



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



In-Cult



Educational Methods
Cultural Cooperative Learning
University of Ruse "A. Kanchev"
Ruse, Bulgaria

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Structure of the methods description:

Name of the method: Cultural Cooperative Learning

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Pictures:





Author: Lyuboslav Yordanov, Slivo Pole Municipality, Bulgaria

Short info:

Organizer: unions/clubs of pensioners, universities, schools, senior groups, cultural community houses, adult education centers, civil society organizations, volunteering organizations, libraries, NGO's, other local communities

Target Group: old adults, adults, high school/university students

Time required for preparation: several months

Time required for implementation: it depends on the complexity of the task

Venue/place (inside, outside): both internal and external work

Suitable time: any time

Possibility to implement online: possible online

Short description of the method:

Cooperative Learning (CL) stands for some flexible group-based innovations called CL methods. One of their distinctive features is that they mostly aim at the development of cognition, which includes thinking, remembering, concept formation, logical reasoning and problem solving in social contexts. In addition to learning of new knowledge, these methods aim at extending social skills and individuals' capabilities for more effective interpersonal relationships.

We call **Cultural Cooperative Learning** a CL method applied the In-Cult project on the base of cultural intangible treasures.

Implementation of the method in the project:

The members of our learning working groups were organized in groups of two or three members. They were introduced to the examples of intangible cultural heritage of Bulgaria proposed by 95 participants in the study. Each group had to thoroughly study the examples in the regions, for example, Slivo Pole, Ruse, Vidin, Sofia, Kazanlak, Plovdiv, etc. Each group had to make a decision and present the most significant information as a basis for including specific Bulgarian treasures in the project. The final selection of Bulgarian treasures was the result of: certain criteria (regions of Northern and Central Bulgaria; well known treasures; categories); group presentations and summarizing discussions.

Step by step description of the method:

1. Preparation of tasks for implementation and example.
2. Forming groups of adult learners to perform a specific task related to thinking, remembering, concept formation, logical reasoning and problem solving.
2. Presentation of general information and example on the specific task.
3. Determining the methods of searching and collecting additional information - by using new media - smart phones, tablets, computers.
4. Determination of the criteria for the selection of Bulgarian treasures.
5. Determining the ways of presenting the selected treasures.
6. Working in groups with the new information technologies.
7. Meeting and presentation of selected treasures from each group.
8. Summarizing discussions, drawing conclusions and selecting 15 Bulgarian intangible treasures for the project.
9. Creation of a presentation based on the information collected by the groups and information sources.

Teaching and Learning:

The more adults continue to work cooperatively, the more their corporate environment becomes productively beneficial. The following are some of the purposes of implementing a cooperative learning culture in training of adults:

1. Development and acquisition of necessary life skills.
2. Sharing new knowledge.
3. Building teams that collaborate.
4. Increasing tolerance and acceptance of diversity.

5 Keywords:

Cooperative Learning, group-based innovation, cultural treasures, CL Methods, CL Models

Possible training tools, material, resources to use (e.g. flyer, roll-up etc.):

In-Cult game, In-Cult website, Internet, Overhead projector, links of video and websites about the chosen cultural treasure, pictures, articles, presentations, scientific papers, etc.

Dissemination possibilities of method:

Applications in the teaching and learning older adults, university and high school students; publishing in brochures, conference proceedings, posters; organizing a competition in In-Cult game