



- REPORT PILOTING OF THE UNICULTURE COURSE & PLATFORM

Report by University of Zagreb





Project: Development of innovative approach for training for university professors to work in the modern diverse and intercultural environment UNICULTURE 2019-1-RO01-KA203-063400



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1. The piloting process

The piloting process of the UniCulture training package has been conducted from July to September 2021 by all partners following several steps. The piloting aim was to gather feedback from the target groups in order to implement the adjustments, refinements and corrections for the developed materials and for the e-learning platform.

The piloting methodology was discussed and agreed by partners to provide a similar format, but also to allow flexibility to be adapted according to participants needs and the meetings format (required by the epidemiological restrictions generated by Covid-19 pandemic). In all countries three outputs were piloted: the Handbook, the Workbook and the Manual for trainers, based on the e-learning Moodle section dedicated to the UniCulture project.

In Romania and the United Kingdom, the piloting was conducted fully face-to-face, in Bulgaria was fully online, while in Poland and Croatia it was conducted in a hybrid format (face-to face and online meetings).

The main steps of the training piloting were as follows:

- UNITBV configured the e-learning platform and provided full access to trainers;
- the recruited participants were required to register on the e-learning dedicated platform, being enrolled by trainers to the UniCulture course;
- participants performed the initial assessment on the e-learning platform, consisting on two stages: knowledge assessment and motivation assessment;
- participants were provided with full access to the training materials: the Handbook, the Workbook and the Manual for trainers and instructed on the modules required to focus for an in-depth analysis;
- trainers presented the selected content in several training sessions, when the content was discussed, reviewed and debated;
- trainees participated in the online per-module evaluation and had access to selfevaluation quizzes for self-assessment;
- participants (trainees and trainers) filled the feedback questionnaire and reviewed the content of the final evaluation test;
- feedback on the developed outputs and e-learning platform accessibility was collected in detail by dialog and additional tools (such as Google forms) were needed.
- all partners provided a piloting report for the development of the current integrated report.

1.1. Recruitment of participants

31 academic teaching staff were recruited and selected using the local teams' networks from participating universities or from major universities in the region:

- in Romania the six participants were teaching staff at Transilvania University of Brasov,
- in Bulgaria the five participants were teaching staff at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and at the Economic Academy Dimitar A. Tsenov
- in the United Kingdom all ten participants were teaching staff at Buckinghamshire New University





- in Croatia all five participants were teaching staff at University of Zagreb
- in Poland the participants were teaching staff at several private and public universities:
 The University of Economics and Management in Łódź, University of Humanities and Economics in Łódź, Technical University in Kielce, University of Lodz, University of Strategic Planning.

Participants were selected based on their interest on developing their skills for teaching in intercultural and cross-cultural environments and their willingness to participate in the teaching activities and to provide feedback on the piloted materials.

1.2. Enrollment to the UniCulture Moodle E-learning platform

The Moodle e-learning platform was developed by UNITBV, being hosted on the Transilvania University server: https://edu.unitbv.ro/login/index.php?lang=en. Participants to the piloting were asked to create accounts on the platform. Participants were assisted to register on the platform and were enrolled by the trainers to the UniCulture course. On the e-learning platform participants had access to the UniCulture training kit (Handbook for academic teaching staff, Workbook with case studies and the Manual for trainers), section for videoconference, quizzes, and tests (for initial evaluation of motivation and knowledge, per-module evaluation, self-evaluation, final assessment, and feedback questionnaires – see figure 1, figure 2 and figure 3).

