

TRANSCULTURAL BIOGRAPHY WORK FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
"THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION"**



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Realize partnership is developing training modules for adults' educators and social workers on trans-cultural biographical self-exploration, which leads to a qualitative exchange among learners, and has the potential to change mindsets and stimulate holistic and sustainable learning processes for adults



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**Through “Realize - Transcultural Biography Work
for Adult Education”, seven partners from five
countries (Austria, Italy, Lithuania, Switzerland, and
Turkey) are engaged in implementing TBW
practices**

LLP-2010 Grundtvig Multilateral Project
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<http://www.realizeproject.eu>



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THE TWO POLES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ARE
THE BIOGRAPHY METHOD
AND
THE TRANSCULTURAL CONCEPT
OF THE PHILOSOPHER W. WELSCH



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THE CORE OF BIOGRAPHY WORK IS TO STIMULATE AND EXPRESS MEMORY

***Memory can be stimulated and focused
through activities like drawing, painting,
collecting objects, selecting a picture,
dancing, or listening to music***



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TRANSCULTURALITY

**To think of cultures beyond the contraposition
of “ownness” and foreignness**

against

**the traditional concept of culture: inner
homogenization and outer separation at the
same time**



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TRANSCULTURALITY

**Culture is how people – communities of people –
create and organize their life on earth**

**Cultures are always changing, mixing, and
influencing each other.**

**They are not fixed entities. Each culture is a product of
a long historic process and permanent new influences**



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TRANSCULTURALITY

Culture is actually not a thing but something people do and experience: “*doing culture*”. People create/construct themselves culturally

As soon as people of seemingly different cultures meet, some kind of mutual influence and change happens



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ORIENTING BIOGRAPHY WORK ON TRANSCULTURALITY MEANS:

**Exploring what feels “the foreign in me”
to better understand what I experience as
foreign outside myself**



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ORIENTING BIOGRAPHY WORK ON TRANSCULTURALITY MEANS:

**Identifying and appreciating personal talents
and capabilities learned through living in
different cultural contexts**



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ORIENTING BIOGRAPHY WORK ON TRANSCULTURALITY MEANS:

Finding out how migration experience influenced my life or the life of people I work with: Identifying what is needed to handle practically life in an unfamiliar environment and what is needed for the personal integration of contradictory experience and demands



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ORIENTING BIOGRAPHY WORK ON TRANSCULTURALITY MEANS:

Stimulating and cultivating processes of mutual understanding among people who regard themselves as “members” of different cultures; creating a “common third” – doing culture through transcultural communication



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TBW IS BASED ON HUMANISTIC VALUES:

A human is a psychic entity and a part of the universe – to the same degree autonomous and interdependent.

The autonomy of an individual expands the more he/she is conscious of the interdependency with everybody and all.

Each living being and its organic growth deserves respect.

Free decision happens within inner and outer borders.

It is possible to extent the borders!



