

InterCultural Iceland – 2016 Post Course Survey Report

Introduction

InterCultural Iceland has been offering In-service courses for teachers, trainers and others involved in any kind of educational work since 2003. The sociologist and teacher, Guðrún Pétursdóttir, founder and main trainer of ICI had by that time written two books about intercultural education and cooperative learning in multicultural groups, joined several European projects and given anti-racist/sensitization training courses in Iceland for some time. The first courses that were offered for European participants were through the Grundtvig and Comenius programs and after that through Erasmus+ mobility programs. Main trainer has always been Guðrún Pétursdóttir but in year 2015 another trainer, Cherry Hopton, joined the ICI team. Altogether we count 1.199 European participants on our courses from 32 countries.

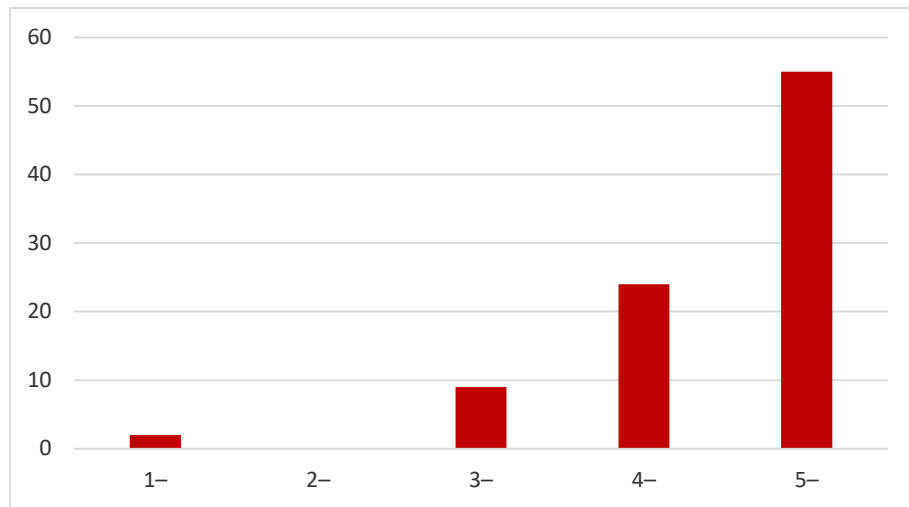
Even though all participants on all courses are invited to give feedback on the final day of the course, this is anonymous and paper based and focuses on the specifics of the course undertaken including accommodation, administration and course content. We also get a lot of individual feedback from enthusiastic participants who tell us that the ideas and methods that we are introducing and training “really work!” but we have never until now taken the step to make a thorough survey to find out how useful our training has been for the long run. That’s why we decided at the end of year 2016 to run an electronic survey seeking feedback post course. The survey was sent to all participants that joined our courses for the last 5 year which allows data to be gathered on the application of the methods and allows participants to feedback after practice and reflection. This second survey allows a degree of impact to be measured. From now on this will be part of ICI’s yearly report.

Below you can see the main outcome of our survey.

Outcome

Using the 'Survey Monkey' system 100 randomised responses were used to analyse results. The answers were as followed:

1. In response to the question: 'On reflection how worthwhile do you think the course was' the responses were ranked 4.44 out of a possible 5. 2 participants gave a score below the midline and the structure of the survey permits a more detailed analysis of the overall response from these 2 participants which will be followed through in the overall analysis.



	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	Total	Weighted Average
	2.22%	0.00%	10.00%	26.67%	61.11%	90	4.44
	2	0	9	24	55		

Whilst many of the comments on this question featured very positive remarks in relation to the trainers personally these have not been copied below for brevity. There were no negative comments.

Very worthwhile

It isn't enough to have a healthy environmental commensense. Awareness, alertness, and the ability to stand up is as delicate as important. Thank you for the opportunity of my taking part in such a mind-opening influential Seminar.

As an individual it was quite worthwhile, as also in a working context because it made more aware about "problems" and how to deal with them. Since I will work in East Timor from January 2017 to December 2017 with a multicultural team I hope to use most of the methods/ideas that I learned in Iceland.

It was a great, comprehensive and intensive program.

The course was fantastic, a lot of things I learned and use them in my daily work.

The very good combination of input, international participants, cultural aspects about Iceland made it unforgettable.

Great course, excellent teacher!

It was one of the best experiences I've ever had.

Every second worth. The presented methods and techniques can be used successfully by any teacher.

amazing...changed my life...

Great course, interesting and useful

In my opinion it was a very interesting and practical course. There was a list of stimulating group dynamics to learn. It was the best that we could practice all ourselves.

It was really good because with this course, I complete a one year course last year about pedagogical strategy. So this course gave me some tools for practicing a new pedagogical strategy with my students.

The course has really changed my approach to teaching. As a person without a pedagogical background, my teaching used to be very intuitive, following the (bad) patterns I was used to see around me as a university student. After the course, I understood the teaching process and the aims I would like to achieve in the class from a totally different perspective. Thanks again :)

ICI course was excellent!

