

# Internationalization Street©

## Webinar

### Intercultural competencies development at HEIs – Case study of staff professional development in intercultural competence

December 7<sup>th</sup> 15:00-16:30 EET

13:00-14:30 GMT

10:00-11:30 ART

**To register for the event please fill the form here:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jV32dSpo7enBHaLqI84qugp0BMoqutldtmMZbbS\\_Rvs/edit?ts=619b8a9a](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jV32dSpo7enBHaLqI84qugp0BMoqutldtmMZbbS_Rvs/edit?ts=619b8a9a)

With the growth of diversity in the higher education system and industry in the last few decades there has been an increased need for developing competences to deal with the benefits and challenges arising from intercultural encounters and collaborations. In order to successfully work and collaborate across a variety of cultural domains and with people from diverse cultural backgrounds (which goes beyond just international perspectives), a set of abilities for dealing with cultural diversity is required for both student and university staff. Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) are expected to provide their students with the intercultural competence (IC) to work, study and live alongside different cultures and use the cultural diversity of their surrounding as an advantage for innovation. There is an expectation that this generic competence would be developed across the whole university curriculum rather than as an additional activity. Even where university staff possess high levels of IC this still does not mean that they are fully prepared or have the tools to incorporate it in their teaching and interaction with students. On the other hand, if managed well and with the appropriate level of IC, the diverse environment can provide for better and more innovative outputs, novel projects and discoveries developed from cultural boundary crossing. These regional and global developments put intercultural competence as an essential part of university curriculum development for preparing students for an increasingly global and culturally diverse labour market.

This webinar on IC professional development will explore the issues on HEI changes of developing staff in this important area. The event aims to explore the challenges and opportunities of developing professional IC in the higher education context. The webinar will showcase the current outputs and approaches the Erasmus+ funded [PROFIC Project](#) based on implementing a professional development programme in 7 Latin American Universities. In the period February-June 2021 more than 130 university professionals (academic and administrative) have the professional development programme with concrete actions and impact plans as a result. The webinar will cover the following topics:

- The model and framework of HEI staff intercultural competence

- Interactive discussion of staff intercultural challenges in the participating HEIs
- Description of the PROFIC professional development programme and tools
- Perspectives of a participating Latin American HEI (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina)
- Examples of intercultural competence curriculum activities staff participants developed to work with students
- Next steps and networking

### Speakers:



**Dr Dane Lukic** is a Senior Lecturer in Organizational Learning at Glasgow Caledonian University and Research Lead for GCU London. His research explores intercultural competence, organizational learning, university staff professional development and learning across disciplinary boundaries. Dane has led several large scale international projects on intercultural competence in education, including being the Principal Investigator for the Action 3 Project Erasmus Mundus Intercultural Competence EMIC Project and currently running Erasmus+ Professional Development in Intercultural Competence in Higher Education Institutions – PROFIC Project.



**Abg. Agostina Curcio** is a lawyer with six years of experience working on internationalization of higher education. She works as head of the International Relations Office at Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina) and is a Lecturer at Faculty of Law UNLP. She wrote articles about internationalization of curriculum, soft competences in education and technical aspects of international agreements, published in peer reviewed journals. In addition to her primary functions, Agostina is taking part in the ERASMUS+ KA2 project 'Professional Development in Intercultural Competence in Higher Education Institutions' developing the PROFIC Learning Programme.

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