

“The International Project (IPC)” : Distance Learning and Internationalisation in Teacher Training

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How can teacher trainees acquire global competencies while studying at their home university? In the “International Project (IPC)”, developed at the Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt since 2008, students from currently seven countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Japan, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and United States) work together online on curriculum related topics or carry out

common comparative research projects (Project website <http://internationalproject-ipc.com>).

The goal of the “International Project (IPC)” is to prepare teachers students for future challenges of globalisation in education and provide them with necessary knowledge and skills by supporting the process of professionalisation.

The first part of the presentation introduces to the goals and didactic concept of the International Project (IPC). The second part focuses on a didactical variation of the IPC Project called IPC Research and shows and reflects a student research project within the IPC.

In winter term 2020/21 German and Polish teacher students designed and conducted a study exploring how school leaders can support children’s resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study’s objective was to explore and analyse the perspective of school leaders on risks, chances, and possibilities to support children’s resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. In international teams the students explored the topic, learnt how to conduct qualitative, semi-structured interviews and methods for data evaluation. They designed a catalogue of questions, interviewed school leaders and principals, and used content analysis to evaluate the transcribed and translated interviews. In a final step the students compared the results of their countries and draw conclusions about strategies for schools to deal with the pandemic situation.

Participation in the IPC Research Project supports teacher students to develop competencies in conducting scientific research by using qualitative methods, as well as to formulate conclusions and practical recommendations.

Key words:

teacher students, distance learning, students’ research project, internationalisation@home