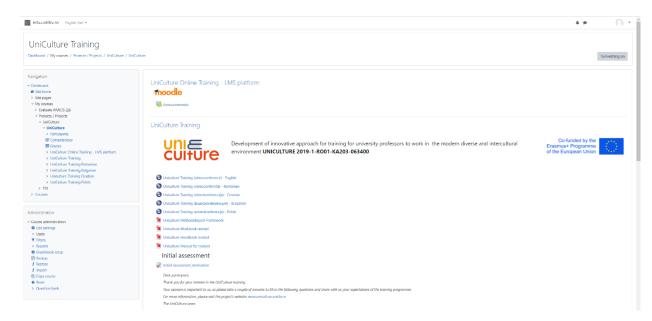


Figure 1. UniCulture E-learning Platform – learning materials





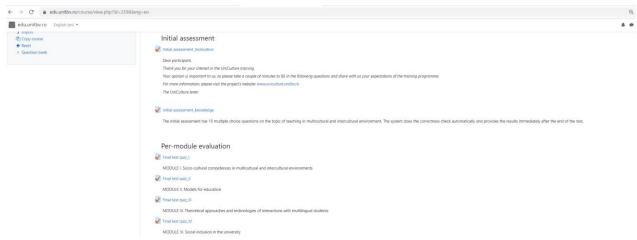


Figure 2. UniCulture E-learning Platform – initial and per-module evaluation

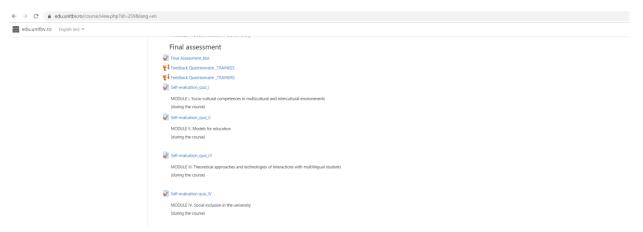


Figure 3. UniCulture E-learning Platform – final assessment and feedback questionnaires

1.3. Initial assessment (knowledge and motivation)

Initial assessment was performed using the e-learning platform with the main aim of testing the questionnaire/measurement tools (i.e., questions clarity and accessibility, platform usability etc.), but also to provide trainers and trainees with an overview about the motivation to learn and develop competencies for teaching in ICC environments and the initial knowledge about the training topic. Figures 4 and 5 present a screenshot on the Motivation assessment test and figures 6 and 7 a screen shot on the Knowledge assessment test.

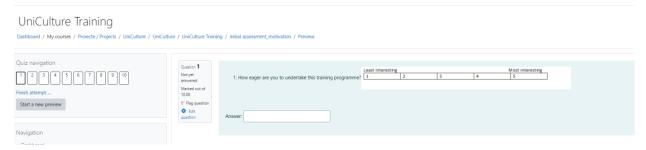


Figure 4. Motivation assessment test -question





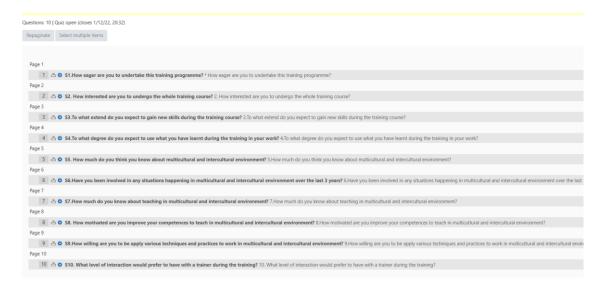


Figure 5. Motivation assessment test – all questions

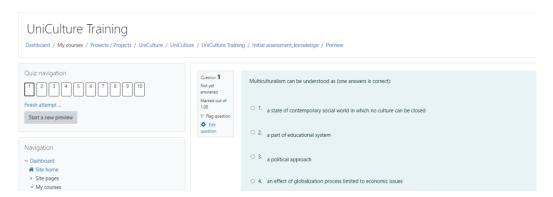


Figure 6. Knowledge assessment test – question

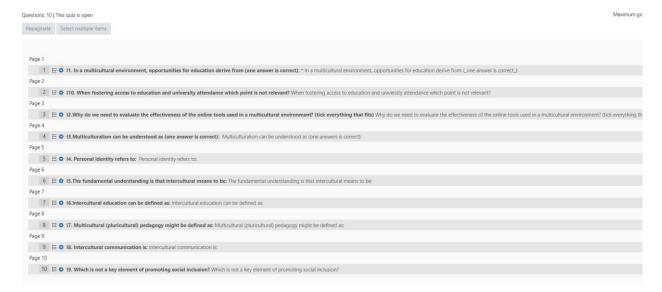


Figure 7. Knowledge assessment test – all questions





The list of questions for the initial assessment (motivation and knowledge) is according to the UniCulture Manual for trainers (pp. 37-40).

