

Title: Identity and Diversity Picture Book Collections [IDPBC]

Project type: Erasmus+ / Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices –

Strategic Partnerships for school education

Ref. no.: 2015-1-LT01-KA201-013492

Promoter /Coordinator: Diversity Development Group, Lithuania

Duration: September 2015 – September 2017

Total project cost: 138823 Euro

Total expenditure for the University of Pitești: 18598 Euro

Local coordinator for the University of Pitești: Assoc. Professor Dr. Georgeta CHIRLEȘAN

Summary:

IDPBC is a transnational effort to compile international picture book collections, approaches

and activities that address three issues of great importance to contemporary students and teachers across the globe: Inclusion, Diversity and Identity. Picture books have been proved to be extremely valuable educational tools, bringing multiple learning benefits to diverse groups of learners. Educationalists have repeatedly shown how reading visual narratives can enhance children's understanding of their own identities and celebrating difference. IDPBC strives to empower children from disadvantaged backgrounds to see themselves in the curriculum, enable all children to function within diverse/multicultural educational environments, and prepare teachers to teach diverse learners. A total of 10,000 individuals are expected to be directly or indirectly reached by the project, including children and parents, teachers and teacher trainers, curriculum developers and policy makers.

IDPBC builds on the approaches developed in the projects that preceded it, while also

breaking new ground. Like the projects that have already been carried out, this new project

capitalizes on the educational affordances of powerful visual narratives, by compiling a

collection of carefully selected picture books and designing relevant educational material. At

the same instance, IDPBC differs in that, unlike EPBC or EPBC II, the new project does not

collect stories that represent specific EU states, cultures or languages. While these early

projects are valuable, and are still being utilized by educators, the IDPBC project is

innovative in the sense that it asks children and educators to be inspired by powerful visual

stories in order to reflect on their own experiences and ideas about identity, inclusion and

diversity. An additional innovation is that teachers will not be trained to merely utilize the

proposed picture books and activities; the IDPBC consortium will develop an international

network of educators who will continually share picture book recommendations and will

empower educators to keep creating and integrating new collections.

Children, teachers, student teachers and parents are educated and guided through activities

that value diversity, combat racism and xenophobia and enhance the child's self-image and

self-efficacy. Diversity is also celebrated in the project's languages, as some of the IDPBC

stories will be in each participating country's lingua franca, some in migrants' other/expert

languages, some will feature two languages (dual language picture books), others will have

been published/translated in multiple languages and others will be told exclusively through

images (wordless picture books). Migrant families and minority communities are invited to

participate in the effort of identifying relevant picture books in their languages.

- As the IDPBC project aims to affect in a positive manner pre-primary and primary school

pupils who feel or are considered to be "different," in addition to migrant children, other

categories of children will also benefit from IDPBC. These categories include: Romas and

children with minority backgrounds; children at risk; children in care; children with same sex

parents; adopted children; displaced children; and others. Finally, since learning to function in

diverse environments and reflecting on one's identity and stances towards difference is

essential for every child growing up in a contemporary society, all pre-primary and primary

school pupils in Europe and elsewhere can potentially benefit from the IDPBC stories,

activities and educational approaches.

Objectives:

The central objectives of IDPBC are:

1) To compile a collection of international picture books in a range of languages, which can

be used in classrooms for exploration and negotiation of identity, inclusion and diversity;

2) To develop, test and disseminate a series of picture-book-based approaches and activities

that will support inclusion and diversity and ultimately reduce disparities in learning

outcomes of disadvantaged learners;

3) To publish and disseminate a guide that supports practitioners in integrating IDPBC picture

books in the curriculum, forming their own picture book collections and activities and

engaging diverse students, parents and the community;

4) To provide training and professional development to pre- and in-service educators,

equipping them with the necessary knowledge, attitudes and competences to successfully

manage and support diversity through visual stories;

5) To provide an OER platform that enables pre- and in-service educators to develop networks

of practitioners who integrate picture books in the curriculum to make teaching and learning

more inclusive and accommodating.

Outcomes:

- State of the Art Report on available know-how regarding the integration of children's

literature in the curriculum to explore identity and diversity and promote inclusion;

- Needs Assessment Report
- IDPBC Picture Book Collection
- Curriculum development (IDPBC Pool of Activities and Guide)
- Online Open Access Platform
- E-learning modules and OER
- Implementation and Case Studies

Partnership:

1. Diversity Development Group (coordinator), Lithuania

2. Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology LTD

(CARDET), Cyprus

3. Universitatea din Pitesti (UPIT), Romania

4. Douka Ekpaideftiria AE - Palladion Lykeion Ekpaideuthria (DOUKAS), Greece

5. INNOVADE LI LTD, Cyprus

6. Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco, Portugal

Resources:

[IDPBC poster](#)

[IDPB flyer](#)

[IDPBC Newsletter 1 - EN](#)

[IDPBC Newsletter 1 - RO](#)

[IDPBC 2nd Newsletter EN](#)

[IDPBC 2nd Newsletter RO](#)

[IDPBC 3rd Newsletter - EN](#)

[IDPBC 3rd Newsletter - RO](#)

