

## **Cross-cultural Learning**

*Cross-cultural students' portfolio in year 9 political science (civics) classes preparing work placement, career planning and job training*

In the academic year of 2014/15, the cross-cultural students' portfolio was introduced by CGIL-Bildungswerk e.V. in cooperation with the local education authorities; it aims at developing and increasing the students' cross-cultural competencies such as team spirit, responsibility, flexibility in dealing with people from different cultural environments.

Students, teachers, parents and companies are expected to gather experiences and acquire skills outside school which might then be recognized as vocationally oriented competencies and be utilized in formal applications. Among these skills are everyday challenges such as supporting migrants in dealing with authorities or doctors by employing multiple linguistic skills which are required in our international community.

The portfolio is subdivided into a working file and a presentation file.

The working file is subdivided into the following subjects:

- Tracing back my origin
- My languages: I speak German and ...
- My cultural and cross-cultural experience
- My everyday experiences and my interests
- My personal strengths
- Desires and professional plans

The presentation file is seen as a resume of the working file and serves as a basis for applications. The students delineate their origins and present their linguistic, cross-cultural and everyday skills, career plans and desires. This provides a multi-faceted portrait of the young applicant and might arouse a potential employer's interest more easily.

The portfolio is designed for young people with or without a migratory background; all of them acquire cross-cultural experiences and skills, no matter if they grow up in a German or an immigrant family.

Some particular classes are accompanied and supported by Mrs. Fortunato who is in charge of the "JUMINA" project by order of the local school authority. She contributes a wide range of cross-cultural factory tours, workshops and other activities.

transl. Lz 7/2016