1.4. Face to face and/or online training sessions

From July to September 2021, all partners performed onsite face to face and/or online training. First, the trainers presented the project aims, activities, outputs and the planned impact. Second, the content for the selected modules from Handbook and Workbook and the Manual of trainers were presented and discussed in an interactive and collegial manner. Participants were encouraged to critically review the content and to write down any suggestion for content improvement.

1.5. Self-assessment of knowledge and per-module evaluation

All participants were asked to fill self-assessment tests and per-module evaluation tests using the e-learning platform, according to the piloted modules. The aim of the assessment was twofold: (1) to test the platform usability, questions clarity and accuracy, and (2) to provide participants with relevant feedback on their knowledge improvement and learning progress. Figures 8 to 15 present screenshots with questions from the self-assessment tests and per-module tests. The list of questions and grading for the self-assessment tests and per-module evaluation was according to the UniCulture Manual for trainers (pp. 32-33) and the Knowledge assessment sections from the UniCulture Workbook.

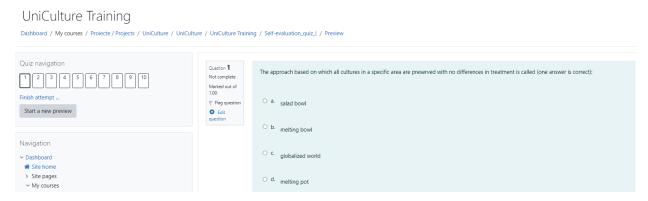


Figure 8. Self -evaluation quiz - Module 1



Figure 9. Self -evaluation quiz - Module 2







Figure 10. Self -evaluation quiz - Module 3

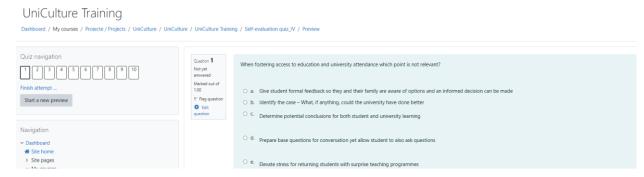


Figure 11. Self -evaluation quiz - Module 4

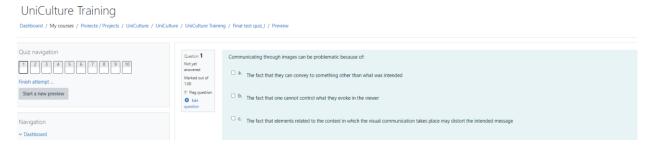


Figure 12. Per-module evaluation quiz – Module 1

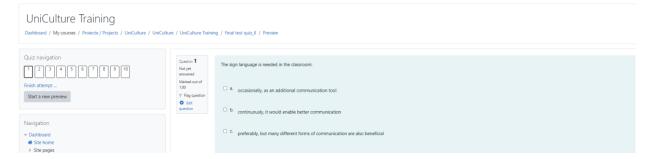


Figure 13. Per-module evaluation quiz – Module 2





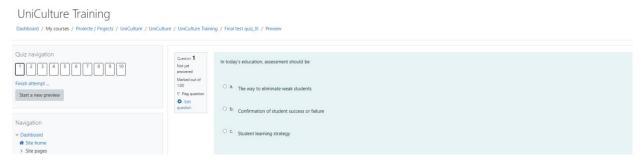


Figure 14. Per-module evaluation quiz - Module 3



Figure 15. Per-module evaluation quiz – Module 4

1.6. Feedback collection

Participants and trainers provided feedback on Handbook, Workbook and Manual for Trainers content, as on the online platform, online tests and quizzes. The feedback was collected based on the online questionnaires (Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES – Figure 16 and Feedback Questionnaire TRAINERS – figure 17) and by direct discussions at the end of the face-to-face training sessions.