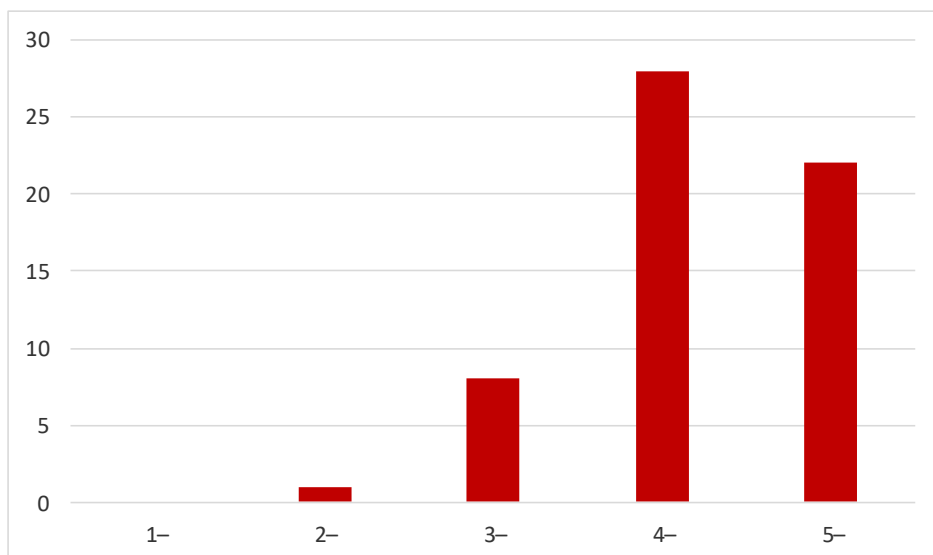
Super! As Gudrun put all her efforts into making this course a success. And she did it with all her heart!

Great experience!

The course was very worthwhile. On one side we learned how to encourage our students, how to protect them from school-dropout. On the other side we could do many tasks by ourselves, we could try new tasks (from team builders and simple activities up to climbing and climbing tasks). In our school we're planning our school-developing-project in 2017/18 on intercultural learning and some more colleagues will take part in the ICI course

2. In response to the question: ***'Have you used any of the ideas and practices you learned on the course'*** over half (55.7%) said they had used most of the ideas and 39.13% had used a few with 4 participants using none. However, in 2 of the 4 cases this was due to them not being involved directly with teaching activities. It should be noted that whilst the majority of participants are teachers there will be several who are not and thus will not perhaps be able to actively use the methods but can cascade and promote them. Comments highlighted specific methods that had been trialled to good effect. Around half had tried class climate activities and introduced some methods into teaching and others had moved into use of full co operative learning techniques. Most were working towards this as an aim.

3. When asked to rate how well the ideas and practices worked out of 5:



	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	Total	Weighted Average
	0.00%	1.69%	13.56%	47.46%	37.29%	59	4.20
	0	1	8	28	22		

The average rating was 4.2 with 8 participants rating a midway point and 1 rating the practice at 2. Whilst most reported high levels of enjoyment and positive learning arising from the practice some felt they needed more time to practice and improve and some felt they had not yet been able to embed practice due to time constraints. Most showed positive reflection and constructive self criticism with a typical comment being: *'It was not 5 star because I need more practice and because I am a teacher I am never 100% satisfied with my work, there is always something that can be done better'*.

4. In response to the question: ‘Have you been able to pass on what you have learned in your workplace’ 79.41% answered ‘Yes’. For those who had not yet done so the comments showed that this was planned in the future:

- *It's a yes and a no: Yes, because we presented the ideas twice (to interested colleagues and to the school development team). No, because the time limits given were too short and I'd rather preferred it to work more interactively with colleagues or invite them into my classroom.*
- *Informally I have already transmitted much of what I have learned, but I am preparing a dissemination session for all the teachers of the school.*
- *I will do (and try) 8th december.*
- *Not yet but I will do*
- *Not yet but I will do at our next teachers training day in April.*

5. When asked which ICI courses participants might be interested in joining in the future the responses were:

Diverse Society - Diverse Classrooms	23.33%
Reaching, Teaching and Keeping our Learners	13.33%
Sensitisation Training with reference to Racism, Migration etc	15.00%
Assessment for Learning	13.33%
Learning Social Skills in Nature	18.33%

16.67% suggested courses that ICI might hold such as: Mindfulness, Prevention of Violence against women and Learning Disabilities. A few comments noted that they would not be able to attend any more courses due to job change or internal policies of their workplaces and expresses sorrow at this.

6. In response to rating from 5: ‘Do you think learners/service providers have had a better service as a result of your attendance on the course’ 80% respondents rated 4 or 5, 22% rated midpoint3 with 1.54% (1) respondent rating 2.

7. The final question ‘Would you recommend ICI as a training provider’ drew a response of ‘Yes’ from 99 respondents and ‘No’ from a single respondent.

Summary: Overall respondents answered for the most part in the most positive categories. Where there were less positive responses these were generally due to external constraints such as staff development dates after completion of survey or not having a teaching role in the period concerned. One respondent marked negative or low score responses throughout and thus expressed dissatisfaction both with the content and with ICI as a training provider (the single 'No' response to question 10).

The response rate was high (over 60%) given the trend for online surveys: 'Internal surveys will generally receive a **30-40%** response rate or more on average, compared to an average **10-15%** response rate for external surveys' (FluidPulseSurveyData2016).

This outcome tells us that our courses are worthwhile continuing working the way we have been working and developing our courses through the past years. It gives us encouragement and motivation to continue!

Cherry Hopton and Guðrún Pétursdóttir
InterCultural Iceland
December 2016

Appendix:

'Have you used any of the ideas and practices you learned on the course'

