

TEACHERS' REPORTS FINDINGS

Visiting scheme

- Language of instruction = L1 for pupils and L2 for the teacher
- Language of instruction = L2 for both parties

Before travelling

It is important:

- **To establish contacts with the hosting institution**
- **To find information about the differences in teaching cultures and local school curricula**

Before travelling

Anticipated problems:

- Language of the classroom and language of the subject
- Pupils' prior knowledge
- Methodology
- Class management

Before teaching

It is important:

- **To cooperate with the local teacher, exchange information**
- **To observe classes**
- **To get acquainted with the teaching resources (textbooks, materials, aids)**

Teaching

It is important:

- That the *local teacher* is present during the first teaching attempt
- For the *local teacher* to provide the *visiting teacher* with feedback after the lesson(s)
- For the *visiting teacher* to change the teaching style (e.g. type of classroom interaction) based on the first experiences if appropriate

Reflecting on the experience

It is important:

- To establish good rapport and positive working atmosphere from the very beginning
- To be well acquainted with the way of giving instructions (mathematics, especially mathematical notation, and classroom language)
- To be flexible and sensitive to the educational environment

Reflecting on the experience

It is not necessary:

- To have a perfect command of L2
- To plan the lessons in detail before the visit
- To be anxious about the experience

N.B.

- All the reflections covered both **cognitive and emotional aspects** of the experience.
- The **notation of reflections** was diversified, ranging from structured to free descriptions of events and emotions.
- We noted **differences** between the way the experience was reflected by teachers (T) and student teachers (ST). For ST, the experience was new and so exciting that they usually reflected on their teaching in a much more detailed way.

Summary

- It was commonly agreed that the language level of the visiting teacher does not have to be near first language speaker. On the other hand, a minimum of Council of Europe B1, B2 level is expected.

Summary

- The teaching experience abroad made it possible to gain deeper insight in both the subject matter and the ways how to teach it. The experience was enriching in terms of the discovery of new teaching strategies.
- Moreover it is motivating for the visiting teachers' future professional development.