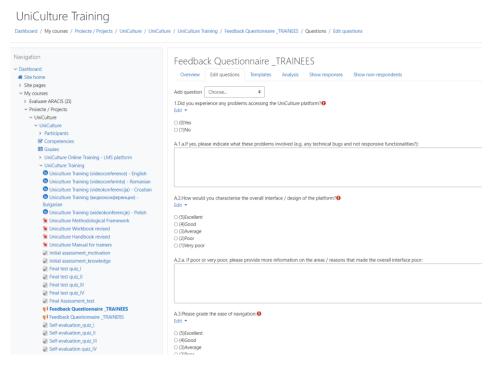


Figure 16. Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES





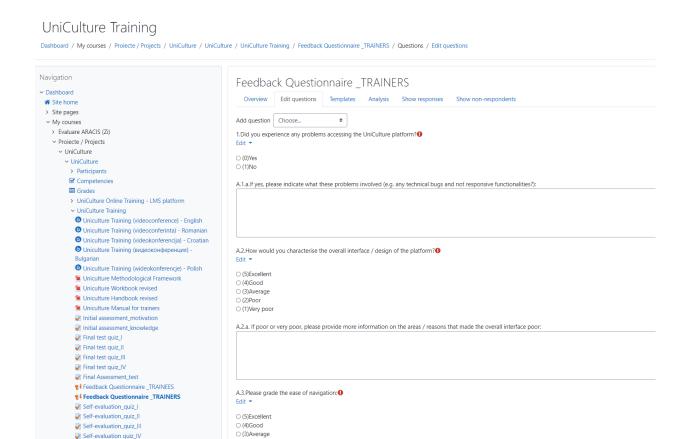


Figure 17. Feedback Questionnaire TRAINERS

The feedback questionnaires were according to the Manual of trainers (pp. 41-50).

1.7. Follow-up

All participants informed the trainers that they are planning to further explore the UniCulture training kit and to implement in their teaching activities the new perspectives and approaches identified while taking the UniCulture course.





2. Piloting in partner countries

2.1. Piloting in Bulgaria

The piloting process in Bulgaria was performed by PAX Rhodopica from 19/07/2021 till 29/08/2021. PAX Rhodopica has been responsible for the piloting of Module III of the UniCulture Handbook & Workbook. The pilot participants have been asked to register in the UniCulture platform. Afterwards, they were asked to fill in the two initial tests: *Initial assessment motivation* and *Initial assessment knowledge*. All participants have filled both tests. However, two of them reported that the results were not recorded for some reason.

All participants were asked to download the Workbook and the Handbook and to go through module III of both books on their own and also to consult the Manual for trainers. Afterwards, PAX organized two zoom meetings to discuss the content of module III. The meetings were held as follows:

• Online meeting to present and discuss the UniCulture course - Handbook

Anelia Haradinova is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: UniCulture / Time: Aug 19, 2021 10:30 AM Sofia / Join Zoom Meeting

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75129927494?pwd=bXk2REVnSVBaVFRmVGZTUjVOWEhiZz09 / Meeting ID: 751 2992 7494 / Passcode: ce4CKR

 Online meeting to present and discuss the UniCulture course – Workbook & Manual for trainers

Anelia Haradinova is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: UniCulture / Time: Aug 20, 2021 11:00 AM Sofia / Join Zoom Meeting

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71502778412?pwd=aHJtbGlpbXR0dUd1TkRCTUVndExndz09 / Meeting ID: 715 0277 8412 / Passcode: mje6i2

After the two online meeting, the pilot participants were asked to fill in:

- Per-module evaluation for module III Final test quiz III
- Self-evaluation quiz III
- Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES

All participants confirmed that the two quizzes and the questionnaire have been filled in. Besides the Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES, PAX has set an online questionnaire through Google form to check the opinion of the participants on the platform and solely on Module III content. The Google form was filled in by all five participants and by the trainer.

