



TITLE:

From Mapping to Action: Intercultural Dialogue in Academia

SPEAKER: Tatsiana Karachun

PRESENTATION TYPE: WORKSHOP

Abstract

As English language classrooms become increasingly multilingual and intercultural competence is no longer a peripheral skill, conversely, it turns up to be a central tool for effective teaching. Yet, across Europe, teacher education often focuses primarily on language and methodology, leaving intercultural communication underdeveloped in faculty training.

Drawing on research mapping Teaching and Learning Centres across Italy, this presentation explores how co-design approaches can bridge this gap. Inspired by initiatives such as Joint Research Centre INNO4DIV, an acronym for “Educational needs of teachers in the EU for inclusive education in a context of diversity”, AFS Intercultural Programs, and UNIC European University Alliance Virtual Exchange, the session highlights how involving teachers in the creation of training components fosters inclusive, adaptable pedagogical practices.

A case study illustrates how co-design can address common intercultural challenges in ELT by placing international faculty identity at the centre of the process, highlighting how it interacts and intersects with local teaching practices, and transforming these encounters into opportunities for shared professional growth.

By embedding intercultural training within ELT professional development, institutions can support the faculty staff in navigating cultural complexity confidently, build shared professional vocabulary, and create more inclusive learning spaces. This presentation is relevant to language educators, trainers, and educational developers working in internationalised academic settings.

BIO

Tatsiana Karachun is a PhD student (XL Cycle) at the Università degli Studi di Macerata, Italy. Her research focuses on intercultural faculty development and the mapping of Teaching and Learning Centres across Italy, with a particular emphasis on supporting international faculty and fostering inclusive learning spaces.

She has over a decade of experience as an ESL teacher, university lecturer and teacher educator. Her professional interests include intercultural communication, ELT methodologies, and teacher development. Tatsiana has presented at international conferences, including TESOL Italy, World CLIL, and PhD research conferences. Her work bridges research and practice, promoting co-design approaches to intercultural teacher training.