

Exploring action research

Ideas for a workshop for language teachers



www.ecml.at/actionresearch

Welcome to the ARC Workshop!

“Action research is the study of a social situation with a view to improving the quality of action within it.”

John Elliott

Enhancement

Empowerment

Action research can be a very powerful tool for teacher development and empowerment – in particular in a changing and ever-faster world where there is less and less time for reflection and discussion.

How to use the ideas for a workshop

This workshop template is based on trialled events and can be used as a basis for running a two – four-day workshop on action research with teachers of languages.

The template is organised into 4 sections or modules and can be used and adapted in a flexible way.

Each module offers

- activities helping to get into action research (first column),
- a “Content pack” offering a content-based approach and providing impulses for action research around concrete classroom topics (second column). The theme offered here is *Intercultural learning in the language classroom*. It proved interesting for different groups of teachers of languages. However, the Content pack is interchangeable and can be replaced by any thematic area relevant in the language classroom.
- aims of the proposed activities with regard to the envisaged learning outcomes for the workshop participants (third column).

Envisaged learning outcomes for participating language teachers

- Awareness and understanding
 - Awareness of the potential and implications of action research
 - Understanding of how teachers can enhance their practice through action research
- Knowledge
 - Knowledge about action research tools
- Competence
 - Competence to start a first action research project

Module 1

Activities Getting into action research	Content pack Intercultural learning in the language classroom	Aims
Arriving at the workshop As participants come through the door Language tree Settling down Suitcase activity	Activity to get into theme Associations – going through the alphabet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To open up to working together, challenging ideas and developing teaching • To clarify that there are different approaches to a topic and different ideas • To bring languages teachers together
Opening up discussions on the theme Analytic conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of visualisation of lessons • Posters on teaching “intercultural learning”: my status quo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To get to know each other and to demonstrate an action research tool • To show that discussions about teaching aren’t always critical, comparative...
Lecture on action research Action research walk and talk		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set the scene, bring across why reflection on teaching is important
Short evaluation Memos		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To demonstrate a feedback cycle

Module 2

Activities Getting into action research	Content pack Intercultural learning in the language classroom	Aims
Feedback on feedback Feedback on the participants' evaluation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate how to react to participants feedback
ARC project as a way into action research	Action research communities for language teachers, an ECML project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give information about the ARC project & other opportunities offered by the ECML
From analytic discourse to perspectives on themes	Current (opposing) trends in cultural studies & intercultural learning Babylonia 2/2019 article Konrad/Steiner (available in German)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate a reflective perspective on intercultural learning To provide a theoretical framework
	Illustration of islands on intercultural learning in the language classroom Reading around intercultural themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide content for development of lessons planned together To ensure that joint planning will work in a concrete way To focus on reflection
First step to finding themes and groups for lesson development	Which materials provided were useful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate reflection on material
Island feedback An adaptable feedback idea – adapt according to the workshop venue	Island perspectives!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate a further feedback cycle

Module 3

Activities Getting into action research	Content pack Intercultural learning in the language classroom	Aims
Welcome activity and comments on evaluation of Module 2	Let's continue with content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring group back together • To demonstrate taking feedback on board
<p>Group diamond activity to find a common vision</p> <p>Developing a lesson together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflective process – what happens when we plan together • Expectations how the lesson will work in the different classes 	<p>Our vision for good lessons about the cultures of target-language countries</p> <p>Planning lessons</p> <p>Lessons on the culture of a target-language country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To open up ideas for joint planning/ joint visions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check: Is it action research or lesson planning? Dialogue sheet – finding a question 	<p>Planning phase: Finding your starting point for your lessons and your action research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To put joint planning/ joint visions into practice
<p>Feedback</p> <p>Wailing wall</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To demonstrate a further feedback cycle for continuation

Module 4

Activities Getting into action research	Content pack Intercultural learning in the language classroom	Aims
What we learnt from the Wailing wall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate how reflection becomes a routine
Reflective process – what happens when we plan together	Continuation of planning phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To put joint planning/ joint visions into practice
Presentations & conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “What is different now?” Clarifying reports 	Lesson formats on intercultural learning in the languages classroom Some plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To stimulate interest for the work of others
Summative feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper-ball evaluation Where required, official written evaluation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate a feedback cycle