The pilot participants

- Nikola Dyulgerov, Dr. chief assistant in Medieval and General history at the Faculty of history at the Sofia University Sv. Kliment Orhidski, Sofia, BG;
- Prof. Dr. Alexander Nikolov professor in history, the head of the Department of Ancient History, Thracology and Medieval History at the Sofia University Sv. Kliment Orhidski, Sofia, BG;
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Milena Petkova-Encheva assistant professor in History at the Faculty of Bulgarian History at the Sofia University Sv. Kliment Orhidski, Sofia, BG;
- Milen Dinkov, DR. chief assistant in Faculty of Management at the Economic academy Dimitar A. Tsenov, Svishtov, BG;
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Irena Emilova associated professor in Management at the Faculty of Management at the Economic academy Dimitar A. Tsenov, Svishtov, BG.





Trainers

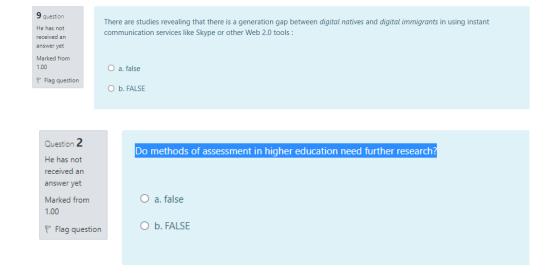
Dr. Anelia Haradinova and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristo Berov.

Feedback from participants

All participants have shared that they really liked the materials. They found the content of the Handbook, the Workbook and the Manual for trainers as well-structured and well-developed. None of them has shared any recommendations or improvement suggestions regarding the content of both books or the Manual for trainers.

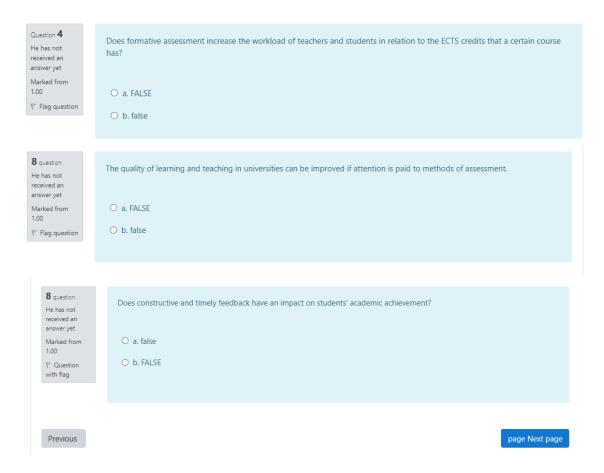
Participants shared few recommendations for the structure of the platform:

- when the E-learning platform is accessed via mobile phone, it is hard to navigate in the platform;
- all downloadable materials should be opened in a separate window in order to make it easier for the user;
- the button for submitting the answers to all quizzes is not functioning properly you should click it multiple times in order to make it work and to have the answers submitted for evaluation.
- there should be feedback on the initial assessment test knowledge so that the user can see where he/she was correct and where he/she was wrong. Such feedback is provided for the self-evaluation tests, and it would be nice to be provided for the initial assessment test knowledge as well.
- the pilot participants have sent the following screenshots with some problems in the quizzes' questions:



