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Radiography English Across Borders: A Czech-Austrian Cooperation

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The presentation

Outline

- Background and idea
- Practical aspects and challenges
- The project
- Lessons learned
- Conclusion



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The background and the idea

How the Czech-Austrian cooperation came about...

EALTHY (European Association of Language Teachers for Healthcare) Conference in Bern, 2017

EALTHY Spring Symposium in Wr. Neustadt, 2019 – idea for cooperation

COVID-related delays

October 2021 – Pilot project at Olomouc and Wr. Neustadt

October 2022 – Project funded by AKTION Österreich – Tschechische Republik

The idea



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- Bring radiography students of Olomouc and Wiener Neustadt together in Wiener Neustadt (and Olomouc)
- “Making it real” in a bi-national setting
- Add cross-cultural dimension to patient communication
- Foster cross-cultural exchange



The background

Radiological Technology, 3rd semester course

Professional English I - Patient communication and selected procedures

Part 1: In-class teaching - patient communication in Radiological Technology and focus on common bone x-ray

Part 2: Flipped classroom - preparation of role-plays and positioning task - all resources on Moodle (videos, etc.)

Part 3: X-ray simulation room – “making it real” – role plays using real equipment



Practical aspects and challenges

The Austrian side

- Cooperation of institution
 - ✓ support of Head of Radiography Programme and Head of Faculty
 - ✓ providing rooms, equipment, refreshments
- Selection of students
- Funding for going to Olomouc



Practical aspects and challenges

The Czech side

- Cooperation of institution
 - ✓ support from the department and administration
 - ✓ providing room, equipment, refreshments
- Selection of students
 - students wary of participating



Practical aspects and challenges

Funding: AKTION Austria – Czech Republic

“A programme to promote bilateral collaboration in science and education between Czechia and Austria. This is a joint programme run by the Ministries of Education of the two countries.”

AKTION Österreich – Tschechische Republik

„Wissenschafts- und Erziehungskooperation dient der Förderung der bilateralen Zusammenarbeit in Bildung und Wissenschaft im tertiären Bildungsbereich. Gefördert werden Stipendien und Kooperationsprojekte.“



Practical aspects and challenges

Funding: AKTION Austria – Czech Republic

- The joint project proposal (very detailed itinerary) of Austrian and Czech partner; submitted by the author to the Czech University Rector's Office.
- A grant application is submitted to the MEYS (**Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**, Director of the Department of International Relations) by the Czech university
- If approved – ÖAD coordinates funding with Austrian partner directly

Input session – Medical Faculty University of Olomouc



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Output session FHWN



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Lessons learned

Student feedback:

- Found experiencing non-native university setting enriching and useful
- Boosted their confidence in their English language ability overall
- Benefited from useful, practical communication (dealing with non-native “patients”)
- Learned about the education system in the other country
- Motivating experience



Lessons learned

Lecturers:

- Application process
- Dealing with agencies
- Handling the logistics (travel, accomodation, the day at the institutions)
- Selecting the students

Challenges:

- Different forms of funding in each country
- Resistance towards English as a lingua franca



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Conclusion

Conclusion



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- Opportunity (and necessity) to use English in real environment
- Motivating form of learning
- Breaks down language barriers
- Promotes cross-cultural understanding
- Comparison brings new ideas for improvement
- Makes the study programme attractive
- Puts your institution on map



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Thank you for your attention!
