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In-Cult



Educational methods
Experiencing culture through
everyday objects
ILEU e.V., Germany

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Structure of the methods description:

Name of the method: Experiencing culture through everyday objects

Name/Institution of the contributor: Institut für virtuelles und reales Lernen in der Erwachsenenbildung an der Universität Ulm (ILEU) e.V.

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Picture





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Short info:

Organizer: civil society institution

Target Group: anyone interested in the topic, preferably a group with participants from different cultures

Time required for preparation: depends, some hours in cooperation with a second-hand store/recycling shop

Time required for implementation: 2 hours

Venue/place (inside, outside): in a second-hand department store

Suitable time: during opening hours of the store

Possibility to implement online: the results can be presented on a website, small videos can be made

Short description of the method (max. 100 words):

Connection between culture and social issues, in a second-hand department store. All participants are invited to choose an object with which he/she associates a certain experience or memory related to an intangible cultural treasure and then tell a story about it. After, all participants design with all selected objects a shop window together and create connections between the objects.

Implementation of the method in the project (max. 100 words):

In the frame of the In-cult meeting in Ulm in July 2022, the participants coming from six different countries and guests from other countries had a meeting in a big second-hand-shop in Ulm. All participants had been invited to choose an object with which he/she associates a certain experience or memory related to an intangible cultural treasure and to tell a story about. This was the start of a very animated and inspiring dialogue. After, a task for all had been to design a shop window together with all the objects and to create connections between the objects. Many similar similarities, but also cultural differences had been discovered.

Step by step description of the method (max. 200 words):

1. Find a second-hand department store in your area which is easily accessible & get in contact with the owner.
2. Depending on the size of the store, adjust the number of participants (no more than 15 persons). In an international meeting, clarify in advance the knowledge level of foreign languages and provide a translator, if necessary.
3. Provide paper and pens for notes to describe the objects.
4. Plan time for a guided visit of the store.
5. Every participant gets 15 minutes to find an object in the store which appeals to them and write down why it was chosen and what cultural experiences from their country they associate with it.
6. Then the group gathers and everybody shows their objects and shares their thoughts on it.
7. This will provoke some discussions in the group – did someone else (from a different country) think on choosing the same object while wandering through the store?
8. Together the group will now place the objects in a corner of the store in a display with their notes on their chosen objects.
9. This way the results will also be visible for future visitors of the store and provoke similar reflections about this topic

Teaching and Learning (max. 100 words):

Through this method, the participants learn a new way to share their personal experiences with treasures, they are inspired to think and rethink what specific objects mean to them and why. Comparisons can be made between participants from different countries – are there similarities/differences?

5 Keywords:

small groups, second hand store / recycling shop, comparison, discussion, photos

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

Material on history of the store/the objects

Dissemination possibilities of method:

Pictures of the display in the store, press, radio, social media, exhibition/exposition