

# Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters



## Module 6

### Activity 1: Using the AIE in different contexts

#### Commentary

It is important to note that the AIE can be used for more than one reason in any given context. More than one answer is therefore possible here. We have chosen the reasons for using the AIE that seemed most obvious to us.

#### 1. Encourage positive interest in other people

Example D Trainee teachers of religious education are about to start a new module on “Teaching about World Faiths”. They are asked to complete the AIE before the first session of the module.

#### 2. Develop habits of self-reflection

Example A A youth choir is singing in a series of concerts in another country. The visit involves four nights homestay, with two choir members staying in each host family. The choir leaders used the AIE with the young people after their visit as part of their reflection on the experience.

Example K At a secondary school pupils are asked to complete an AIE immediately after the summer holiday. They do this three times while they are at the school: at the beginning of their first year (when they use the Younger Learners' Version); at the beginning of their third year (Standard Version), and at the beginning of their fifth year (Standard Version).

#### 3. Help people manage their multiple identities

Example B Two schools have established a school partnership with each other. One school is located in a rural area where the population is fairly well-to-do and largely monocultural. The other school is in a multi-cultural urban district with high-levels of deprivation. Groups of pupils from the schools meet up with each other three times a year to share in different activities together. The teachers use AIE questions after each activity day to help the pupils establish common ground in youth collaboration.

Example H Pupils at a school in a deprived area of a large city with high youth unemployment rates are undertaking a ‘Prepare for Work’ training programme. This involves two weeks work experience in various businesses in the city. After the work experience the pupils are asked to fill out an AIE using an encounter they had during those two weeks.

# Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters



## 4. Support people when they study, work and/or live internationally

- Example C A company does a lot of international business involving business trips to other countries and meetings with international partners. The AIE is included in a team coaching programme for employees of the company.
- Example E At a university, international and non-international students live in the same university residences. The residences committee organises periodic meetings for these students, some of which are social events and some of which deal with various issues related to university life. One such meeting is used to discuss living together when habits and customs are often so different. Before the meeting the students are asked to complete an AIE.
- Example G Two language classes in different countries are doing an online intercultural exchange with each other. The teachers in both classes ask their learners to fill out the AIE and share the intercultural encounter they write about with their online tandem partners in the other country.

## 5. Enable people to help those who are culturally different from themselves

- Example J Young people in a school community service project are helping elderly people in the neighbourhood one afternoon a week for three months. After one month the teacher organising the project asks the young people to complete an AIE.

## 6. Pre-empt and diffuse conflict situations

- Example F An extremist right-wing group has been distributing anti-immigration and anti-Muslim literature in the neighbourhood. Teachers in a local school decide to use the AIE with their classes.
- Example I A big league football match is coming up and large numbers of fans from another country are expected in town to support their team. There has been a history of racism and violence among football fans in the town. A local youth club decides to use questions from the AIE with its members before the match takes place.