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# FRIENDS Project Outcome/Achievements

**Royal Thimphu College**  
**07<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

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## Activities carried out through the FRIENDS project till date: (Action Plan)

1. Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity Massive Open  
Online Course – MOOC

<https://erasmusplusfriends.eu/register-page/>

2. Digital Storytelling Contests

3. Intercultural Passport Award

4. Home Away from Home Programme (Bootcamp)

5. Friends Beyond FRIENDS

\* TEAHOUSE(RTC)



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## \* RTC FRIENDS Tea House





# Intercultural Awareness & Cultural Diversity

## OBJECTIVE

To develop students' intercultural knowledge and skills



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## Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) – Themed on Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity

### MOOC Structure

- 18 units/topics
- Self-paced learning
- MOOC was designed as per the following
  - Lectures
  - Written transcript of each lecture
  - Videos/animation
  - Quizzes/assignments
  - Reference list/additional resources
  - Comment section

Summary of IACD MOOC.

**Certificate of completion – Awarded after the completion of MOOC**

# MOOC Syllabus

- **Chapter 1: Welcome to IACD MOOC**
- **Chapter 2: What is culture? The concept of culture. Cultural theories**
  - Unit 2: What is culture? Concepts of culture. Approaches in defining culture
  - Unit 3: Dimensions of culture - cultural distances between countries: identity, power, gender, uncertainty, time and gratification of needs
  - Unit 4: Cultural taxonomies. A critical approach to cultural taxonomies
  - Unit 5: World Values Survey
  - Unit 6: Understanding Ethnic and cultural diversity - multicultural citizenship and ethnic identity
  - Unit 7: Linguistic barriers as hidden dimensions of culture
  - Unit 8: Understanding gender and gender roles in different cultural contexts



- **Chapter 3: European cultural identity and diversity: united in diversity**

Unit 9: European identity and European values - Unity in diversity

Unit 10: Europe 2020: the current state of EU identity and diversity

Unit 11: European identity and values reflected in culture

Unit 12: Europe's intercultural HQ: report from Brussels



- **Chapter 4: Intercultural communication skills**

- Unit 13: Introduction to the communication studies

- Unit 14: Intercultural communication: culture as a frame for communication

- Unit 15: Culture matters: the role of cultural factors in intercultural communication

- Unit 16: Business etiquette and protocol: Do's and Don'ts when conducting business in specific cultures/countries

- Unit 17: Effective strategies for working in multicultural business environments

- **Chapter 5: Wrap-up and summary**

- Unit 18: Wrap-up and summary of IACD MOOC





## **Intercultural Awareness & Cultural Diversity Digital Storytelling Contest**

### **Objective:**

To validate international and/or intercultural prior experiential learning evidenced by relevant student digital stories



# Intercultural Passport Award

## Objective

To develop students' intercultural knowledge and skills

To provide them with opportunities for recognition and validation of prior intercultural experience



## Prerequisites of the Intercultural Passport Award

1. Completion of the Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity (IACD) self-paced MOOC
2. Validation of international and/or intercultural prior experiential learning evidenced by relevant student digital stories



# Importance of Intercultural Passport

## Intercultural Passport

- Is a metaphorical supplement to the official international passport that one normally uses when traveling
- Is a validation of acquired competencies in the fields of intercultural awareness and communication, and cultural diversity
- Is considered as an asset by the recipient
- Suggest to include the acquisition of this certificate in resume to build it up
- What the world needs right now is the possession of a global mindset, global knowledge and global skills; having this information included in the resume will be a plus factor in current job or when applying



# RTC Intercultural Passport Certificate



Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan  
Awards this  
**Intercultural Passport**  
to  
**Name Surname**

for having successfully completed the *Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity* Massive Online Open Course and for having created an original digital story dedicated to prior intercultural experiences, validated by Royal Thimphu College. The Intercultural Passport leads to the award of 4 ECTS recognized as part of the student's formal higher education.

The Intercultural Passport is issued in the framework of the Erasmus+ project entitled *FRIENDS: Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home*. The FRIENDS project is funded under the Erasmus+ Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education, project number 598652-EPP-1-2018-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP.

26 May 2020, Thimphu

Dr. Samir Patel  
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Tshewang Tandin  
President

Dr. Shiva Raj Bhattarai  
Dean, Academic Affairs

## Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity Course Contents

- Unit 1: Introduction to IACD MOOC.
- Unit 2: What is Culture? Concepts of culture. Approaches in defining culture.
- Unit 3: Dimensions of culture - cultural distances between countries: identity, power, gender, uncertainty, time and gratification of needs.
- Unit 4: Cultural taxonomies. A critical approach to cultural taxonomies.
- Unit 5: World Values Survey.
- Unit 6: Understanding Ethnic and Cultural Diversity - multicultural citizenship and ethnic identity.
- Unit 7: Linguistic barriers as hidden dimensions of culture.
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- Unit 15: Culture matters: the role of cultural factors in intercultural communication.
- Unit 16: Business etiquette and protocol: Do's and Don'ts when conducting business in specific cultures/ countries.
- Unit 17: Effective strategies for working in multicultural business environments.
- Unit 18: Wrap-up and summary of IACD MOOC.

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# THANK YOU