

Unit 3 – Practical application of ICC

Recommended duration: 10 hours per country

Description: In this unit, learners are presented with country profiles of Romania, Lithuania, Greece, Spain, Italy, and Cyprus. Specifically, all the information that would be important to know when interacting with adult learners in or from these countries. It provides culturally sensitive and useful information, as well as tips on the practical application of intercultural competence in these countries.

Methods: For each topic, a variety of methods and tools are recommended to be used. To start, a warm-up activity is designed to set the context of the topic (quotes or discussion questions) and/or test the learners' prior knowledge of that particular subject. After that, the main content of the topic is presented using text/reading paragraphs, diagrams, and illustrations. Comprehension and "Think and discuss" questions are recommended during parts of the main content and after it. Each topic ends with references, recommended links to additional materials, resources, and videos that could be used according to adult educators' needs. The provided resources are merely a recommendation. Adult educators are encouraged to supplement this material with their own resources and additional sources of information.

At the end of the unit, learners may complete a self-evaluation form in order to reflect on their progress and comprehension of the material of the unit.

Practical application of ICC in Romania

In this topic, we briefly present Romania and the situation there regarding multiculturalism and ICC. Romania's adult educators who work with multicultural and multilingual adult learners in any context should find this information useful as it is extremely important to know one's own culture in order to be able to understand and accept others.

■ Warm-up

- How do you usually present your country to foreigners?
- What main information do you mention?
- What do people usually know about Romania?

Discuss the following quotes and testimonials:

What some visitors to Romania (one of whom is Prince Charles) think about the country

For my part, I shall greatly look forward, at some point in the future, to returning to Romania, a country which holds such a special place in my heart! (Prince Charles)

Jeremy Clarkson described the Transfagarasan Highway in Romania as *"the world's best road"*.

Romania is different... I have a different feeling which is difficult to capture: many traces carved by the communist regime, gothic architecture, an old Latin language, different cuisine; I felt as if the roots of this culture come from a place I have never been to and I know nothing about. (Ernie, Alaska)

Maramures is a cheerful region with cheerful people and lively colours; even their cemetery is cheerful and colourful! (Anonymous visitor)

I can't say I'd had a negative image of Romania before I visited it but I simply didn't know there is so much beauty there. I also adored their huge amounts of delicious fruits and vegetables, which are incredibly cheap at that! (Becky, UK)

Dracula is an imported vampire; in fact, Dracula is Vlad Tepes, impaler, who is a national hero in Romania! (Anonymous visitor)

While in Romania I felt like at home, surrounded by wonderful people who made my visit a memorable experience; no wonder I found it difficult to part with them! (Matthew, Australia)



Source: <https://travelmakertours.com/tour/transfagarasan-medieval-city-sibiu-tour>



Source: [Libertatea.ro/Cimitirul Vesel din Săpânța](http://Libertatea.ro/Cimitirul_Vesel_din_Săpânța)

the



Think and discuss:

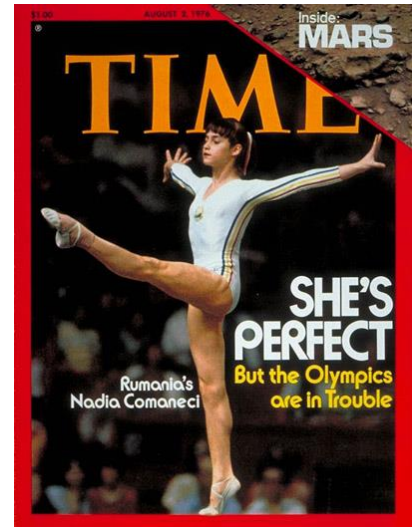
What do you know about Dracula? Was there a real historic figure in Romania's history which inspired Stoker?

Nadia Comaneci, Dracula and Ceausescu are the three Romania-related topics that everybody knows about. What do you know about them?

Which is the largest building in Romania?

Why is Nadia Comaneci so famous?

Which is the "newest" part of Europe?



Source: <http://www.istorie-pe-scurt.ro/patru-romance-care-au-facut-istorie-in-lume/nadia-comaneci-revista-time/>



Extra resources

The Danube Delta – the natural wonder of Romania - <https://travelandkeepfit.com/en/2018/10/10/the-danube-delta-the-natural-wonder-of-romania>

Dracula Legend - <http://romaniatourism.com/dracula-legend.html>

Did You Know? - <http://romaniatourism.com/did-you-know.html>

Bucharest great city - <https://www.romania-insider.com/bucharest-great-city-remote-working>

Nadia Comănechi - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nadia_Com%C4%83neci

Nicolae Ceaușescu - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolae_Ceau%C8%99escu

Palace of the Parliament - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_of_the_Parliament

Top Gear on Transfagarasan Highway - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCd7A-BD02c>

Bucharest: 2nd Largest Building in the World - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md7yHqBwkvo>

10 Best Places to Visit in Romania - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxyhpDww1eY>

The country in brief

Geography and main sites

Romania lies in south-eastern Europe, halfway between the Equator and the North Pole. Romania is the 12th largest country in Europe. Its land is almost evenly divided between mountains, hills and plains.

The Carpathians extend over 600 miles in Romania, in the shape of an arch featuring a wide range of landscapes, which favour: climbing, hiking, biking, and river-rafting. The climate is temperate, with four distinct seasons.



Source: <http://www.hartaromanieionline.ro/>



Romania enjoys a substantial wealth of natural resources: fertile land for agriculture, pastures for livestock, forests, petroleum reserves, and rare metals. Numerous rivers supply hydroelectricity and the Black Sea coastline is the site of both ports and resorts. 98% of its rivers spring from the Carpathian Mountains. The upper streams are usually spectacular, featuring numerous gorges, caves, and precipices. The Danube is its longest river and forms the southern border with Serbia, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. It fosters the youngest continental land, the Danube Delta, which is home to the world's largest reed bed and hosts rare species of plants and animals, including endangered species. There are around 3,500 lakes in Romania, ranging from glacial, volcanic, artificial, coastal lakes and lagoons.



Source: <https://www.helloholidays.ro/blog/cele-mai-frumose-lacuri-din-romania>

Special sites

The Iron Gates, the Danube's narrowest point between the Carpathians and the Balkans



Source: https://www.theepochtimes.com/sailing-through-the-danubes-iron-gates_3075706.html

The 3500-year-old Scărișoara glacier, **second largest underground glacier in Europe**



Source: <http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/ro/romania/pestera-scarisoara>

The Danube Delta, a UNESCO Biosphere Reservation, a wildlife paradise.



Source: <https://discoverdobrogea.ro/in-delta-dunarii-este-o-atmosfera-magica-si-linistita-acum>

Bigăr Waterfall, an unusual waterfall where its water spreads and falls in tiny shreds



Source: <https://aventurainromania.ro/cascada-bigar>



Extra resources

Romania Geography - <http://romaniatourism.com/geography.html>

Romania/Land - <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/Land>

Geography of Romania - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Romania

The Carpathian Mountains - <http://romaniatourism.com/the-carpathian-mountains.html>

The Danube-delta - <http://romaniatourism.com/danube-delta.html>

History

Romania's history has not been as idyllically peaceful as its geography. Over the centuries, various migrating people invaded Romania. The first inhabitants were the Dacians who were conquered by the Romans, who Romanised the country and imposed the language, laws and customs. Throughout the centuries Romania was divided into three provinces: Wallachia, Moldova and Transylvania. Wallachia and Moldova fought for their independence against the Ottoman Empire. Transylvania was under Austrian - Hungarian rule.

Modern Romania was formed in two stages: the first one in 1859 through the union of Wallachia and Moldova.

The new state, officially named Romania since 1866, gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1877. The next step towards modern Romania was in 1918 when Transylvania joined Romania.

Romania's post WWII history as a communist country is more known, mainly due to the former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

In December 1989, a national uprising led to his overthrow and the Communist regime in Romania suddenly collapsed. Romania then faced a difficult transition from Communism to democracy and a market economy.

The 1991 Constitution re-established Romania as a republic with a multiparty system, market economy and individual rights of free speech, religion, and private ownership.

Romania joined NATO in 2004 and the EU in 2007. History is often illustrated by our traditions, customs, and architecture/monuments, some of which have become part of UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE: 8 sites in Romania.

The eight outside painted monasteries



Source: <http://newsdiaspora.ro/2015/06/06/cele-7-minuni-ale-romaniei-manastirile-pictate-din-moldova/>

The 8 wooden churches of Maramureș



Source: <https://doxologia.ro/viata-bisericii/documentar/bisericile-de-lemn-ale-moldovei>

Sighisoara Historic Centre



Source: <https://patrimoni.ro/monumente-istorice/lista-patrimoniului-mondial-unesco/17-monumente-istorice/unesco/93-centrul-istoric-sighisoara>



Sarmizegetusa Regia - Discul solar și Sanctuarul circular

Source: <https://www.imperialtransilvania.com/ro/2020/11/21/citeste-stirea/argomenti/places-of-interest-1/articolo/cetatea-sarmizegetusa-semne-de-civilizatie-avansata-de-acum-2000-ani.html>

Cuisine

The Romanian cuisine is influenced mostly by Balkan, German, Hungarian and French cultures. Its main ingredients include meat (pork), cereals (wheat and maize), vegetables, fruit and dairy products. Romanians eat a lot of soup (sour soup: ciorba, bors), fried meat (pork, chicken and beef/veal) or stewed meat (tocana) with potatoes, mushrooms, beans and cabbage. Romanian food is often seasoned with herbs, garlic, onion and spices. Mamaliga with cheese and cream is very popular. Breakfast is usually salty: eggs and sandwiches with butter and ham or cheese, sometimes jam or honey accompanied by black Turkish coffee, milk or tea. The largest meal is eaten in the early afternoon – two main courses and usually the first one is soup. Main dishes are usually meat-based, such as tocana, a pork stew flavoured with garlic and onions. Fish dishes are typical of the Danube Delta. Other popular dishes include sarmale and mamaliga (polenta) with cheese and eggs. Vegetables can make up the main dish (beans, cabbage, aubergines/eggplants or mushrooms) or are served as side dishes. Typical desserts include “plăcinte”, salty or sweet pies or ‘Papanasi’ – doughnuts with jam and sour cream. Local wines are very good and widely consumed; a lot of small vineyards have started to gain international fame in recent years. Romania is the 9th largest wine producer in the world with very good quality wine. Țuica and pălincă, a strong plum brandy, are also popular, as are beer and soft drinks.

The mititei sausages ‘Mititei’, grilled sausage seasoned with garlic, is a common appetizer.



Sarmale - cabbage leaves stuffed with rice and meat, and mamaliga (polenta). “each bite is a bit of heaven”.



Ciorba - a variety of sour soups. Wonderful to warm-up with on a rainy day.



Local cheeses. A very unique flavor: tree-bark-cheese (brânza de coșuleț).

Papanash - fried or boiled doughnut-shaped pastry filled with soft cheese, smothered with berries and sour cream.

