



1. Short description of the experience (name, university, study course, age, activity carried out, length of the experience). *My name is Lilija. I am from Vytautas Magnus University; I am a master degree student of Family research sciences. One semester in 2010 five students from VMU had a great experience in virtual learning courses.*
2. Why did you choose this experience? (to improve languages, to improve interculturality, to gain online degrees, to carry out an online internship or research...) *Actually, I chosen this experience to see how such projects are organise. I was a little bit afraid – what if I will not manage to do activities? But I strongly knew that there is a national and international team (teachers and colleagues), who are always ready to help.*
3. Did this online experience help you to improve your intercultural awareness (did you gain a better understanding of another culture)? Can you explain how? *We were working in international teams, so some intercultural differences could be seen in the work process, but we quite easily solved it and it all turned into advantages. Also, there were some topics about intercultural differences in curriculum. Communicating in an international team we were able to make sure how it works in practice.*
4. Did your language skills and ICT skills improve through participation in this online experience? How? *Almost every week international teams were preparing homework therefore we were communicating via Skype, Gmail, Facebook and other tools. In such a way we improved our language and ICT skills.*
5. What kind of communications tools did you use? (synchronous/asynchronous, written/oral: email, forum, video conference, web 2.0 tools, blog, chat, social networks...). Did you find any of these tools difficult/easy to use? *First of all, we usually designed a weekly working plan, share responsibilities with synchronous tools (Skype, Facebook chat, Google talk). It was more comfortable to use written tools, but several times we tried video conferences. During the week we*

were communicating asynchronously. All in all, each international team was able to choose the convenient way to communicate.

6. Did you have any problems? (difficulties to organise, too different to face to face experience, lack of time/motivation/ support from institution, problems with the ICT tools used...). *Our international team was really work-orientated; as well I tried to carry out the task consistently, so I hadn't problems with that. On the other hand, for me it wasn't easy to talk in online video conferences.*

7. Were your expectations satisfied? Taking part in an online intercultural exchange was a positive experience for you? Would you recommend the same experience to your friends?
I really recommend the same experience to my friends for several reasons: first of all, it is a great feeling to be part of an international team. Secondly, there weren't unsolved difficulties. All in all, it was one of the most interesting subjects in my studies. Take part of it!

TAGS: intercultural skills, language skills, ICT skills