



## **Bridging the Gaps Through Folk Tales: a Sample Case - Caft Project**

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The very gist of every culture is the experience of human and folk tales are one of the major means which perfectly represent these mutual and universal yet differing experiences of human situated in diverse social, cultural, political, geographical and anthropological areas and eras. From this point of view, they play a crucial role in children's education as well as in their mental, psychological and spiritual development. Not only do the folk tales enrich children's imagination with cultural elements but they also enable children to learn crucial universal concepts such as honesty, tolerance, justice, mercy, helpfulness and love of animals. Hence, folk tales can be turned into effective means within the coverage of courses with social context with which children are equipped with the essential knowledge concerning culture and language learning.

CAFT project, within this framework brought professionals together from University of Thessaly-Greece, University of Tartu- Estonia and University of Ljubljana – Slovenia under the coordination of Gazi University – Turkey with the motto of "We Speak the Same Culture" between the years of 2007-2009 under the roof of a Comenius Project. The project has covered folk tales from a variety of locations around Europe to represent the cultural diversities which constitute a matchless unity. It has mainly focused on creating cultural, multicultural and intercultural awareness, observing and appreciation of cultural diversity in unity, re-bridging the supposedly existing gaps among cultures, overcoming the prejudices and the sense of "othering", intolerance and the lack of communication. The project also aimed to help the individuals of all ages to appreciate the riches of their own local cultural heritages as well as leading them to perceive themselves as an innate member of a greater whole by contributing to the formation of a European citizenship identity. Thus, this presentation aims to introduce the CAFT Project with its end-products and related results settled on an academic background on folk tales.