Salata de vinete (eggplant spread)

A typical Transylvanian dessert is
Cozonac secuiesc of Hungarian origin



Source: <https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki>



Extra resources

Romanian food wine -<http://romaniatourism.com/romanian-food-wine.html>

Easter in Romania traditions-food -<https://travelmakertours.com/easter-in-romania-traditions-food-fun-facts-and-more/>

10-traditional-dishes -<https://boutiqueromania.com/romanian-food-10-traditional-dishes-you-should-try/>

Specifics of everyday life

Most Romanians' working day is 8 hours. They spend their weekends relaxing at home with families or friends over prolonged meals (starting from 2 to 7/8 pm), talking, complaining about politics, watching TV (lots of Romanian private and national TV channels) or going out to the countryside, mountains or seaside. Romanians love having fun and appreciate the humour. Sundays are busy days for restaurants, bars, and shops. Parks are also full of people, especially families with children.

Foreign visitors consider that Romanian people are warm, friendly, and hospitable. Wherever you go, you will meet that Romanians will want to help you, although they may not speak a foreign language. However, most young people speak English and tend to use it even when their interlocutor knows Romanian. Paradoxically, this makes it difficult for foreigners to practice their Romanian while visiting Romania (unless they insist on it).

Street and violent crime are barely visible in everyday society. Romanians love driving, so the only dangerous part of a visit may be crossing a busy street. Romania has the largest number of shopping malls in Eastern Europe, with hundreds of shops, cafés, restaurants, and cinemas.



Source:
<https://www.lapensiuni.ro/ro/extra/ouale-incondeiate---o-traditie-straveche-romaneasca-163>

The Romanian culture is rich in complexity and traditions, as a result of its historical evolution. Romania is one of the most religious countries in Europe, and most of its population identifies as Orthodox Christian. The most important holidays are Easter and Christmas, offering good opportunities for family reunions.

Romanians have preserved many traditions, such as the celebration of Mărtisor (the first day of spring). Mărtisor celebrates the beginning of spring, when men offer women charms or other decorative objects tied with red and white ribbons.



Extra resources

Medieval Towns - <http://romaniatourism.com/medieval-towns.html>
 The World Heritage List - <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/RO>
 Painted monasteries - <http://romaniatourism.com/painted-monasteries.html>
 Traditional villages - <http://romaniatourism.com/traditional-villages.html>
 World-heritage-sites - <http://romaniatourism.com/world-heritage-sites.html>
 Romanian culture and lifestyle - <https://blog.whitemountain.ro/2014/08/romanian-culture-and-lifestyle>
 Romania lifestyle and culture - <https://www.rocapply.com/study-in-romania/about-romania/romania-lifestyle-and-culture.html>
 Daily life and social customs - <https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania/Daily-life-and-social-customs>
 12-traditions-only-romanians-can-understand - <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/romania/articles/12-traditions-only-romanians-can-understand/>
 Traditions folklore - <http://romaniatourism.com/traditions-folklore.html>
 Romanian lifestyle...the good and the good- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sagPKNrx5SQ>



Think and discuss:

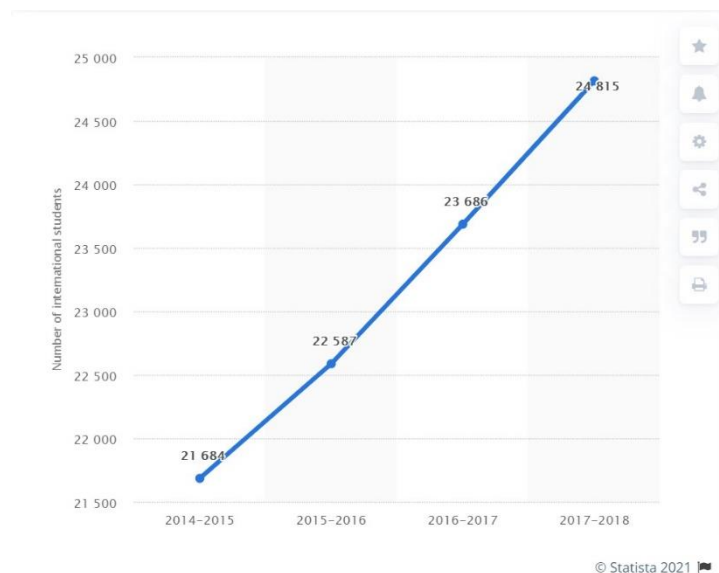
What surprised you most about the geography of Romania?
 Are there any other main sites/attractions in Romania that you think are worth visiting?
 What is the political system in Romania?
 What cultures have influenced Romania?
 Do you find any common features between your traditions and customs and Romanian ones?
 Is there an interesting tradition you want to be part of?
 How does Romanians' lifestyle differ from yours? Any points in common?
 Are Romanian people friendly?
 How would you describe the Romanian cuisine? Is it similar to yours?

Multicultural adult education

Where and how does it take place?

While many young Romanians choose to attend a university abroad, increasingly more international students choose to study in Romanian universities. Thus, the number of international students enrolled in Romanian universities has grown reaching over 25,000, in 2018, as compared to under 14,000 in 2010. About three-quarters of the international students come from non-EU countries, mainly from Middle-East countries (Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran), as well as Tunisia and Morocco. The highest number of EU students in Romanian universities comes from France and Germany. The offer of programmes and faculties is diversified with courses taught in international languages. Most of international students, over 70% are in faculties of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. They come to Romania to study due to lower tuition fees, good climate, good food and competitive educational programmes, many taught in English or French. The qualifications the students obtain are internationally recognised. Some of them decide to stay in Romania after graduation.

Romanian higher education has been always opened to international students thus, even during the Communist regime – a lot of students from Asian and African countries did their studies in Romania as a result of the exchanges between Romania and partners countries; the number of foreign students enrolled in Romania was already 10 % of the total number of students. In the '80s, Romania was among the first 15 providers of academic services for international students. The latest policies of the Romanian universities include admission of as many international students as possible for economic reasons and for cultural reasons.



Number of international students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs in Romania from 2014 to 2018 source: Source:
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1098620/international-students-romania>

Other educational programmes/projects

According to the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) there were 84,228 third immigrants with a right to stay in Romania in 2019, most of whom from Moldova, Turkey and China. The majority came for labour, family reunion and studies. The number of work permits issued during the same period was 29,800, for workers mainly from Vietnam, Nepal, India and Turkey. In 2019 Romania received 2,592 asylum applications from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Algeria. The refugees participated in governmental integration programmes as well a series

of programmes run by NGOs with the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Some projects offered social, psychological and educational services and provided social assistance and counselling services. They all target low-skilled immigrants, helping them to enter labour market. The programmes aim to facilitate their integration into the Romanian society by providing free Romanian language courses and linguistic, intercultural and educational workshops, adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries (adults and children).



Extra resources

2019 statistical data on migrants and refugees in Romania - <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/2019-statistical-data-on-migrants-and-refugees-in-romania>

A bridge for TCN integration in Romania - <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/intpract/my-place-multifunctional-cultural-centre-a-bridge-for-tcn-integration-in-romania>

Where-to-study/Europe/Romania - <https://www.topuniversities.com/where-to-study/europe/romania/guide>

Attitude to multiculturalism

In Romania, other ethnic communities (Hungarian, Roma, German, Turkish, Greek, Ukrainian) with specific cultural, linguistic and religious traditions, live alongside the Romanian communities. The regions with the highest ethnic diversity in Romania are Transylvania, Banat, Bucovina and Dobrogea, and the areas with the lowest ethnic diversity are Oltenia and Moldova. All ethnic communities are free to organise in terms of politics, social development and media while education reforms have helped to improve schooling in minority languages. The revised Strategy for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority – 2012-2020, adopted in 2015, sets targets in the key areas of education, employment, health, and housing and addresses also promotion and protection of Roma culture and participation in public and political life.

Experts and historians often state that Romania has not been a strong facilitator and mediator for regional multiculturalism although it has not hindered it either; its most important priority has been to maximise cohesion at the national level.

Regarding the perception that Romanians have on recent immigrants to Europe and the possibility for them to come to Romania, 65% of respondents agree that Romania should admit a certain number of immigrants (according to IRES.com.ro). When they speak in general, the older generation is reticent when it comes to refugees and asylum seekers for reasons of safety; this changes the moment they meet the people in person. Young people and people from culturally diverse areas (such as Timisoara or Cluj) are generally open. Romanians generally think that 'most international students blend with Romanian students and feel integrated. They are welcome to Romania and they find their way in here. It is easy for them to fit and be competitive and some of them learn the language'.



Extra resources

Immigrants crisis in Europe - Public perceptions of Romanians (EN) - <http://www.ires.com.ro/articol/304/criza-imigran-ilor-in-europa---percep%C8%9Bii-publice-ale-romanilor>

Multiculturalism within the postcolonial and post-communist frameworks. The cases of India and Romania - <http://www.synergy.ase.ro/issues/2015-vol11-no-2/17-Marinescu.pdf>

▣ The Romanian language

State language

The official language is Romanian, spoken by approximately 89% of the population. It is a Latin language (such as French, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese), which has evolved among peoples speaking Slavic and Hungarian and which was influenced by its historical evolution (Turkish, Greek, and German contacts). Hungarian is spoken by around 7% of the population, mainly in Transylvania. There is also a population of German speakers in Transylvania, around 1.5%. Other languages spoken especially in the eastern and south-eastern part of the country are: Aromanian, Turkish, Greek, and Russian.

Romanian is spoken by approximately 24–26 million people as a native language, primarily in Romania and the Republic of Moldova and is one of the official languages of the European Union. There are about 30 - 34 million people worldwide who can speak Romanian. Romanian does not have dialects within the country; Romanian is similar all over the country with minor differences of pronunciation which do not impede understanding. Romanian minorities live in Serbia, Ukraine, and Hungary. Large immigrant communities are also found in Italy, Spain, France, and Portugal. Romanian evolved from several dialects of Vulgar Latin.

Compared with the other Romance languages, the closest relative of Romanian is Italian. It is estimated that about 75%–85% of Romanian words is of Latin origin. Other influences: Slavic (10–15% of modern Romanian lexicon and its phonetics), German, Greek, Turkish and Hungarian. In the 20th century, an increasing number of English words have been borrowed and handled according to Romanian rules; thus "the manager" is *managerul*.

The Romanian alphabet is largely phonemic. Romanian has seven vowels: /i/, /î/, /u/, /e/, /ă/, /o/ and /a/. There are twenty-two consonants. It is easy to read Romanian texts. A few tips on particular sounds: ș (pronounced ſ like sh in fish; ț - the final sound in puts; ă like the final sound in reader, the schwa, /ə/; î - the nearest equivalent is a close vowel in the last syllable of the word *roses*; ghe/ ghi – ghețar/ghid like in *get/give*; ge/gi: *gem (jam)*, *girafă (giraffe)*, *ce – cerc/ cherries*; ci- cina/ *cheek*; che – *kettle*, chi - *chioșc/kiosk* - the letters c and g represent the affricates /tʃ/ and /dʒ/ before i and e, and /k/ and /g/ elsewhere.

