

Worksheet 1

Then reflect on one specific situation in which intercultural competence was required. Did you act appropriately and effectively? How can you continue to develop your intercultural competence?

When I was on vacation with my family in Croatia, there were several times when intercultural competence was required to communicate with the people living there. I suppose I behaved appropriately, I'm not sure, because I know too little about their culture. One way to improve intercultural competence is to be more attentive to other cultures and to learn to understand them.

How open am I to those from different cultural, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds?

I am very open to other people with different religious and cultural backgrounds and try to approach these people in a friendly and polite way.

Do I make quick assumptions about others? Do I prejudge people or situations, or do I make judgements later?

I try not to make quick prejudices about other people, but it is not always easy to face others without prejudice.

Do I try to understand other people's behaviour based on their own cultural background?

Yes, I try to understand the behaviour of other people based on their cultural background, even though I realize that some people do not act according to their culture.

Do I value those from different backgrounds even when I may disagree with their beliefs and options?

Yes, I value people of different cultural backgrounds, even if I do not share their beliefs. For me it is important to accept everyone as he is, whether he has a different belief or a different origin.

Am I eager to learn about different cultures and about people's backgrounds and experiences? Do I make an effort to learn more?

Yes, I am eager to learn about new and different cultures, because on the one hand I am interested and on the other hand, because it helps me to eliminate prejudices about others. And yes, I make an effort to learn more, but not always.

Can I describe my own cultural conditioning? How do I behave and communicate with others?

I always treat other people respectfully and appropriately and always communicate with them politely.

How would I describe my worldview?

I would describe my worldview as open for new things and against violence and racism.

How much do I know about other people's cultural backgrounds?

I know a bit about other cultures, but not very much and only superficially.

How much do I really listen to other people?

I often listen to other people, but when something is very boring and unimportant, I sometimes stop to listen and do something else instead.

Do I know how other people want to be treated or do I assume that they want to be treated by my cultural standards?

I do not know how other people from different cultures want to be treated because I know too little about their cultural background. Therefore, I can only assume how they want to be treated and therefore I act the way I want to be treated.