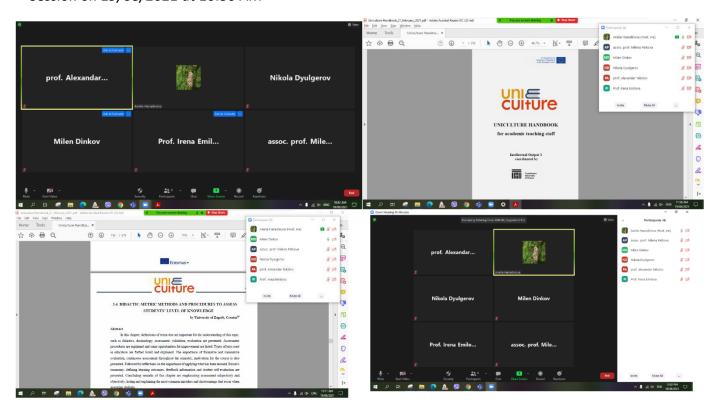






Photos during the piloting

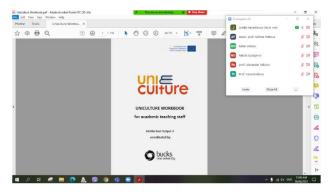
Session on 19/08/2021 at 10:30 AM

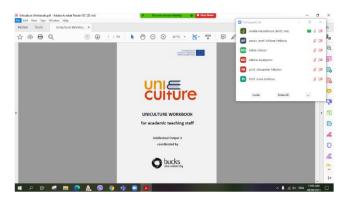


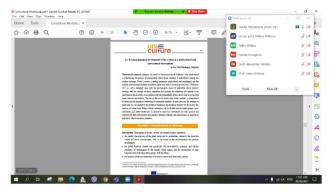




Session on 20/08/2021 at 11:00 AM Sofia









2.2. Piloting in Poland

The UniCulture piloting in Poland was conducted by FRAME in three steps (and ways): on-line meeting with all participants, working on the platform (not all participants were involved), two face-to face meeting. The on-line meeting was conducted on 30 June, 2021 via Clickmeeting Platform, while the face to face meetings were on 23rd and 29th of July. The feedback and participants opinions were gathered at the end. FRAME piloted the first module from the Workbook and Handbook.

The pilot participants

- Edyta Weigel PhD., Sociologist, Professor at the private university: The University of Economics and Management in Łódź (SWEiZ)
- Dorota Nawrat Wyraz PhD, Pedagogist, Professor at the private university: University
 of Humanities and Economics in Łódź (AHE), Expert on counselling in The Educational
 Research Institute in Warsaw (IBE)
- Anna Sołtys, PhD., Expert on Management, Professor at the public university: Technical University in Kielce (Politechnika Świętokrzyska)
- Bożena Czerkawska PhD. Candidate, Assistant Professor at public university: University
 of Lodz (UŁ)
- Katarzyna Kasznicka MA, Pedagogist, Manager, Managing Director at private university: University of Strategic Planning (WSPS)





Trainers

Adam Gogacz PhD and Marta Kędzia

Feedback from participants

- The feedback was divided into two main areas of the whole course. First was the platform which was found very efficient and easy for navigating. The UniCulture platform is based on a Moodle Open Software which is very popular in Poland: most of trainees had got acquainted with the platform during their work. The division of materials and tasks was described as easy, balanced, and quick to learn. The only concerns were about the number of tests and self-evaluation. It requires additional work, especially tests abut motivation were questioned, as someone who decides to deal with the platform is already motivated.
- The second area was the content which was very highly rated. The content was appreciated as reach, very well structured, especially regarding the division between the information given and references for further study.
- The UniCulture course, and especially materials were found necessary in the everyday work at the universities, as the questions of multicultural teaching and multicultural dialog in the high education system in Poland were described as very much neglected.

Feedback from the trainers

Trainers evaluated the training positively, however the most difficult was to give proper motivation to enroll and use the platform. One of the trainees was ready to read the materials and asses them but did not want to enroll the platform, however the materials "off-line" were very highly rated as well.

Photos during the piloting











2.3. Piloting in Croatia

The piloting in Croatia has been performed by University of Zagreb from 20/07/2021 till 04/09/2021. University of Zagreb has been responsible for the piloting of Module II of the UniCulture Handbook & Workbook. First, the pilot participants have been asked to register in the UniCulture platform. Second, all participants were asked to download the Workbook and the Handbook and go through module II of both books on their own. Afterwards, University of Zagreb organized two Zoom meetings to discuss the content of module II and Manual for trainers. The meetings were held as follows:

 Hybrid in-person and online meeting to present & discuss the UniCulture course – Handbook

Goran Santek is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Erasmus+ UniCulture

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84886677338?pwd=Rk04YnB6UHd6R2VZcnB2aWFVVlc4dz09

