, projects, and European initiatives.

- Collaborative learning in transnational groups (seminar groups)
- Collaborative learning in integrated (complementary) groups in each country
- Strengthening the historical dimension in learning: the understanding that migration is an ongoing phenomenon that is not new to Europe – in fact that migration is “normal” for society. However, that migration has been increasing year by year as part of globalisation and that certain competences should be trained in schools to make students better able to handle a rapidly changing world.
- Strengthening the use of Emphaty in the learning situation through implementing of story telling and related pedagogy
- Encourage “exchange” as a pedagogic instrument (students, teachers, schools, families)

## General ideas for thematic groups

### 1. Comparative aspects – get to know each other

- present status with each partner (overview)
- be informed of existing plans for the future with each partner

What does this mean?:

To be aware of the actual situation in each partner group + new initiatives. Try to incorporate example of

best practice + make use of good ideas already launched.

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### 2. National policies

- to be aware of new initiatives taken.
- to relate to existing networks and projects in own country

### 3. EU policies

- to be aware of new initiatives taken.
- to relate to existing networks and projects in own country

What does this mean?:

To be aware that the situation in individual institutions is dependent on rules and regulations within each

country, and that these rules and regulations are also dependent on common initiatives (EU and other).

To be aware of the most important of these policies in the area of migration/intercultural relations will also be helpful in finding common issues to collaborate on.

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4. To launch at least one main initiative within the group

- weight on coordinator's profile (the prerogative of the leader)

- weight on an initiative that can give meaning to several partners

5. Time line – description of phases in work of the group

What does this mean?:

The group coordinator supported by the core partners in each group has the right to put particular emphasis on a particular issue and make this the "main track" in the work. This values the benefit of concentration (but does not forget that some of the partner institutions will have special wishes they would like to have published on the thematic group www-pages (see # 6 and 7 below).

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6. To involve existing Comenius and other initiatives within the LM-network

7. To help initiating new project initiative (to act as a permanent Contact Seminar)

What does this mean?:

The thematic group will act as a mini network giving room to various project initiatives and helping these

to prepare for the Contact Seminar (pre-conference day during the annual conference). – It should be possible both to give priority to a main track (# 4 above) and to be helpful in promoting some other project ideas of particular interest among the partners.

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8. To give presentations at LM annual conferences (dissemination)

9. To assist overall coordinator in writing report of best practices and to write a short annual report for the thematic group (archived on the WWW-site).

11. Run own part of the WWW-site

(including Information Letters, Events, and News)

12. Sustainability

Try to find own financial sources that will help prolonging activities after the end of the network period

What does this mean?:

The group coordinators will have the ability to lead and to learn by this activity. Further, to be helping the

overall coordinator in keeping the large network together.

## **Contact**

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