



Transcultural Biography Work (TBW) for Adult Education

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In the Grundtvig Multilateral Project "Realize - Transcultural Biography Work for Adult Education" seven partner organisations from five countries (Turkey, Italy, Austria, Lithuania and Switzerland) cooperate on developing the TBW approach and modules and probe it in pilot courses.

Biography Work starts from people's life stories and their memories to develop beneficial self concepts and broaden the horizon of possible choices in present and future. Moreover, it stimulates a holistic mutual understanding of people. Therefore it is an approved approach mainly used in adult education, care and elderly care, in the support of adopted children, and in counselling. It offers qualified methods to develop personal access towards diverse issues in learning groups via self-exploration and mutual exchange. Biography Work uses different forms of memorising and expressing to stimulate memory, exchange and reflect it. It focuses on personal resources and potentials to support learning in present and to encourage new visions for the future.

Transcultural biographical self-exploration leads to a qualitative exchange, which has the potential to change mindsets and stimulate holistic and sustainable learning processes. An important stimulus for such change is the recognition that human beings – regardless of their cultural background, gender, age – are similar with regard to basic needs and emotional patterns and reactions.

TBW helps express oneself, rediscover and share memories, get into dialogue with each other and understand mutual dependencies and differences on the basis of mutual respect. TBW implies to regard people's unique experience, to start from their horizon of experience and understanding. Transcultural Biography Work helps overcome misunderstanding and stereotypic perceptions among people. Transcultural mindsets are also fostered among teachers/educators and counsellors and students/learners taking into account the theoretical background of W. Welsh.

At the International Conference "The Future of Education" we would like to present TBW approach and the experience of the project partners regarding the adaption to different countries, institutions and target groups.