Meeting ID: 848 8667 7338

Passcode: 977905

Meeting ID: 848 8667 7338

Passcode: 977905

Hybrid in-person and online meeting to present & discuss the UniCulture course –
 Workbook and Manual for trainers

Goran Santek is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Erasmus+ UniCulture

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84886677338?pwd=Rk04YnB6UHd6R2VZcnB2aWFVVlc4dz09

Meeting ID: 848 8667 7338

Passcode: 977905

After the two meetings, the pilot participants were asked to fill in:

- Per-module evaluation for module II Final test quiz II
- Self-evaluation quiz II
- Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES

All participants confirmed that the two quizzes and questionnaire have been filled in.





The pilot participants

- Petra Kelemen, PhD assistant professor at the Department of ethnology and cultural anthropology at the University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Drago Župarić Iljić, PhD –assistant professor at the Department of sociology at the University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Ivice Šute, PhD associate professor at the Department of history at the University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Andrej Ivan Nuredinović, PhD candidate –researcher at the project Sport, discrimination and integration. Sport as a vehicle of social inclusion and participation (INTEGRA) funded by Croatian Science Foundation.
- Sanja Potkonjak –associated professor at the Department of ethnology and cultural anthropology at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Trainers: Prof. Dr. Goran-Pavel Šantek and Dr. Sanja Lončar

Feedback from participants

All participants have shared that they really liked the materials. They found the content of the Handbook, Workbook and the Manual for trainers well-structured and well-developed. None of them has shared any recommendations or improvement suggestions regarding the content of piloted materials.

Participants shared the following recommendations for the structure of the platform:

- the downloadable materials should be opened in a separate window in order to make it easier for the user.
- the button for submitting the answers to all quizzes is not functioning properly
- it is recommended to have feedback on knowledge initial assessment test
- corrections are needed at some questions were both answers are "false".

Photos during the piloting











2.4. Piloting in the United Kingdom

The piloting process in the United Kingdom, at Buckinghamshire New University has been conducted in face-to-face format on 09/08/2021. All 10 recruited participants were enrolled on the UniCulture Moodle platform and has access to learning resources (Handbook, Workbook, Digital Library, Manual for trainers). They were asked to focus on Module IV content, both for Handbook and Workbook. Initial assessment (knowledge and motivation) was performed using the e-learning platform with the main aim of testing the assessment tools.

On 09/08/2021, a full day face to face training was performed onsite (venue: University Campus Aylesbury Vale BUCKS). First, the trainers (Florin Ioras and Tim Cool) presented the project aims, activities, outputs and the planned impact. Second, the content for the fourth Module (Handbook & Workbook) and the Manual for trainers was presented and discussed in an interactive and collegial manner. Participants were encouraged to critically review the content of and to write down any suggestion for content improvement.

For the knowledge self-assessment, all participants were asked to undertake:

- Self-evaluation test for Module IV
- Per-module evaluation for Module IV.

Participants and trainers provided feedback on Handbook, Workbook and Manual content, and on the online platform, online tests and quizzes. The feedback was collected based via the online questionnaires (Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES) and through face-to-face discussions at the end of the training sessions.

The pilot participants (teaching staff at Buckinghamshire New University)

- John Marimpilay
- John Hathaway
- Richard Mather
- Richard Jones
- Abigail Whitall
- Christine Parson
- Julia Robertson
- Sainey Faye
- Margaret Greenfields
- Claire Rogers





Trainers

- Florin Ioras
- Tim Cool

Feedback from participants

- All participants reflected on the UniCulture training environment and concluded to be a
 very useful support tool for University's mission on widening participation. Some minor
 amendments were undertaken on the materials based on participant's feedback.
 University's Students Success will integrate the Workbook and Handbook in their staff
 training offer. Participants recommended some rewording for questions used for initial
 knowledge assessment and some technical corrections (Moodle settings) for raising the
 platform usability.
- All ten participants informed the trainers that are planning to further explore the UniCulture training kit and to implement in their teaching activities the new perspectives and approaches identified while taking the UniCulture course. As starting the academic year 2021-2022 a working group on widening participation and intercultural matters will be established, participants pointed out that the long-term impact might be discussed at the last Senate of 2022 academic year (July 2022).