Oddities

- Romanian is the only Romance language where definite articles are enclitic: that is, attached to the end of the noun (such as in Sweden, Bulgarian and Albanian).
- Romanian is the only language where a sentence can comprise five words containing only vowels. „Oaia aia e a ei”. Or Oaia aia o iau eu.
- There are two words which do not have any equivalent in any language: dor and doina. The Romanian word "dor" has no exact translation. It is both a verb and a noun and expresses longing, love and missing all in one. "Dor" is a central theme for many Romanian folklore songs. Doina is a lyrical, solemn chant that is improvised and spontaneous.



▣ Extra resources

10-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-romanian-language

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/romania/articles/10-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-romanian-language/>

Romanian: The Forgotten Romance Language - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xVkJRh7mEe0>

Latin vs Romanian - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5CYM0YSDR4>



Romanian Language. Can Spanish and French speakers understand it? -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmpibOOz1qA>

Similarities between Romanian and Italian - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obss4QMmzcw>

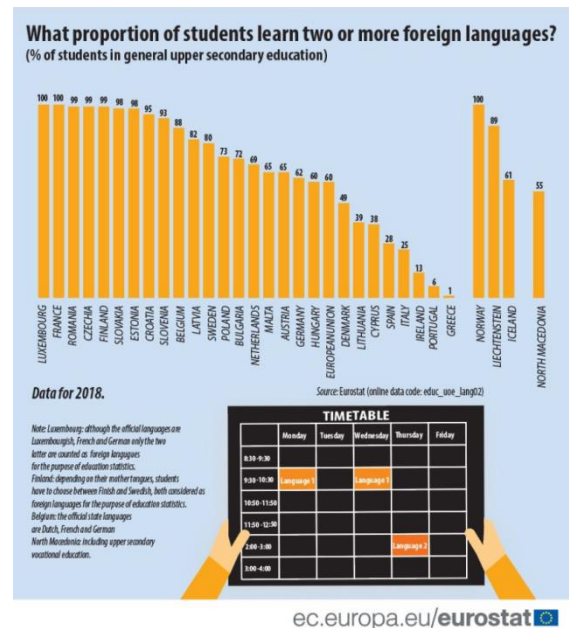
Similarities Between Turkish and Romanian - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN4bq_IR9BY

Foreign languages in Romania

Romania has been interested in developing different programmes for language teaching and learning. The benefits of language learning may be seen in terms of cultural awareness, internationalisation, language competence, preparation for both study and working life. English is the foreign language that Romanians speak most, followed by Italian, German, French and Spanish. Over 70 percent of Romanians believe that every European should know at least one foreign language and 60 percent believe that English should be the best option.

The age at which children begin to study a foreign language has dropped even four or three. There are kindergartens with exclusive program in foreign languages, most in demand being English, then German or Spanish. All schools in Romania have foreign language programs. Students must study at least one language to an advanced level and a second one at a more basic level. In other cases there are more than two foreign languages available to study and the student can choose from several. Many schools also offer bilingual courses. All lower secondary school students (100%) in Romania learn at least one foreign language and 99% of them learn two or more languages, these being among the highest shares in the European Union, according to a Eurostat report. Parents are particularly interested and encourage their offspring to learn languages for real practical purposes, offering them better job prospects on the labour market.

Romanians generally are open to foreign languages.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>



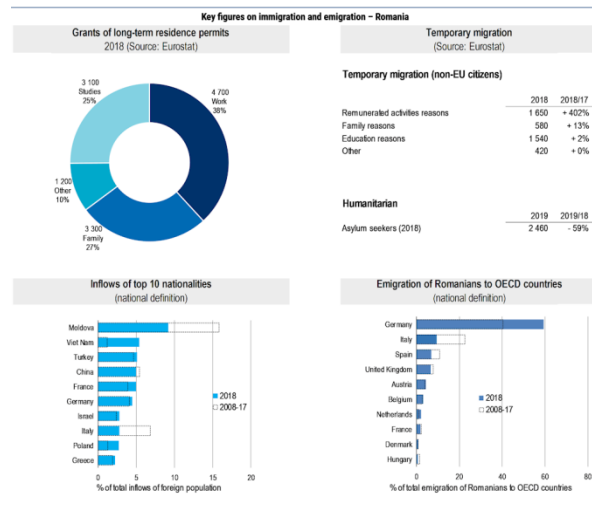
Extra resources

Study of foreign languages - <https://www.romania-insider.com/over-95-of-romanian-secondary-school-students-study-at-least-two-foreign-languages>

Statistics - https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/a/a0/Students_studying_two_or_more_foreign_languages_2018data.JPG

Reflection and application of ICC in Romania

Migration is a recent phenomenon in Romania although its people are friendly and hospitable. Romania became both a country of emigration and immigration after 1989. Until 2004 the number of immigrants was relatively low, the majority of immigrants coming from Syria, Jordan, Iran, Egypt, China and Turkey. Most of the foreigners came to Romania for commercial activities. There were also immigrants who studied at the Romanian universities continuing the tradition of the Communist regime. After 2007 when Romania joined the European Union more and more foreigners transited Romania. For example, in 2009, 49.406 people asked for a temporary stay (84%) as compared to 9.656 people (16%) who asked for permanent residence.



Source: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/89085e47-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/89085e47-en>

In recent years, although Romania is still a country of transit, it started to become more and more a country of destination and the number of migrants has increased considerably. The main reasons why foreigners establish residence in Romania are family reunion, education (international/Erasmus students) and employment. Asylum seekers are a recent category of migrants. In 2019, the number of first asylum applicants increased by 26.2%, to reach around 2 500. The majority of applicants came from Iraq (600), Syria (500) and Afghanistan (200).

Romania

Foreign-born population - 2019	
Size: 0.6 million, 46% women	Main countries of birth:
8% of the population	Moldova (40%), Italy (11%), Spain (9%)
Evolution since 2009: +278%	

Source: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/89085e47-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/89085e47-en>

Programmes targeting legal migrants and government employees and adult educators who work with migrants have been implemented to meet these needs. Such programmes and projects focus on developing intercultural

competence and are organised by public institutions, NGOs and formal and non-formal educational institutions. Their number has been steadily increasing in the last years.



Think and discuss:

Have you had any ICC training programmes in your workplace? If yes, could you share your experience with us?

Answer questions

1. Is Romania a country of immigration or emigration?
2. How many official languages are there in Romania?
3. Which are the most common foreign languages studied in Romania?

Reflect

- Why do you think that international students find Romania an attractive study destination?
- How would you define the Romanian's attitude towards migrants and refugees? Do you have any experiences in this regard?
- How would you explain Romanians' attitude towards foreign languages?



Resources

OECD Library, Romania, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/89085e47-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/89085e47-en>

Practical application of ICC in Lithuania

In this topic, we briefly present Lithuania and the situation there regarding multiculturalism and ICC. Lithuania's adult educators who work with multicultural and multilingual adult learners in any context should find this information useful as it is extremely important to know one's own culture in order to be able to understand and accept others.

▣ Warm-up

- How do you usually present Lithuania to foreigners?
- What main information do you mention?
- What do you think your country's image is around the world? What misconceptions are there?

What do you think the following quote and a famous Lithuanian proverb mean?

- "Lithuanian nation must be saved, as it is the key to all the riddles – not only philology but also in history – to solve the puzzle." Immanuel Kant
- "Nemesk kelio dėl takelio", roughly translates as "don't abandon a road for a small path."

▣ The country in brief

Geography and main sites

Lithuania is a democratic republic on the south-eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. It is divided into five regions: Dzūkija, Samogitia, Aukštaitija, Sudovia, and the Lithuania Minor. Since 2004 Lithuania has been one of the European Union countries and part of the Schengen zone, and also NATO. Since 2015 the country belongs to the euro area. Lithuania has borders with Poland, Latvia, Belarus, and ex-Karaliaučius (currently Kaliningrad) region. The length of the Baltic Sea coast is 90.66 km. The Lithuanian-Belarusian and Lithuanian-Russian Federation borders are also the borders of the European Union. The Lithuanian economic zone in the Baltic Sea (west) reaches the Swedish economic zone.

The largest city in the country is the capital Vilnius: [Visit Vilnius | Amazing wherever you think it is \(govilnius.lt\)](#)

Other big cities:

Kaunas: [Visit Kaunas - Visit Kaunas](#)

Klaipėda: [Klaipėdos Turizmas \(klaipedatravel.lt\)](#)

Šiauliai: [Šiauliai Tourism Information Center | visitsiauliai.lt](#)

Panevėžys: [English language \(panevezysnow.lt\)](#)



Source: [Lithuania | History, Population, Flag, Map, Capital, Currency, & Facts | Britannica](#)

The most beautiful sites in Lithuania:

Gediminas Tower: [The Gediminas' Tower | Go Vilnius](#)

Curonian Spit, included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Site list: [Curonian Spit \(visitlithuania.net\)](#)

Vilnius old town, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is unique for its history and architectural diversity, as well as its abundant green spaces, lakes, and forests: [Vilnius Historic Centre, Lithuania | World Heritage Journeys of Europe \(visitworldheritage.com\)](#)

Rumšiškės Open-Air Museum: [About us — Open-Air Museum of Lithuania \(lilm.lt\)](#)

Trakai Island Castle: [Trakai Castle | Go Vilnius](#)



Trakai Island Castle. Source: <https://exploretakaivilnius.lt/en/manors-and-parks/trakai-island-castle>

Lithuania, according to the Index of Economic Freedom compiled by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal, in 2020 ranked 16th in the world.

According to the United Nations statistics published in 2020, Lithuania ranked 34th out of 189 countries and fell into the category of extremely developed countries, according to the Human Development Index.



Think and discuss:

What sites would you recommend/like to see in Lithuania?

In what ways is Lithuania similar to your country?

History

The first inhabitants came to Lithuania in the final ice age, in 10 000 BC. Most of the Baltic peoples, who traded amber with Romans and later fought Vikings, were a tribe called Lithuanians. This process of Lithuanians becoming the majority speeded up under Mindaugas who became a Christian and was crowned as the first and only king in 1253. After his death, the people of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania went back to their pagan ways.



Painting by Adomas Varnas, *Coronation of King Mindaugas*. Source: <https://lietuve.lt/parodykime-kitoms-tautoms-savo-vienybe/>

Eventually, the Lithuanian people adopted Christianity under Grand Duke Jogaila (1387). Lithuanians created a long-lasting alliance with Poland. Under the rule of Grand Duke Vytautas Lithuania became the largest country in Europe in the 15th century, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

There was a new threat from Moscow, so responding to it Lithuania and Poland formed a Commonwealth in 1569. By the 17th century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth became weak. The country lost several wars that destroyed its great position of power. In 1772-1795 the country was split up into part and annexed by Prussia, Austria, and Russia with the main Lithuanian lands being ruled by Russia.

During Russian rule, the Lithuanian language was banned, and the Catholic religion was suppressed. In 1831 and 1863 there were two unsuccessful rebellions to restore Poland-Lithuania but finally, Lithuanian independence from Russia and Poland was established after the collapse of the Russian Empire and the surrender of Germany in World War I.

