



INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

Context

Cultural diversity in the Austrian school population

Keywords: Intercultural education, communication

Description

Intercultural learning as an 'educational principle' in Austrian schools aims to stir all pupils' interest and curiosity in cultural and linguistic diversity, to facilitate mutual understanding and respect among members of ethnically diverse groups, and to foster integration. However, to this day a systematic implementation of this educational approach on a broader scale is still lacking. Therefore, teachers are called upon to acquire knowledge about the goals and forms of implementation of intercultural learning and they must be prepared to effectively deal with diverse student populations.

Pupils with additional languages may attend further training in German language (and also get to know terms of other languages) and divers cultural topics (f.e. Christmas traditions)– it's called intercultural training (IKL). Main attitude: collaborative learning and actively participation. According to the competences of the pupil this training may take place in different settings: in class, in small groups, in 1:1 tuition, and, in different timeframes. The pupil may attend further training and support without grading for a maximum period of 2 years. After that, additional IKL training is possible, but the pupil will get grades then.

Principles:

- I. Open minded attitude towards cultural and language diversity – change in perspective and dialogue
- II. Topics of cultural and language diversity in class - contingency approach
- III. Inclusion of the different cultural traditions, topics and languages in the class (school) community - illustrative aids and media

Example: Welcome in different languages





Bildquellen www.offenbach.de, www.e-lisa-academy.at, <http://de.123rf.com>

