

INTERACT

WP 10 Design of Empirical Research Tools

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The aim of WP10 is the design of the appropriate research tool for the investigation of teachers' perspectives and of their reflections on their practice in relation to the intercultural dimension of citizenship education.

We discussed the topics to be covered in this investigation with our partners at the INTERACT meeting in Leeds. We then collectively designed a semi-structured interview schedule and we adapted this for the context of England. This instrument was then used in focused interviews with individual teachers involved in the implementation of citizenship education.

There are strong advantages to a set of open questions as a research instrument. Principally it is able to capture the many different ways in which the intercultural dimension of citizenship education is conceived and implemented. It allows participants themselves to identify relevant and important issues regarding their practice and articulate their own perspectives. However, the set of questions also provides a basic and comparable structure for the interview. It helps to avoid discussion of issues that may not be directly relevant to the research.

The design of the schedule was based on and reflects the three dimensions of the teachers' role suggested by the INTERACT research questions. These dimensions are:

- Teachers as citizens
- Teachers as cultural workers
- Teachers as transformative agents

A first trial of this schedule was piloted in a secondary school in London and after minor amendments was used in secondary and primary schools in Leeds, Birmingham and London.