During World War II (1940), Lithuania was occupied by the Nazi Germany and by the Soviet Union. The Soviet occupation ended in 1990, having lasted 45 years. During this time of occupation, hundreds of thousands of people were murdered, tortured, or exiled to Siberia. This period of history has left deep economical and psychological scars among the Lithuanian people.

In 1988 a massive *Sąjūdis* independence movement was established. On 11 March 1990, Lithuania became the first country to restore its independence from the Soviet Union. Soon after that, Latvia and Estonia joined, and this led to the complete collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991.

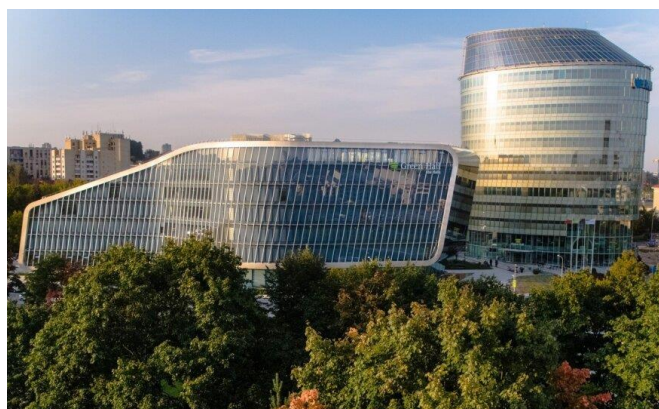
One of the most inspiring events of that period was The Baltic Way, or The Baltic Chain – a peaceful political demonstration in 1989, during which around two million people joined hands to form a human chain spanning 675.5 kilometres across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.



Baltic Way – a human chain from Vilnius to Tallinn, 23 August 1989.

Source: <http://www.kalvotoji.lt/2019/08/24/baltijos-kelias-pries-trisdesimt-metu/>

In the 1990s Lithuania's economy started to grow, building modern skyscrapers, department stores, and private homes. Due to many years spent in the Soviet Union, the Lithuanian economy was still behind other Western countries. Because of this a lot of Lithuanians emigrated. Emigration rose even more when Lithuania joined the European Union in 2004 – up to 20% of its people left the country, mostly to go work in other European countries. However, the situation has been slowly changing and now, more than 20 years later, there are more people arriving in Lithuania than leaving it.



Office buildings in Vilnius. Source: [Modern office space leasing thrives in Vilnius - EN.DELFI](#)

Manufacturing, production, lasers, fintech, and other future technologies in Lithuania have advanced a lot in the recent decades. It has become a hub of innovation. In the last decade, the number of start-ups has doubled and there are now more than 200 fintech companies operating, making Lithuania the second largest fintech hub in Europe. Lithuania is also home to a lot of IT talent. Universities work closely with the IT sector and produce a steady flow of IT professionals.



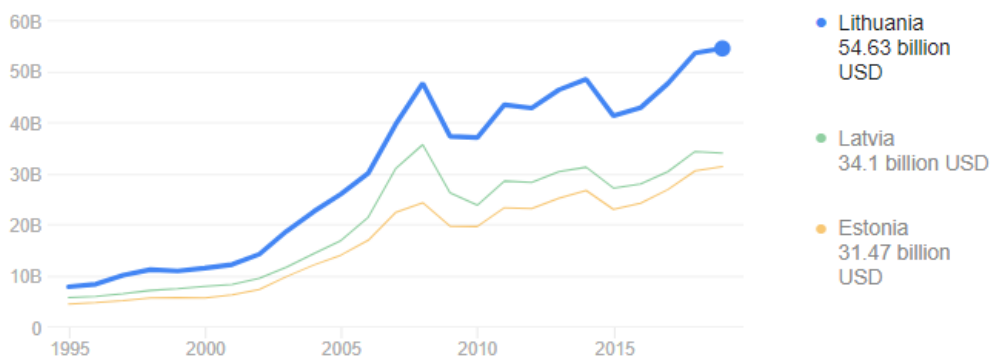
One of Vilnius' business districts.

Source: [bigstock-Vilnius-November-Modern-O-332522089](https://www.bigstock.com/stock-photo/332522089/Vilnius-November-Modern-O-332522089) - [Emerging Europe \(emerging-europe.com\)](http://emerging-europe.com)

Lithuania's economy is the largest economy in the Baltic states. Its GDP grew more than 500 per cent since it regained independence in 1990. According to the World Bank Group, Lithuania is ranked 11th in the world in the Ease of Doing Business Index, according to The Heritage Foundation, 16th (out of 178 countries) in the Index of Economic Freedom, and based on OECD data, it is in the top 5 countries in the world by postsecondary education attainment.

Lithuania / Gross domestic product

54.63 billion USD (2019)



Sources include: World Bank

Feedback

Think and discuss:

Have you heard about *The Baltic Way* in 1989 and the 2019 commemoration of its 30-year anniversary? Watch the video and discuss: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KoKq20RUlQ>

Has there been a similar event of solidarity in your country?

More about *The Baltic Way*:

<http://www.balticway.net/>

A short introduction to Lithuania:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPO4tbV4UHK>

Top 10 reasons to visit Lithuania:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v9Wvkoae3Q>

Cuisine

Lithuanians like to eat a lot and enjoy good food. Lithuanian traditional cuisine is not overly complicated but has a good variety of interesting dishes, many of which are hearty and suited for cold Lithuanian winters. Wheat, rye, potatoes, beetroots and turnips, various meats, mushrooms, berries, and dairy products are widely used as key ingredients. Lithuanian cuisine has a lot in common with its Baltic neighbours, as well as northern countries. It was formed by long-lasting agricultural traditions and a variety of influences from Germany, France, Poland, and other countries.

Because of globalization and the world becoming smaller, Lithuanians eat a wide variety of European and other cuisines. The following are dishes that have survived the test of the times and are considered Lithuanian national dishes:

Here are some of the most popular and unique Lithuanian dishes.

- *Cepelinai* (or *didžkukuliai*): large dumplings made of a mix of war and boiled potatoes, filled with pork or cottage cheese, usually served with sour cream or bacon sauce. Fun fact: the first Sunday of February is World Cepelinai Day, celebrated since 2014, a holiday first suggested by Americal-Lithuanian Jonas Vaičiūnas.



Source: [cepelinai - Europe Language Cafe](#)

- *Šaltibarščiai* (cold beet soup): this cold summer soup's main ingredients are pickled shredded beets and milk kefir or sour milk. It also usually has cucumber, dill, or green onions. This soup is eaten with hot boiled potatoes, cold sour cream, and cut hard-boiled eggs.



Source: [Šaltibarščiai Authentic Recipe | TasteAtlas](#)

- *Balandėliai* (stuffed cabbage): this dish is made from cabbage leaves that are stuffed with minced meat, sometimes with rice and onions. These “little doves” are served with sour cream or tomato sauce.



Source: [„Jaukusis maistas“ – balandėliai: 5 ruošimo gudrybės ir 2 receptai - LRT](#)

- Beer is the most popular alcoholic beverage in Lithuania and refried bread with garlic and cheese sauce is definitely the most popular beer snack:



Source: [Pasakė, kaip išsikepti skaniausią keptą duoną: skonis bus tiesiog tobulas | tv3.lt](#)



Source: [KEPTA DUONA SU ČESNAKINIŲ VARŠKĖS PADAŽU – ANT MEDINĖS LENTELEŠ \(antmedineslenteles.com\)](#)



Think and discuss: Are there similar dishes in other countries?

Resources: [Traditional Lithuanian Dishes - Delishably - Food and Drink](#)

Specifics of everyday life

There are approximately 3 million people in Lithuania and there are no significant conflicts within the society. Its culture and values are influenced by Western, Eastern, and Christian cultures. Lithuanians do not like to speak much to people that they don't know. They value family and their home is particularly important to them since it is there that they can freely speak their mind.

Family is the basis of the nation. A typical Lithuanian family consists of two parents and two children. Unmarried couples also often live together. In the past due to the shortage of housing, several generations used to share the same flat. This has changed now – children move out of their parents' house, but sometimes are still supported by them financially.

In terms of business and work ethics, the main values in Lithuanian society include:

- hard work
- saving money for the future
- owning a home and having a family
- having a prestigious job

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, most Lithuanian people worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, with a break for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. But now more and more companies are offering flextime and remote work. The commute from home to the workplace is short for most people as they live and work in the same city, so a typical day would begin at 6:30 or 7 a.m., then breakfast and a drive to work (public transportation is also very popular, although people increasingly use their own cars). Lithuanians come home after work at around 6 or 7 p.m. and spend their free time in front of the TV, working in the house, or meeting friends, going to the theatre, cinema, the gym, going cycling, jogging, or walking in parks and forests.

Some kids are taken to private or public school by car in the morning, but some are enrolled into the public or private school that is nearest to the family's home. School lessons start at 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. and end between noon and 3:30 p.m. depending on the children's age. After lessons, some children stay in after-school programs at school, and some are taken to other activities, like schools or clubs of sports, dance, art, etc.

Saturdays and Sundays are free for most people. On Friday afternoons there are a lot of people leaving larger cities and go to their farmsteads or to the beaches by the sea or lakes. In autumn, picking mushrooms is very popular. Forests are full of mushroom pickers with full buckets of yield.

Throughout Lithuania, there are hundreds of educational walking trails, like Karmazinas, Skrebio, Lajų track in Anykščiai, and hundreds more – all listed on this website: [Pažintiniai takai - Nesėdėk Namuose \(nesedeknamuose.lt\)](https://pažintiniai.takai-nesedeknamuose.lt). There is also a multitude of museums, popular among Lithuanians. Once a year, on May 18, commemorating the International Day of Museums, Lithuanian museums stay open until late hours of the night and organize various workshops for the public.

Those who stay in the city for the weekend, also don't usually stay at home. Lithuanians have a deep-rooted tradition to go to the cinema or theatre, and the infrastructures in cities reflect that. There are large spaces created as outdoor cinemas to be used in warm weather, like this one under Liubartas bridge in Vilnius:



Source: [Vilniaus miesto savivaldybė - Grijta kinas po Liubarto tiltu: „Gilios upės tyliai plaukia“ \(vilnius.lt\)](https://vilniausmiesto.savivaldybe.lt/grijta-kinas-po-liubarto-tiltu-gilios-upes-tyliai-plaukia)

In warmer seasons people often spend time outside with friends. Both children and adults are involved in various sports activities in basketball courts, outdoor sports complexes, etc. Basketball is incredibly popular in Lithuania, some of the best basketball players come from Lithuania, and Lithuanian national basketball team has earned three golden medals, three silver medals, and one bronze medal in EuroBasket. It is often joked that basketball is the second religion in Lithuania. Read more: [Why is Lithuania So Good at Basketball? \(theculturetrip.com\)](http://theculturetrip.com)



Source: [Aktyviam vasaros laisvalaikiui atnaujintas Baltojo tilto aikštynas - LRT](http://www.lrt.lt)

Theater and classical music are also very popular in Lithuania. Some of the most outstanding opera stars come from Lithuania: Violeta Urmana ([Violeta Urmana | Mezzo-soprano](http://www.violeta-urmana.com)), Asmik Grigorian ([Asmik Grigorian - Wikipedia](http://www.asmikgrigorian.com)) to name a few. Oskaras Koršunovas is a famous theatre director ([Oskaras Koršunovas - Wikipedia](http://www.oskaraskorsunovas.com)).

