



Evaluation environment for fostering intercultural mentoring tools and practices at school

E-EVALINTO: The piloting phase in Ireland

The piloting phase of the E-EVALINTO project was held in Ireland from February to May 2018. St. Paul's CBS, an all-boys post-primary school located in Dublin, and designated as a disadvantaged school (DEIS) participated. The school has a migrant student population of c.40%. Amongst ten students (five mentors and five mentees), a selection of peer-mentoring activities were implemented across five themes: 'Personal Wellbeing / Social Skills'; 'Language / Communication Skills'; 'My Culture, Your Culture'; 'Study skills'; 'Interests and hobbies'.

The piloting activities

The activities promoted experiential learning and a number of different techniques and strategies were used, such as role play, project work, presentations and discussions. Initially, activities were conducted in one-to-one sessions between mentor and mentee however the teachers noted difficulties in engagement and discovered a greater dynamic occurred when the groups were merged for their activities.



Mentors had the opportunity to enhance their intercultural skills while mentees had the opportunity to refine personal and academic skills through peer mentoring. The social benefit to the students was especially noted by teachers who saw friendships blossom even after the pilot activities.

The process of evaluation

After the activities, teachers and students had to complete short evaluations on their experiences of the activities, as teachers, mentors and mentees on the E-EVALINTO online portal. Access to the platform proved to be challenging and this aspect is one that needs attention in future replications.

Teachers' experiences

Teachers reported that it was a very worthwhile experience which equipped them with didactical strategies for promoting peer mentoring actions at schools, and facilitating the development of new friendships amongst students who may be otherwise isolated. The E-EVALINTO open access elearning platform that offered teacher training opportunities and ICT tools was welcomed. This platform was a new experience for the participating teachers. Coupled with some difficulties in providing students with online access, it is in this area that greatest insights for future improvements can be identified.



St Pauls CBS teacher training for E-Evalinto

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