



INTERCULTURAL PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



ACTIVITY 1		Written and oral intercomprehension	
Objectives	a) To provide some tricks to favour oral and written intercomprehension b) To show the resources already edited to favour oral and written intercomprehension		
Proposals	INTERCOMPREHENSION ABILITY TRAINING	LINGUISTIC INTERCOMPREHENSION ABILITY TRAINING (ORAL PREFERENCE)	
Activity dynamics	<p>The methods for the intercomprehension of languages are based on the ability to comprehend a foreign language without having learnt it, by means of the similarity that it has with our first language or a language that we know.</p> <p>We prepare a portfolio with short texts in both languages of two areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional (issues on tourism, but not scientific texts) • Social (about current news, reading journals or newspapers) <p>The words, expressions or constructions the meaning of which is not inferable either from the context or from their linguistic knowledge will be highlighted.</p>		<p>Video extracts will be used.</p> <p>Any current news available in video (<i>Youtube</i>)</p>
Comments	<p>The intercomprehension, both of oral and written texts, improves significantly if the knowledge on the topic of discussion or the text has been previously activated. Consequently, it should be borne in mind that it is necessary to explain briefly the topic of discussion of the text that they will read or listen to and, optionally, to clarify the meaning of some words or expressions that are important for the comprehension and that present some difficulty.</p>		
Space	Standard room		Standard room
Materials	Current texts (mainly journalistic) that deal with topics that are known by everybody (international news, interesting facts, documentaries, news related to their area of		Extracts from current videos (journalistic or humorous), with topics that are known by everybody



	expertise).	(international news, interesting facts, documentaries, news related to their area of expertise).
Estimated duration	2-3h	2-3h



ACTIVITY 2		Intercultural communication techniques. Possibility of working together	
Objectives	To work with and produce bilingual linguistic tools that consider some usual communicative situations in the participants' professional area (agents of public entities, members of associations).		
Proposals	CROSS-BORDER COOPERATIVE VOCABULARY (CATALAN-FRENCH-SPANISH) IN THE AREA OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM	PRESENTATION OF ALREADY EXISTING ON-LINE TOURISTIC VOCABULARY (IN CATALAN AND/OR FRENCH, AND THE TRANSLATION TO THE OTHER LANGUAGE)	
Activity dynamics	<p>During the training, we can present the beginning of a thematic dictionary that contains specific communicative situations, which include specific vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An informal conversation - A meeting - An administrative document - A report <p>We propose to use already existing material.</p>	<p>The exercise will consist in looking for already existing basic vocabulary on the internet, or starting to build our own lexicon.</p> <p>Through the discussion of these materials we propose that, for heterogeneous groups, they choose an area of work and select the most usual terms according to their experience. This selection can be the germ for a more simple new material, which can easily be distributed among professionals through a web page or wiki.</p>	
Comments	The choice between one or other option will depend on the availability of computers to work with and the quality of the internet connection.		
Space	Computer room	Computer room and projector	
Materials	Computers with internet access	Computer and projector	
Estimated duration	2h	2h	



ACTIVITY 3		Intercultural communication techniques. Establishing a relationship	
Objectives	To work and produce tools related to non-verbal language that take into consideration some usual communicative situations in the participants' professional area.		
Proposals	ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF NON-VERBAL LANGUAGE THROUGH IMAGES AND VIDEOS		SIMULACIONS
Activity dynamics	<p>Through a PowerPoint presentation, the most important non-verbal aspects of communication will be tackled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gestures - Body positions - Smiles - Listening attitudes - Kinetic elements: emblems, adaptors, illustrators and regulators. <p>The trainer will show images and videos by means of a PowerPoint presentation, and participants will discuss which effects non-verbal communication aspects have on intercultural communication.</p> <p>It is important that the differences between both cultures come up. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which is the interpersonal distance? - Are the emblems the same? - Are the same illustrator gestures used? - When greeting, do they shake hands? Do they kiss? How many kisses? From which side do they start? 		<p>Groups of at least two people will be formed (depending on the number of participants) and they will simulate specific intercultural communicative situations, based on usual communicative situations related to the area of sustainable tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting - Conversation enquiring for information - At a visit - A presentation - Explanation of a piece of work.



	<p>- When saying goodbye, do they shake hands? Do they kiss? How many kisses? From which side do they start?</p> <p>It is important to pay attention to the people's characteristics (men, women, young, adults, elderly people, etc.)</p>	
Comments		
Space	Computer room and projector.	Computer room and projector.
Materials	Computer with internet access. A projector. PowerPoint presentation ¹ .	None.
Estimated duration	2h	2h

¹ A sample powerpoint presentaton is provided in Appendix 6.



ACTIVITY 4		Intercultural communication techniques. Learning to work together with documents	
Objectives	a) To learn the formal and treatment aspects in the writing of standard documents in the area of sustainable tourism. b) To be conscious about the differences of the conceptual definition on one and other side of the border.		
Proposals	WRITING OF DOCUMENTS	ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTS	
Activity dynamics	<p>Some groups are created with participants from the same side of the border. Each group is asked to write one of the following documents on a big cardboard so that they can show it to the rest of the group. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The minutes of a meeting - A formal email - An informal email - A letter - A report - A text inviting to participate at a meeting - An informative sign <p>Then, the groups are joined in twos (each formed by members of different states) and they put it in common.</p>		
Comments	<p>Small groups are created (from 2 to 4 people) and are given written samples in Catalan and French of the different textual typologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The minutes of a meeting - A formal email - An informal email - A letter - A report - A text inviting to participate at a meeting - An informative sign <p>In groups, the differences observed are commented. Finally, the whole group can carry out a synthesis.</p>		



Space	A room with large tables to work in groups.	A room with large tables to work in groups.
Materials	Cardboard and writing tools. Sample documents.	Cardboard and writing tools. Sample documents.
Estimated duration	1h30	1h30



ACTIVITY 5	
Objectives	To practice realistic communicative situations by means of new technologies.
Proposals	SIMULATIONS USING <i>SECONDLIFE</i>
Activity dynamics	<p>A virtual environment is proposed to work realistic and meaningful communicative situations, online, by means of new technologies.</p> <p>Specifically, we propose access to the virtual site SecondLife (www.secondlife.com). It is a site that offers a virtual world and the possibility to create personalisable avatars. Moreover, there are different settings to interact.</p> <p>Communication is synchronic and allows the combination of the use of (written) chats and audio.</p> <p>The use of SecondLife requires a powerful computer and an excellent internet connection. In addition, it is necessary to master the mechanics of the application (very easy to people used to play videogames, slower in the case of people inexperienced with video games).</p> <p>We propose to assign Specific roles and tasks to different people and to interact in a virtual setting that simulates a meeting.</p>



The advantages of this kind of activity deal with two main concepts:

- The possibility of interacting from a distance
- The avatar reduces the self-consciousness involved with interacting with others

It is necessary to propose activities to do, such as:

- Making an appointment
- Enquiring for information
- Proposing a meeting
- Explaining an idea
- Etc.



	There is a possibility of accessing thousands of other settings: leisure spots, cities, beaches, cafés, etc.
Comments	If technical issues prevent a suitable functioning of the application and there is still available time in the session, the same simulated activities can be carried out by means of a role-play.
Space	The activity can be carried out from the participant's homes. Previously, especially if participants do not have experience with video games, it is recommended to help them install the application, set up their avatar and give them the basic indications to go around the virtual environment and communicate with others.
Materials	Up-to-date computers and good internet connections It is recommended (though not essential) to have headphones and microphones.
Estimated duration	3h-5h



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