Makno
Managing knowledge in intercultural learning communities

Constructing a shared approach to Makno: some suggestions by ARACNE

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MAKNO AIMS

Improve pedagogical approaches and the management of adult education organisations

• exchanging methodologies and tools used in managing knowledge and learning processes within organisations of immigrant's integration and cultural mediation

• improving skills and abilities of participant organisations in use of creative approaches, methodologies and tools in informal and non-formal learning within inter-cultural framework

Support the social inclusion of migrants

• developing methodologies and tools in order to improve effectiveness of involved organisations in theirs daily work aimed at integration among migrants and autochthones.

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INTER-CULTURAL LEARNING PROCESSES

some typologies:

- learning communities where members are from different cultures / ethnic groups

- learning processes aimed at the social inclusion of migrants, the inter-cultural dialogue and the respect of differences

- training paths where trainers and/or learners are from different cultures / ethnic groups

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WHAT IS A CREATIVE APPROACH
IN INTER-CULTURAL LEARNING PROCESSES

•A way to promote and experiment open, flexible, amusing, curious, analogical, emotional ways to play learning and social participation

•A way to open new and innovative spaces for communication between differences

•A way to read from a new perspective ourselves and the others.

•A way to face concrete problems and gaps by social networks dealing with lifelong learning, inter-cultural learning practices, interventions in disadvantaged areas

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WHAT *ISN'T* A CREATIVE APPROACH IN INTER-CULTURAL LEARNING PROCESSES

•a *politically-correct* (or, better, a *crypto-racist*) slogan that's mean "**because** we are culturally **different**, **it's impossible** for us being able **to communicate**: this is why each culture has to tolerate the autonomy of the other one"

• a tendency in person-perception to form stereotypes based on ethnic background: it often fails to capture either the range of variation within any given ethno-cultural group or the fact that cultural practices are tied to personal and family histories in complex ways

•a way not to face serious problems related to racism, power, poverty, war, pain, ignorance, conflicts…An adequate response to cultural diversity will have to encompass attention to language, racism, and inequalities of power as well as the positive meanings of cultural tradition and ethnic identity

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HOW TO USE A CREATIVE APPROACH

Production of methodologies and tools for intercultural learning processes imply the ability of analysing each situation and choosing the communication tools fitted for that specific situation. This means to learn continuously from experience, having the awareness of this process and to recognize continuous learning as a need. Where to be continuous learning means to be able to learn from each situation by aware and (sometimes) guided reflection.

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HOW TO USE A CREATIVE APPROACH

This path means not to trust the main tool is catalogue of usages and customs of main ethnic groups settled in a context; in fact using the catalogue there are at list two possible gaps:
an individual might be "confused" with his/her culture and his/her own story/specificities/needs/"personal fades" might be neglected
there is no tool for enter in communication with an individual which ethnic group is not in the catalogue.

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LIST OF POSSIBLE METHOLOGIES AND TOOS:

Attending observation
interview
Telling migration paths by collecting personal memories
role-play
project work
focus group
Shared social research
Case-studies/action research about situations of difficult "cohabitation" or declared social conflict among groups of different cultures
Shared planning within the communities
Creative writing
selftelling
Brainstorming
Video- survey
Artistic tools for expression
Educational playing
photography
artistic performances and installations in the street and in public spaces
Shared planning and carrying out of public events
social networking
virtual community
……….

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KEY-WORDS FOR A COMMON GLOSSARY

-**Anthropological approach**

-**Learning processes (formal / non-formal / informal)**

-**Learning as social practice**

-**Inter-cultural learning processes**

-**Learning communities as Communities of practice**

-**Inter-cultural / Multi-cultural
/Trans-cultural approaches/processes**

-**……..**

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