A list of other famous Lithuanian people: [Famous Lithuanians \(lietuva.lt\)](http://lietuva.lt)

The public is very involved in the form of community work and community event organizing. Initiatives in public space cleaning, music festivals (like the [Street Music Day](http://www.streetmusicday.lt)), [Pancake Tuesday](http://www.pancaketuesday.lt) (Shrovetide), [Kaziukas fair](http://www.kaziukasfair.lt), and lots of other events are popular. They are not only centred around the capital but there are also plenty of initiatives in smaller towns, like the Pumpkin Festival in Švėkšna: [Moliugu Svente Sveksna 2018 - YouTube](http://www.moliugu-svente-sveksna.com). Libraries often become community centres that involve the public of all ages in various activities.



Think and discuss: Which famous Lithuanians do you know?

References with more information:

- *Lithuanian ethics, virtues, and morale:*
<http://www.truelithuania.com/lithuanian-ethics-virtues-and-morale-4490>
- *Lithuanian etiquette:*
<http://www.truelithuania.com/lithuanian-etiquette-meetings-and-presents-5564>
- *Lithuanian daily and annual routine:*
<http://www.truelithuania.com/lithuanian-daily-and-annual-routine-4454>
- *Lithuanian etiquette rules:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaPc5ytkBdc>

- Simple DOS and DON'S in Lithuania:
http://www.studyinlithuania.lt/en/living_in_lithuania/usefuladvice/somedosanddonsinlithuania
- Lithuanian lifestyle: culture, music, sports, cuisine, and more:
<http://www.truelithuania.com/topics/lifestyle-in-lithuania>
- Vilnius International Film Festival Kino Pavasaris: [About the Festival \(kinopavasaris.lt\)](http://www.kinopavasaris.lt)

Films about Lithuania:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a64ixvIYSPM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH9mTk1mxkl>

▣ Multicultural adult education

Where and how does it take place?

Multicultural higher education

In Lithuania, there are two types of higher education institutions: universities and colleges (non-university higher education institutions). University studies award Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. Colleges offer studies awarding Professional Bachelor's degrees. In addition, both universities and colleges can offer non-degree granting studies.

According to [Study in LT](#), in 2020 there were around 6000 foreign students in Lithuania, and this number is growing every year. Most of the students are from India, Belarus, Ukraine, Nigeria, and Azerbaijan. In total there are citizens of about 100 different countries enrolled in Lithuanian higher education institutions. There are 500 study programmes being taught in English or Russian languages, and diplomas acquired in Lithuania are recognized internationally.

The institution with the largest number of foreigners is the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Most of them are Swedish and Israeli.

Lithuania is home to Vilnius University founded in 1579, one of the oldest and most famous universities in Eastern Europe. Vilnius University has more than 180 bilateral cooperation agreements with universities in 41 countries, and under the Erasmus+ programme, it has more than 800 agreements with 430 European universities for the academic exchanges.

Study in Lithuania: <https://youtu.be/ur-kiXii09w>



Source: [Study In Lithuania | Facebook](#)

Other formal and non-formal multicultural adult education

Formal adult education includes general education, vocational education and training, and higher education. The infrastructure of adult migrant education in Lithuania is linked to project-based activities, where education measures are applied unsystematically. Furthermore, nongovernmental activities are key instruments for building migrant integration infrastructure, including adult migrant education. Some of the main organizations providing non-formal education to foreigners are the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, Caritas Lithuania, International Organization for Migration Vilnius, Centre PLUS, Soros International House, Vilnius Business College, etc.

Attitude to multiculturalism

According to the findings of the 2017 research by V. Grazulis and L. Mockiene, *Premises of Multiculturalism in Lithuania from a Historic Perspective*, Lithuania historically has been viewed as a relatively homogenous European country with little migration, therefore it could be said that it is making its initial steps in integrating the multiculturalism concept in the society. Although it is well known that Lithuania used to be an open and tolerant country to foreigners during the times of grand duke Vytautas the Great (early 15th century). Some legislative frameworks have been introduced to regulate the entry of foreigners, secure their right to integrate into Lithuanian society and help them with the acquisition of Lithuanian citizenship. However, the development of multiculturalism is facing challenges because of the lack of mechanisms that would promote public tolerance issues.

Since the restoration of Lithuania's independence from the Soviet Union in 1990 and especially since becoming a member of the EU, multiculturalism has been significantly progressing. A study into multiculturalism trends in Lithuania was conducted by V. Grazulis and I. Kojelyte in 2014. According to their findings, most of the people interviewed did not face any intolerance but some experienced prejudice. The vast majority believe that it is necessary to pay more attention to multicultural education. Here are some more specific findings:

Table 4: *Communication with other cultures in working and informal environment frequency, %*

	Constantly (Once a week and more)	Often (Once per month)	Sometimes (1-2 times a year)	Never
Worked together	41.3	15.3	29.1	14.3
Communicated in an informal environment	37.2	23.9	36.7	2.1

Table 5: *Frequency of facing the cultural differences, %*

Cultural differences	Often	Sometimes	Never	Don't have a clear opinion
Language barriers	15.7	69.6	13.1	1.6
Custom and tradition differences	7.8	50.0	37.0	5.2
Different values in life	11.1	54.7	30.0	4.2
Religion and beliefs	4.7	24.1	64.4	6.8
Social status difference	6.3	33.5	49.2	11.0

Table 6: *Frequency of intolerance cases, %*

	Fell it often	Has felt it	Never felt it
Have you felt hostility towards you?	2.2	35.1	62.7
Have you felt any prejudice towards you?	3.7	42.6	53.7
Have you ever felt rejected or different?	3.7	31.1	65.2

▣ Lithuanian language

State language

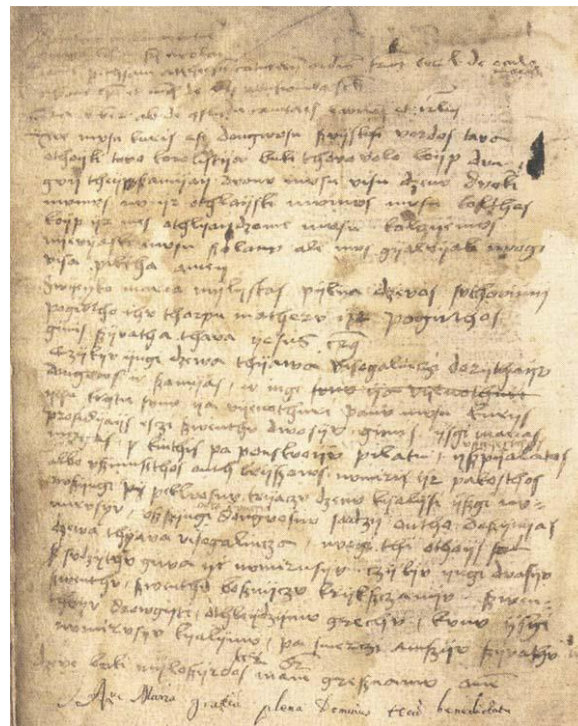
Almost all Lithuanians living in Lithuania (around 2.5 million) and a large part of the Lithuanian diaspora (around 1 million) speak Lithuanian, which is considered by linguists to be the most archaic of all living Indo-European languages. Lithuanian as the language of the Baltic language group is closely related to Latvian and the dead Prussian language.

The Lithuanian language, with the break-up of the Baltic parent language, as a separate language of the Eastern Baltic branch in the southern part of the Eastern Baltics, began to develop from the 7th century. In the 6th – 7th centuries, the Latvian and Lithuanian languages separated from each other, and later began to split into dialects. It is believed that around the 13th – 14th centuries, the main dialects of the Aukštaitians and Samogitians began to diverge.

There are now three main subdialects of Aukštaitija: eastern, western, and southern Aukštaitians (or Dzūkai), and also three Samogitian subdialects: western, north-western, and southern.

The basis of the current literary language is based on the western Aukštaitian southern (Suvalkian) dialect, which has retained the older genders of phonetics and morphology.

The oldest known monuments of the Lithuanian language date back to the beginning of the 16th century. The first known Lithuanian script is an anonymous text of prayers, handwritten on the last page of the book *Tractatus sacerdotalis*, published in Strasbourg in 1503. However, the oldest known printed Lithuanian book is Martynas Mažvydas' *Catechism* of 1547, written on the basis of the Samogitian dialect and published in Karaliaučius (currently Kaliningrad).



The oldest surviving manuscript in Lithuanian (around 1503), rewritten from 15th-century original text. Source: [Oldest surviving writing in Lithuanian language - Lithuanian language - Wikipedia](#)

Around 1620, the first dictionary of the Lithuanian language appeared - Konstantinas Sirvydas' *Dictionarium trium linguarum*, which received five editions, and in 1653 the first grammar of the Lithuanian language was published – Danielius Klein's *Grammatica Litvanica*. Thus, in the middle of the 17th century, the scientific research of the Lithuanian language began, which intensified especially in the 19th century, with the advent of comparative historical linguistics.

Read more: [Encyclopaedia Britannica – Lithuanian language](#)

Foreign languages in Lithuania

Since there are about 15% of national minorities living in Lithuania, hearing someone in public speak a language which is not Lithuanian is quite common. A lot of those foreign languages are minority languages –

Russian, Polish, Ukrainian.

Russian is understood or spoken by 63%, Polish – by 8.5% of the population. English is spoken by 30.4%, and German – by 8.3%. A big factor in foreign languages spoken is age. English and German are most popular among young people – almost half of Lithuanians who speak English is 15-29 years old, and one third of those who speak Russian and Polish is 40-54 years old.

Nowadays, 99% of pupils learn English as a foreign language as part of their curriculum at school. Other languages learned at school or in after-school lessons are German and French.

More statistical data: [Statistics Lithuania: 78.5% of Lithuanians speak at least one foreign language | News | Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(mfa.lt\)](#)

▣ Reflection and application of ICC in Lithuania

It is a well-known fact among Lithuanians that their country is open and tolerant to foreigners, as illustrated by a famous example of grand duke Vytautas the Great, who, in 15th century, invited people from other countries to come and settle in Lithuania. However, for a long time since then, Lithuania has been a more or less racially and religiously homogeneous country. Only fairly recently, since the country regained independence and even more since its membership in the EU, Lithuania has been facing an ever-increasing influx of European and third-country nationals seeking to live and work here. Almost 75 000 foreigners live in Lithuania today, according to the Migration Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. And as we have seen earlier, around 6000 of them are enrolled in a higher education institution, and in addition, there are many who participate in non-formal adult education programs. Not only do they have to deal with language barriers but some of them also have to face cultural differences. Furthermore, many civil, public, and education service providers who should be dealing with these issues lack the requisite intercultural expertise, awareness, and experience.