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TRANSCULTURAL BIOGRAPHY WORK IN ADULT EDUCATION

EMPOWERMENT PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS

BUT ALSO

**NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY ABLE TO STIMULATE NEW
VISIONS, CREATIVENESS AND INNOVATION**



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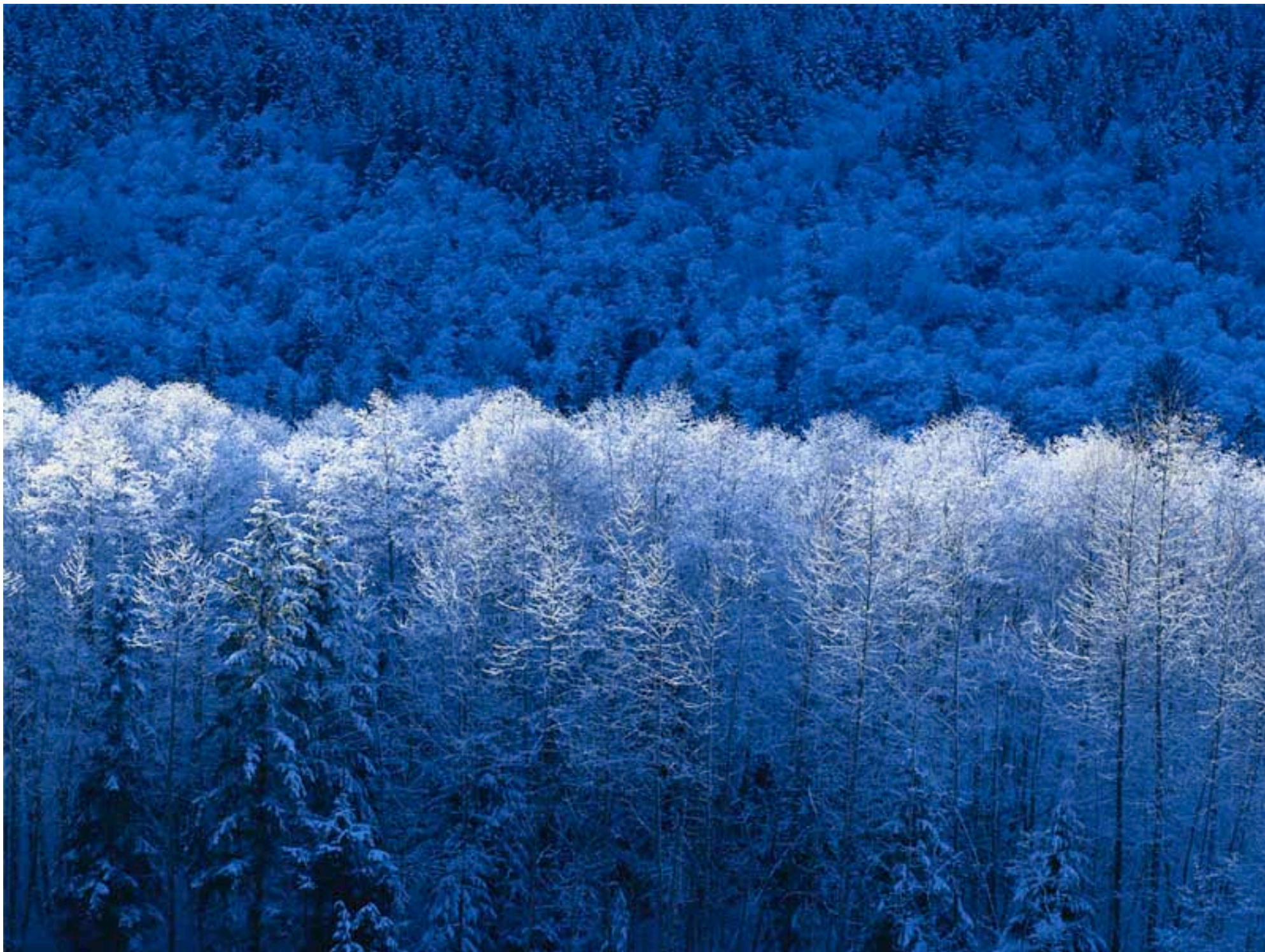
A biographical exercise – first step

Watch three pictures:

**Does one of them remember you on
a past situation or experience?
Which situation/experience?**



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A biographical exercise – second step

Biographical narration: If you want to, you can share with your neighbour what you remembered.



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A biographical exercise – third step

Reflection:

How was it to remember and to share the memories?

What is important to me, what did I recognise, learn?



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BIOGRAPHY WORK PROCESS

- ✓ Stimulate memory
- ✓ Exchange/share memory
- ✓ Reflect the experience of remembering and exchanging; transfer of realisations into present and future



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PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK (TURKISH STUDENTS OF SDU)

“We understood that we need to have more empathy”

“We explored ourselves and our elders. We had a trip to our past”

“Having a trip to past helped us to understand ourselves”

“We studied in a cordial and warm atmosphere”

“We realized how understanding differences and showing tolerance are very important”

“We noticed that differences and inequalities shade into discrimination”



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PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK (TURKISH STUDENTS OF SDU)

“The more we met new people, the more we learned”

“We understood each other better”

“We’re different but not alone”

“Spaces among us are caused by prejudices and taboos”

“Getting advance for understanding TBW”

“We learned how TBW techniques will be applied via personal experience and opinions”



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GRUNDTVIG MULTILATERAL PROJECT REALIZE TRANSCULTURAL BIOGRAPHY WORK IN ADULT EDUCATION

<http://www.realizeproject.eu>

"When we think of the world's future, we always mean the destination it will reach if it keeps going in the direction we can see it going in now; it does not occur to us that its path is not a straight line but a curve, constantly changing direction"
Ludwig Wittgenstein, Culture and Value, 1929



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THANK YOU!

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