

### **Track 3: Intercultural Dialogue in a Changing World**

#### **Language & Intercultural Learning during the Residence Abroad**

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The influence of L3 on L2 in proficiency and intercultural developments during the year abroad

**Keywords:** language learning, intercultural learning, personal development, preparation for the residence abroad.

This paper will present preliminary data on the influences of the L3 (German) on developments in learners' self-knowledge and in their linguistic and intercultural development during the year/semester abroad in German-speaking countries. A possible combination/inter-relationship of factors (linguistic, inter-cultural, personal and socio-cultural) is considered following a quantitative and qualitative study carried with Irish students from six universities in Ireland who undertook study or work placement (Erasmus programme) in Germany/Austria in 2007 as part of their undergraduate studies in German.

The role and influence that the Irish language which was studied by most students had on the linguistic and intercultural development of informants will be systematically examined. The role and influence of the German language and culture on the native language (Irish) and native culture is also analysed, which demonstrates aspects of intercultural learning.

Previous research indicates that symbiotic language skill development and intercultural learning do not automatically happen during the residence abroad but need deliberate activation. Drawing on a preliminary analysis of data, this paper will examine cultural learning during the residence abroad.

It will:

- 1) outline the research questions and their emergence from previous research in the area;
- 2) describe the methodologies deployed;
- 3) point to the significance of findings in relation to earlier studies in the area and compare to the preliminary findings of this study;
- 4) summarize the results of questionnaires, language tests, interviews and emails of this study;
- 5) highlight any recommendations for mobility coordinators and students who are preparing for the residence abroad.

**Friday 8 October 1:30 – 3:00**