As a result, special integration programs for legal immigrants and preparation for government employees and adult educators who work with immigrants become very important. As described earlier, most of such programs, aimed at developing intercultural competence, are linked to project-based activities and, therefore, are applied unsystematically. However, the interest in ICC of public institutions, NGOs, formal and non-formal educational institutions, and even the public in Lithuania has been steadily increasing in the last years, and with it, the number of ICC training programs.



Think and discuss:

Have you had any ICC training programs in your workplace? If yes, what was your experience like?

▣ Answer questions

1. When did Lithuania join the EU?
2. Which countries were Lithuania occupied by in the 20th century?
3. What is one of the popular leisure activities in Lithuania in late summer and autumn?
4. What industries are developed in Lithuania?
5. Approximately how many foreign students are enrolled in Lithuanian universities?

Reflect

- How would you describe Lithuanians' attitude towards immigrants?
- Are there any other interesting sites in Lithuania that you think are worth mentioning?
- What are your experiences with locals and their attitudes towards foreigners and multiculturalism?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between Lithuanian culture and your culture.

Learn more

Links to all mentioned sources and additional materials:

- [*True Lithuania*](#)
- [*Lithuania | History, Population, Flag, Map, Capital, Currency, & Facts | Britannica*](#)
- [*Trakų ir Vilniaus rajonai. Atrask. Pažink. Išsaugok \(exploretrekaivilnius.lt\)*](#)
- [*The Baltic Way*](#)
- [*Traditional Lithuanian Dishes - Delishably - Food and Drink*](#)
- [*Food In Lithuania \(25+ Dishes\) | Traditional Lithuanian Food in Vilnius \(foodfuntravel.com\)*](#)
- [*Main page - Study in Lithuania*](#)
- [*Encyclopaedia Britannica – Lithuanian language*](#)
- [*Most popular languages in Lithuania · Explore which languages are spoken in Lithuania \(languageknowledge.eu\)*](#)
- [*Lithuanian language - Wikipedia*](#)
- [*Economic overview of Lithuania*](#)
- [*Why is Lithuania So Good at Basketball? \(theculturetrip.com\)*](#)
- [*Statistics Lithuania: 78.5% of Lithuanians speak at least one foreign language | News | Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(mfa.lt\)*](#)

Videos:

- *footage and official song of the 1989 August 23rd "The Baltic Way"*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KoKq20RUl0>
- *films about Lithuania*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a64ixvIYSPM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH9mTk1mxkl>
- *A short introduction to Lithuania*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPO4tbV4UHK>
- *Top 10 reasons to visit Lithuania*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v9Wvkoae3Q>
- *Švėkšna Pumpkin Festival*
<https://youtu.be/Fx2PGzxICX8>

Practical application of ICC in Greece

In this topic, we briefly present Greece and the situation there regarding multiculturalism and ICC. Greece's adult educators who work with multicultural and multilingual adult learners in any context should find this information useful as it is extremely important to know one's own culture in order to be able to understand and accept others.

■ Warm-up

- How do you usually present your country to foreigners?
- What main information do you mention?
- What do you think your country's image is around the world?
- Why do you consider that your country is attractive to foreigners?

Some quotes about Greece

- "Happy is the man, who, before dying, has the good fortune to sail the Aegean Sea" (Nikos Kazantzakis)
- "Greece is a good place to look at the moon, isn't it" (Leonard Cohen)
- "I want to have an 'Eat, Pray, Love' experience where I drop off the face of the planet and move to Greece." (Jennifer Hyman)
- "In many ways we are all sons and daughters of ancient Greece." (Nia Vardalos)
- "As you set out for Ithaca, hope your road is a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery." (Cavafy C. P.)
- "Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts and eloquence, native to famous wits." (John Milton)



Think and discuss:

What are those miniature churches next to the roads?

How do I eat dried bread?

Why is Greece called Hellas?

How strict is punctuality in Greece?

■ The country in brief

A. Mainland Greece

Mainland Greece forms the most southern part of the Balkan Peninsula. Part of the mainland are two additional peninsulas, the Chalkidiki and the Peloponnese. The regions of Macedonia and Thrace are situated in the Northern part of Greece and in the south of the mainland there is the regions of Epirus, Thessaly and Central Greece. The capital city of Athens and its broader region of Attica are situated in Central Greece. Further south, there is the small peninsula of Peloponnese separated from the rest of the Greek mainland by the Corinthian and Saronic gulfs and joined with it by the Isthmus of Corinth.

80% of the total Greek territory is covered by the mainland which is mostly mountainous. The “spine” of the Greek mainland is formed by the Pindus mountains which are the southern extension of the Dinaric Alps. Pindus separates Epirus from Macedonia and Thessaly. Mount Olympus is the highest Greek mountain, one of the reasons he inspired the residence of the ancient Greek gods to be there. Its highest peak rises to 3918 meters above the sea level, making it the second highest mountain in the peninsula.

B. The Islands

As it was underlined above, there are about 3000 islands (small or big) in the |Greek seas and they account for the remaining 20% of the country’s total territory. They vary greatly in size but also in climate. The largest island is Crete and the second largest is Evia. Other large Greek islands are Rhodes and Lesbos in the \Aegean sea, Corfu and Cephalonia in the Ionian Sea. Many of the smaller Greek islands form groups or chains, often called Archipelagos. The most known examples of such groups are the Cyclades in the central-south Aegean and the Sporades in the central-north Aegean sea.



Source: <https://east-usa.com/world/greece-map.html>

Map of Greece with some of the biggest Cities and Islands

History

The history of Greece is very old and is divided into the following periods:



- The **Neolithic Greece**, which starts with the establishment of the agricultural societies in 7000 BC and ends in 3200-3100 BC
- The **Bronze Age** (Cycladic, Minoan and Helladic periods) chronologically covering a period between 3200-3100 BC and 1600-1100 BC which marks the rise and fall of the Mycenaean Greek Civilisation lasting for five centuries.
- The **Greek dark Ages**, most known as Iron Age or Homeric Age named after the epic poet Homer (1600-1100 BC)
- The **Archaic period**, from 800 BC to 500 BC
- The **Classical period** , (or Gold period) from 500- to 420 BC
- The **Hellenistic period** expanding from 420 BC to 146 BC, year of the Roman conquest of Greece
- The **Roman Greece**, from 146 BC to 324 AD, date of the establishment of Constantinople as the capital city of Byzantium which marks the start of
- The **Byzantine period**, lasting for over a thousand years until the fall of Constantinople in 1453 AD.
- The **Frankish-Latin Greece** (including the Venetian possession) starting in 1204 year of the fourth Crusade and ending in 1797 year of the disestablishment of the Venetian Republic
- The **Ottoman Greece** from 1453 until 1821 official year of the start of the Greek Revolution
- And finally the **Modern Greece**, expanding from 1821 until today.

When the Greek civilisation was at its cultural and geographical peak, it was spread all over the Mediterranean sea and from Egypt to Afghanistan. As a result, Greek minorities have remained in former Greek territories, for example in Turkey, in Italy, in Albania, in Armenia, etc and Greek emigrants have assimilated into a multitude of societies all over the globe. In North America, in Australia, in Northern Europe and in South Africa. In most recent times the great majority of Greeks lives in Greece and in Cyprus.



Source: <https://ancientsurfaces.org/2017/01/25/welcome-to-the-marble-universe/>

The Caryatid porch of the Erechtheion in Athens, Greece

Cuisine

Food habits in European countries are an integral part of their heritage. Each country has its own traditional eating and drinking habits that have been shaped during the centuries as a result of distinctive geographic, social, linguistic, political and economic characteristics.

In Greece, as in most of the Mediterranean countries, their cuisine is based on olive oil, tomatoes, wine, and wheat. Vegetables, grains, fish, and meat are used in the great majority of the Greek recipes along with cheese,

herbs, and pasta. A Greek meal is never complete if it is not accompanied by bread made by wheat, oat, rye, etc., or by “paximadia” Greek hard bread.

Thanks to the great diversity of local products and the variety of spices, herbs, cheeses, grains, even in fish and meat, the Greek local recipes offer a considerable variety of savours and aromas, some of them specific to certain regions. The most common recipes that can be found in almost all Greece, like souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, chortopita (the most common of the pitas), are almost always adapted to the local products and flavours.

Home cooking among family members and friends is one of the strongest Greek traditions. An occasion to reinforce and fortify the connection between family members and between friends. Nevertheless, going out to eat, especially on holidays (religious or national) and during the summertime in tavernas, restaurants or estiatorio, as it is called in Greece, it is very common, as it is to eat street food. Do not forget that souvlaki originally is street food!!



Souvlaki, photo by milspa from <https://freeimages.com/Souvlaki>



Greek salad, photo by typofi from FreeImages

Specifics of everyday life

The Greek society is known for its strong family values and a low crime culture.

The obligation to provide mutual support is placed on the core family members as well as the extended family. The rise of the middle class has not affected the centrality of the family in the society, although, that has been a feature of the development of Greek society since the end of World War II. Important changes were introduced in Greek family law during the 1980s as civil marriage was instituted in parallel with religious marriage, the dowry system was abolished (though marriages are sometimes still seen to some extent as economic alliances in theory), divorce was made easier, and the hitherto dominant position of the father in the family was restricted. The country's businesses are, for the most part, SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and remain family run. This is especially true of shipping, in which tightly knit clans of families dominate the industry. The family structure of industry acts as an impediment to modernization.

The main Greek-specific holiday periods are two. The first is before and during Easter and the second one is the days leading up to the Feast of Dormition (Assumption) of the Virgin in mid-August. Easter is the most important religious and family celebration. It's a moving holiday, when many people returning to their native villages for the traditional festivities. The most widespread Easter traditions include the vigil in church on Saturday evening, the lighting of the Holy Fire at midnight on Easter morning, and the roasting of whole lambs on spits for the Easter meal. On The Feast of Dormition (Assumption) of the Virgin in the 15th of August, usually the family gathers and celebrates while feasting.

Greece's hot summers, push the social life outdoors. The residents of small towns and villages continue the tradition of the *volta*, strolling up and down the main street or along the shore, when on the islands. Most of the leisure time is passed in the numerous cafés, which have been traditionally a male preserve.

References with more information:

- <https://www.greeka.com/greece-culture/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/magazine/the-way-greeks-live-now.html>
- <https://internationalliving.com/countries/greece/>
- <https://greekcitytimes.com/greek-lifestyle-and-events-from-around-the-world/>



Think and discuss:

What cultures have influenced the Greek “way of life” today?

From which countries Greece's immigrants come from?

For what reasons they come to Greece?

Do you consider Greece an inclusive country?

Do Greeks speak English?

▣ Multicultural adult education

Where and how does it take place?

