Lifelong Learning Programme

THINK TANK
CREATING CAPTIVATING
TEACHING STRATEGIES
FOR VULNERABLE LEARNERS

ThiNK

PORTUGAL	CASE STUDY Nº 7	SYNOPSIS

SYNTHESISER COUNTRY

LATVIA

DMC
Dobeles Mācību Centrs
Dobele Training Centre

MAIN IDEAS DEVELOPED

The round table discussion revealed that mostly partners believe that initially students of different age groups should get to know each other in informal meetings, where they would find out more about the background of every student. Thus helping them to open up and create a friendly atmosphere, which in turn would facilitate a successful teaching-learning process. Introduction of playful activities and diversified approach to the learning process is concurrent in the class with different age group students.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS

The following was put forward by the partners:
- If possible start the learning process with Psychology lessons, where team building and different icebreakers could be carried out;
- Organizing work in a class by allocating diversified tasks to students so that everybody is involved in the learning process and is forced to contribute in order to achieve the common goal;
- Elderly students tell the class about the importance of education in life, which would serve as a motivator to all the others; encouraging them to see strengths and weaknesses of their classmates;
- Bringing students closer by organizing some activities outside school premises, e.g. sport, cultural events, etc.
- Offering the ones who feel insecure and incompetent in working with modern technologies some additional IT classes.

CONCLUSIONS

The case presented by Portugal is challenging. The partners consider that boosting self-confidence and improving the students' communication skills, as well as encouraging them to be more empathic could be a big step towards a better learning atmosphere and improvement of their relationship, preventing them from forming age clusters and facilitating the involvement of everybody in the study process. Nonetheless teachers giving lessons to these classes have to be ready to give more contribution to this study process through choosing various teaching methods and giving more time to getting acquainted with every student separately.

ILLUSTRATION