Feedback from the trainers

Both trainers evaluated the piloting experience as useful and empowering.

Photos during piloting













2.5. Piloting in Romania

The piloting process in Romania, at Transilvania University of Brasov (UNITBV) has been conducted in July 2021 (1-23 July), following several steps. Participants' recruitment has been performed by the Romanian project team using personal networks within Transilvania University of Brasov and in partners universities. The recruitment process was a good opportunity to disseminate the UniCulture project. After some round of discussions, six teachers from Transilvania University of Brasov agreed to participate in the piloting process based on a blearning approach (online practice and face-to-face meetings).

All six participants were enrolled on the UniCulture Moodle platform and provided with full access to resources (Handbook, Workbook, Manual for trainers). They were asked to focus on Module III content, both for Handbook and Workbook.

Initial assessment was performed using the e-learning platform with the main aim of testing the questionnaire/measurement tools (i.e., questions clarity and accessibility, platform usability etc.). The average score for motivation was 80 points from 100 maximum, with minimum of 60 points and maximum 100. The average score for knowledge assessment was 5.5 from 10 maximum, with 2.5 minimum and 7 maximum score.

On 22nd of July, a full day face to face training was performed onsite (venue: Transilvania University of Brasov, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Eroilor 25, building C, room TII5). First, the trainers (Carmen Buzea and Luiza Mesesan Schmitz) presented the project aims, activities, outputs and the expected impact. Second, the content for the third Module (Handbook & Workbook and the Manual for trainers) was presented and discussed in an interactive manner. Participants were encouraged to review the content and to write any suggestion for content improvement.

All participants were asked to fill two self-assessment tests using the e-learning platform:

- Self-evaluation test for Module III
- Per-module evaluation for Module III.

The average score for self-evaluation was 6 (from 10 maximum), with 4 minimum and 8 maximum. The average score for per-module evaluation was 6, with 4 minimum and 9 maximum.

Participants and trainers provided feedback on Handbook, Workbook and Manual content, as on the online platform, online tests and quizzes. The feedback was collected based on the online questionnaires (Feedback Questionnaire TRAINEES) and by direct discussions at the end of the face-to-face training sessions.

The pilot participants

- Victor Briciu Associate Professor, PhD, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brasov.
- Bodi Diana Lecturer, PhD, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Faculty
 of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brasov.





- Arabela Briciu Associate Professor, PhD, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brasov.
- Ioana Atudorei, Lecturer, PhD, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brasov.
- Ada Dobrescu, Lecturer, PhD, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brasov.
- Mihaela Gotea, Lecturer, PhD, Department of Social Sciences and Communication, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brasov.

Trainers

- Prof. Dr. Carmen Buzea
- Lecturer Dr. Luiza Mesesan Schmitz

Feedback from participants

- participants considered that the UniCulture training kit is well structured, with a rich, updated and very useful content. Some typos (both in Handbook and Workbook) were detected, and the trainers noted them for corrections in the revised versions of the materials. Participants also suggested that based on the UniCulture learning materials (Workbook and Handbook) short or intensive learning activities might be developed in the future to be integrated when organizing workshops, seminars, team building with different types of participants (children, students, mature learners etc.). Participants recommended some rewording for questions used for initial knowledge assessment and some technical corrections (Moodle settings) for raising the platform usability.
- the six participants informed the trainers that are planning to further explore the UniCulture training kit and to implement in their teaching activities the new perspectives and approaches identified while taking the UniCulture course. As starting the academic year 2021-2022 a new English bachelor program will be offered by Sociology and Communication Faculty, participants pointed out that the long-term impact might be discussed by the end of the academic year (June 2022).

Feedback from trainers

Both trainers evaluated positively the piloting experience (reports available on the platform).

Photos during the piloting

















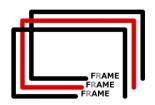
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