Greek Higher Educational Institutes, Public and Private Universities and Technical Universities offer more and more of their undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the English language. Their ambition is to become more outward-looking and open to the new educational reality that supports and promote student (and teacher) mobility. The aim of those programmes is to attract students (and teachers) from different countries from all over the world.

On the 24th of January 2020, an event titled: “Building International Bridges: Opening Greek Universities to the World” (<https://www.mfa.gr/en/current-affairs/statements-speeches/event-titled-building-international-bridges-opening-greek-universities-to-the-world-athens-24-january-2020.html>) took place in Athens. It was organised by the Secretariat General for Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat General for Higher Education in the Ministry of Education on the occasion of the International Day of Education.

This event aimed at highlighting and promoting the foreign-language programmes of Greek Higher Education Foundations and strengthen their position on the world's educational map. Among other subjects it was underlined by the Greek Minister for Education and Religious Affairs the existence of University studies for foreigners in Greece that goes beyond the Classic Studies and offers knowledge and expertise in a variety of scientific fields like medicine, energy, shipping, refugee issues, etc.

The Greek Culture and Historical Legacy represent a major part in the Greek Educational System and it is a subject of pride. But it is not static. It evolves. It preserves the Greek Traditions enhancing them through education. A great number of English-taught studies in a variety of fields are provided by the Greek Universities and other Higher Institutions. Among them:

- Studies of Philosophy in Greece, the home of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Thales Pythagoras, Democritus, Epicurus and many others.
- Studies of Architecture, the educational programme being inspired by masterpieces like Parthenon and Acropolis among others
- Studies of Politics and History in the birthplace of Democracy
- Studies of medicine, in the homeland of Hippocrates who was the first to introduce ethics in medicine. Who's methods in diagnosis and treatment are still used today.
- Studies in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.



Source: <http://studyingreece.edu.gr/el/archiki/>

References with more information:

- <https://greece.greekreporter.com/2020/02/10/study-abroad-in-greece-international-programs-for-foreign-students-at-greek-universities/>
- <https://studyinggreece.edu.gr/>
- <https://www.tuc.gr/index.php?id=5612>
- <https://studylink.com/countries/greece/>
- <https://greeknewsagenda.gr/index.php/topics/business-r-d/7138-international-educational-programmes-for-foreign-students-in-greek-universities>

Greek language as a foreign language

In the last years, the number of immigrants living and working in Greece has been constantly increasing. This has proven to be a challenge for the Greek society and for the Greek educational system. The Greek state, in order to support and aid adult immigrants to integrate the Greek society and facilitate their access to the job market has introduced “special language education programmes”. A number of surveys were made aimed at exploring the immigrants language needs and preferences. The results of these studies were discussed in different papers but what the great majority of them indicate, on the one hand, the existence of high interest by the immigrants in learning Greek, and on the other hand, a very low level of involvement and attendance of Greek language courses.

As a result, it is necessary to create and promote a successful language programme which would be Greece’s policy of integration best advocacy. This will be achieved thanks to the successful and fruitful cooperation between Immigrant Associations and educational policy makers. Because knowledge of the Greek language is indispensable in order to improve the immigrants professional and socio-economic status.

An example of such educational programme is the “Learning Greek as a second language by working immigrants”. It is offered to immigrants regardless of their nationality and to those who wish to acquire the status of a long term resident in Greece. In order for someone to acquire the status of long term resident in Greece it is a requisite to hold a “certified Greek Language proficiency” and have basic knowledge of Greek culture and history. This programme is structured in four levels of learning: the first, second, and third levels of learning consist of 100 hours of study each, and the fourth level consists of 125 hours.

Other educational programmes are designed to improve adult training in various areas, such as new technologies, health education, land workers education, education for Roma and immigrants.



Photo by [Chrissi Nerantzi](#) from [FreelImages](#)

In the last few years, the great immigrant and refugee “wave” brought in the forefront this whole topic once again. In the beginning, Greece in particular was considered as a transit country for immigrants and refugees. However, in the most recent years, this picture has started to change as more and more people are obliged to stay in Greece for longer periods of time before they are permitted to advance, mainly to be united with members of their family

residing in other EU countries. An after effect of this is the necessity to educate those immigrants or refugees staying in Greece temporarily (in camps) or for longer periods of time.

This arrival in great numbers of immigrants and refugees in Greece in the last years has increased exponentially the need for adult education. The ministries, local municipalities, universities, and vocational training centers, in order to address this educational demand has implemented “special language training courses” and immigrants have been offered an important support in their efforts to become independent, sufficient and productive members of the local society.

References with more information:

- <https://www.inedivim.gr/en/programmes-actions/%E2%80%99Codysseus-education-immigrants-greek-language-greek-history-and-greek-culture>
- <https://xeniospolis.gr/holistic-adult-refugee-and-migrant-education-program/>
- <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/living-in-greece/access-to-education/>
- <https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/greece/content-international-protection/employment-and-education/access-education/>
- <https://en.greekcourses.uoa.gr/>

Attitude to multiculturalism

The intercultural approach in Greek education appears in Greece in the early 1980s, coinciding with the return of a large number of Greek migrants from western traditional countries of emigration, mainly from Germany. In the years that followed, the mass and unregulated influx of immigrants, initially from neighboring countries and the states of the former Soviet Union, and later from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, shaped and continues to shape the circumstances of multiculturalism in Greek society.

Greece, for the first time in its modern history, has to include people born and raised in countries with significant language and cultural differences. Regarding Greek education, the needed change is called forth as the adoption of major changes is deemed necessary to meet new and developing needs.

The Program for the “Education of Returning Greek and Foreign Migrant Students” has helped a tremendous amount in the school level, as well as the level of scientific research so as to shape the theoretical framework of intercultural education and of intercultural interventions. The intercultural educational programs and interventions, implemented by the Centre for Intercultural Studies at the University of Athens, are aiming to foster intercultural understanding and constructive cooperation between native born Greeks and people from migrant backgrounds. The philosophy and objectives of the intercultural policies adopted both at the level of scientific discourse and implementation is shown in efforts made towards the establishment of a ‘rule of law’ State where all citizens are able to be included and give legitimacy to the State. These type of intercultural educational activities assist all students to acquire knowledge and skills that will make them able to strive for the actualization of basic democratic principles of equality and justice.

In essence, the basic objective of these activities is the shaping of intercultural democratic citizens. The need for reinterpretation and expansion at national and supranational level of civic education as a means of acquiring knowledge on governance, democratic institutions, national, constitutional, and political history has to diverge from the traditional. In light of broader concepts such as rights and obligations of citizens who live and work in

multicultural environments, the courses of political and social education of the school curriculum have to be updated.

References with more information:

- <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/rapports-suivi/rapports-periodiques/rapports-disponibles-28>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.2304/power.2012.4.2.219>
- <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264304116-en.pdf?expires=1611915720&id=id&accname=quest&checksum=70E434B4BF0519C54806A813D3487FF9>
- <https://respondmigration.com/wp-blog/refugee-integration-policies-practices-experiences-greece-country-report>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/gr/en/13585-conference-on-social-integration-of-refugees-in-greece.html>
- <https://greece.iom.int/en/supporting-%E2%80%98cities-network-integration%E2%80%99>

■ The Greek language

State language: Greek

Greek is the official language in Greece, and it is spoken by almost all of the population (99%). Among the living Indo-European languages, the Greek language has the longest documented history. Written records of the Greek language have existed for the last 3400 years, the great majority of them written using the Greek alphabet.

In the history and culture of the Western world, the Greek language occupies an important place. A lot of the ancient Greek literature, including the epic songs of Homer, the drama theatre of Sophocles and Euripides, retain until today an everlasting importance in the European anthology. In the science and philosophy also, a great number of their fundamental texts were written in the Greek language. And let's not forget that the New Testament, a fundamental text for the Christian religion, was written in Greek.

A consequence of the very important influence of the Greek culture, science, politics, and commerce in the ancient Mediterranean world was the fact that it was widely spoken, a sort of common language among those civilisations. During the middle ages, the Greek language became the official language of the Byzantine Empire. In more recent history, the Greek language is the official language in Greece and Cyprus and of course it is one of the 24 official languages of the European Union. Today, it is spoken by at least 18 million people in Greece and Cyprus, and in Albania, Italy, Turkey, and especially by the Greek of the first, second, and third generation (Greek in Diaspora) living all over the world.

Local dialects

There are several Local Greek dialects, some of them are:

- The **Peloponnesian dialect**, spoken mostly in Peloponnese
- The **Northern dialects**, mostly spoken in the north mainland and in the islands of the north Aegean sea
- The **Old Athenian dialect**, still spoken by elderly Athenians, habitants of Megara and in the Kimi, in central Euboea.
- The **Cretan dialect**, spoken almost exclusively on Crete island
- The **South-Eastern dialects** of Rhodes, Chios, other island of the area and Cyprus.

References with more information:

- <https://www.greek-language.gr/greekLang/index.html>
- <https://www.greeka.com/greece-culture/language/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Greek-language>
- <https://omniglot.com/writing/greek.htm>
- <https://greeklanguage.gr/en/?v=f214a7d42e0d>
- <https://en.greekcourses.uoa.gr/>

Foreign languages in Greece

The primary foreign language spoken in Greece by most of the 48% of the population is the English language. English being the international language of commerce, science, etc., is included in the Greek education system and it is learned as a foreign language from the first grade in Greek schools. As second choice in most of the Greek school curriculums is the German language with almost 9% of the population being able to converse in German. Other foreign languages are French, with a percentage of 8.5%, Italian, with 8%, and Spanish.

The English language is so extensively spoken in Greece that people planning to move to Greece long term either for work, for their retirement, or even for long vacations, have the possibility to communicate with the locals only by speaking in English. Especially if they are dealing with people under the age of 45. In this case they have a decent chance of being able to get by only using English. In case they are dealing mostly with people over 45, it is recommended to learn some Greek in order to communicate more easily with the older generations which are less proficient in English.

Last but not least, one more difficulty for the long term visitors is their communication with the public sector, a necessary step for government visas, permits, fines, etc. In this particular case, the accommodations are not as easy as in the case of tourism. The public sector staff speak mostly Greek in contrast with the people working in the tourism sector. Ideally, learning to speak Greek or being accompanied by a Greek speaking friend to help out with administration and official paperwork will be a practical solution.

References with more information:

- <https://languageknowledge.eu/countries/greece>
- <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-language-do-they-speak-in-greece.html>
- <https://www.quora.com/What-language-do-people-of-Greece-speak>
- <https://howwidelyspoken.com/how-widely-spoken-english-greece/>

▣ Reflection and application of ICC in Greece

Immigration is not a recent phenomenon in Greece.

In the last years, Greece has been hosting a very big number of migrants, refugees, and citizens of the neighbouring countries. The total number of them is estimated around 1.2 million. Among them there are about 70,000 – 90,000 of migrants and refugees. Most of them are planning to move through Greece to another European country.

For those who are looking forward to remain in Greece and to acquire Greek nationality, there is a certain procedure and relevant legislation to be followed.

Among the different obligations they undertake, they have to acquire knowledge of the Greek language (at least level 2) and to prove that they are familiar with the Greek history, culture, and traditions in order to be included in the local society.

So, there is an increasing need for adult educators who are able to train them properly, and for adult training providers of the public or the private sector which are able to organise such training activities in Greece. There is also a need for special integration training programmes which have been developed by adult educating providers.

There are several training providers offering courses to migrants all over Greece.

Among the offered courses, there are:

- Free Greek language courses for immigrants
- International Organization for Migration
- language education for refugees and migrants
- University of Athens integration programme for adult migrants and refugees

In addition to the above, our organization has developed its own Introductory training course for this target group, for their faster inclusion in the Greek society.



Think and discuss:

Have you had any ICC training programs in your workplace? If yes, what was your experience like?

Answer questions

1. How many islands are there in Greece?
2. How strict is punctuality in Greece?
3. What is a “hilopites”?
4. Which are the most common foreign languages spoken in Greece?
5. Which are the most important religious festivals in Greece?
6. How many different types of Greek cheese exist?

Reflect

- Can Greece be considered as a Tourist destination??
- What is the political system in Greece?
- Is Greece a “welcoming” country for the foreign students?
- Is Greece a welcoming country for the refugees?
- How would you qualify the inclination of Greeks to learn foreign languages?
- Why the Greek food is so famous?

Learn more

Links to all mentioned sources and additional materials:

- <https://www.greeka.com/greece-culture/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/19/magazine/the-way-greeks-live-now.html>
- <https://internationalliving.com/countries/greece/>
- <https://greekcitytimes.com/greek-lifestyle-and-events-from-around-the-world/>
- [Study Abroad in Greece: International Programs for Foreign Students \(greekreporter.com\)](https://www.greekreporter.com/study-abroad-in-greece-international-programs-for-foreign-students/)
- <https://studyinggreece.edu.gr/>
- <https://www.tuc.gr/index.php?id=5612>
- <https://studylink.com/countries/greece/>
- [International educational programmes for foreign students in Greek Universities \(greeknewsagenda.gr\)](https://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/)
- [“Odysseus” Education of Immigrants in the Greek Language, the Greek History and the Greek Culture | Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation - INEDIVIM](https://www.inedivim.org/)
- <https://xeniospolis.gr/holistic-adult-refugee-and-migrant-education-program/>
- <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/living-in-greece/access-to-education/>
- [Access to education - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles \(asylumineurope.org\)](https://asylumineurope.org/)
- <https://en.greekcourses.uoa.gr/>
- <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/rapports-suivi/rapports-periodiques/rapports-disponibles-28>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.2304/power.2012.4.2.219>
- [OECD iLibrary | Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Athens \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](https://oecd-ilibrary.org/)
- <https://respondmigration.com/wp-blog/refugee-integration-policies-practices-experiences-greece-country-report>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/gr/en/13585-conference-on-social-integration-of-refugees-in-greece.html>
- <https://greece.iom.int/en/supporting-%E2%80%98cities-network-integration%E2%80%99>
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- <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-language-do-they-speak-in-greece.html>
- <https://www.quora.com/What-language-do-people-of-Greece-speak>
- <https://howwidelyspoken.com/how-widely-spoken-english-greece/>

Practical application of ICC in Spain

In this topic, we briefly present Spain and the situation there regarding multiculturalism and ICC. Spain's adult educators who work with multicultural and multilingual adult learners in any context should find this information useful as it is extremely important to know one's own culture in order to be able to understand and accept others.

■ Warm-up

- How do you usually present your country to foreigners?
- What main information do you mention?
- What do you think your country's image is around the world?
- Why do you consider that your country is attractive to foreigners?

Some quotes about Spain

How easy it is to make friends in Spain!

In Spain, the best way to keep a secret is to write a book

There is no nightlife in Spain. They stay up late but they get up late. That isn't nightlife. That is delaying the day

Three Spaniards, four opinions

I'm learning how to make a good paella, but that's a real art

Oh my Gaudi!



Think and discuss:

Do you know the meaning of the famous 'Guernica', painted by Picasso in 1937?

What ingredients make a Spanish omelette (tortilla) different?

Do you know the name of the fiesta where people throw tons of tomatoes?

Where is the only desert in Europe?

The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela is the end of the oldest pilgrimage route in Europe. Which route do we mean?

■ The country in brief

Geography and main sites

The Iberian Peninsula (which Spain shares with Portugal and Andorra) is located in the southwest corner of Europe and contains the majority of Spain's national territory. The Canary Islands, the Balearic Islands, a few smaller islands and the North African cities of Ceuta and Melilla are all Spanish territory. Spain is one of the fifty largest countries in the world, with a total area of 506,030 square kilometers.

Mountains forming vast chains surround a high inland plateau positioned at over 600 meters above average sea level, thanks to the geological history of the Iberian Peninsula. The peninsula is characterized by a great range of distinctive enclaves and natural habitats as a result of its geography. If there is one feature that distinguishes the peninsula's surface from the rest of Europe, it is unquestionably its diversity.

Spain is influenced by two very different bodies of water due to its geographic location: the vast and open Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, whose only physical connection to the former is a narrow channel known as the Straits of Gibraltar, which allows water to exchange between the two masses of very different salinity and temperature. The Spanish coastline stretches over 5,755 kilometers.

The natural fluvial regime of Spain's rivers is mostly determined by the pattern of precipitation, which determines where the rivers' waters originate and turn into surface water or groundwater discharge. However, human intervention in the form of infrastructures used to manage and control its temporal distribution, as well as other sorts of acts that remove volumes of water from rivers, has an impact on this natural fluvial pattern.

The enormous contrasts in Spain's current hydrographic composition are explained by the country's diverse climates, as well as other morphological and geological factors.



Relief map of Spain (Instituto Geográfico Nacional)

Source: <https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/espana/historyandculture/geography/Paginas/index.aspx>

History

The Kingdom of Spain is a kingdom with most of its land located on the Iberian Peninsula in Europe's extreme southwest. The Iberian Peninsula has functioned as a cultural bridge not just between Northern and Southern Europe, but also between Africa and the Mediterranean, due to its geographical location. Similarly, the ups and downs of its past have shaped it into a melting pot of civilizations. As a result, it has a rich cultural heritage with tangible living relics of vibrant history.

Over 35,000 years ago, the first modern people arrived in what is today Spain. The Roman conquest, which began in 218 BC, ushered in a long period of cultural amalgamation, the effects of which may still be felt today. Following

the fall of the Western Empire, Germanic tribes (Visigoths, Suevi, and Vandals) and eventually the Moors occupied Hispania. The Moorish influence on the peninsula continued until the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada fell in 1492. The marriage of the Catholic Kings resulted in a dynastic union between the Crown of Castile and the Crown of Aragon's domains. Following the discovery and conquering of America, Spain rose to prominence in Europe, establishing a vast empire that spanned four continents. The presence of the Spanish in America produced strong linkages between the two Atlantic beaches, with Spanish becoming a common language spoken by nearly 500 million people.

Spain is currently a member of the group of countries with the highest level of development. It participates actively in the UN, NATO, the OECD, and the G-20, among other international conferences and organizations. Spain is also a member of the European Union, the world's most powerful trading bloc, and it is committed to furthering European integration.



Aqueduct of Segovia

Source: http://www.xn--espaescultura-tnb.es/es/estilos_artisticos/romano.html

Cuisine

Spanish food is well-known around the world for being flavorful, nutritious, traditional, inventive and varied, as well as for its popular restaurants and fine dining, as seen by the chefs' international renown. The legendary Mediterranean diet, which is classified as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, is an illustration of how nutritious it is. Olive oil, Iberian ham (a source of national pride), and Spanish wine (the appropriate companion for toasting) are the star ingredients.

Delicious meat dishes (such as suckling pig), fresh fish (which can be baked, stewed, or grilled), and shellfish (such as clams, mussels, or Octopus with cachelos, which are potatoes boiled with salt and bay leaf) can all be found in Spain's cuisine. Paella, gazpacho (cold vegetable soup), potato omelette, cocido madrileño (meat stewed chickpeas), Iberian ham, and the famous tapas are the most well-known Spanish dishes outside of the country.

A tapa is a little snack or appetizer (cold or hot). It could be a selection of meals ranging from ham, stuffed mussels, or fried squid to olives, sautéed mushrooms, and other vegetables. Tapas can be defined as tiny plates to share in a nutshell. But tapas have a much broader social meaning: it's all about the joy of savoring not only food but also camaraderie and happiness.

Finally, traditional Spanish cuisine is rich in desserts like tocinos de cielo, pestiños, crema catalana, sobaos, buñuelos and tarta de Santiago. Because flour, eggs and sugar are the key ingredients, they're as tasty as they are sweet. On Spanish dinner tables, however, there are many additional traditional recipes. Depending on the region, the main ingredients vary.



Paella valenciana

Source: <https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/2198531/0/paella-valenciana/pollo-conejo/valencia/>

Specifics of everyday life

Spain's daily life is very similar to that of other Western developed countries. However, there are a few essential customs that are unique to Spain. The most evident, especially for foreign visitors, is the day's organizing and food planning. Lunch is served between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. and it is the primary meal of the day. Traditionally, it was followed by a nap—the famed siesta—but this ritual is fading as most people now commute between home and work. Supper, a lighter meal, is also served late, between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. or even later in the summer.

This trend is reflected in business, retail, and school hours. In the middle of the day, there is a long break—generally two hours—during which most shops are closed and the streets are not very active. Bars, several restaurants, and large department shops are the only places that don't close at noon.

The main daily television news, as well as some of the most popular programs, are carried at this time. The workday begins again in the late afternoon, between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m., and lasts until around 8:00 p.m.

Saturday is, like other places, the busiest day of the week in city centers and towns, with most families going out to shop, see friends or simply stroll through parks while enjoying the sunlight. By the time the sun sets on Saturday evening, most bars and outside eateries are packed with people enjoying a leisurely drink and something to eat. Sundays vary depending on the size of the city, with most stores and supermarkets remaining open all day in big cities and all businesses closed in smaller pueblos and villages. Sunday is a day to unwind.

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Think and discuss:

What cultures have influenced Spain?

Where do most of Spain's immigrants come from?

Do you consider Spain an inclusive country?

Do Spaniards speak English?

Is it rude to speak Spanish in Barcelona?

▣ Multicultural adult education

Where and how does it take place?

Spain is a very appealing study destination for international students. Spain boasts a well-organized educational system, a diverse range of degree programs and unparalleled academic expertise. International students are drawn to Spain for a variety of reasons, including the excellent climate, active and fun-filled lifestyle and countless work options or just opportunities to progress intellectually. There are 84 universities in Spain (50 public and 34 private). Many Spanish institutions are regarded among the best in the world, indicating that their academic competence is respected and valued all over the world.

According to the Ministry of Science and Innovation, the total number of international students in higher education institutions in Spain is 194.743 (including students on mobility programs). This figure applies to international students from both public and private universities, as well as male and female international students.

Engineering, Management and Administration, Languages, Humanities, Law and Health Sciences are among the most popular subjects among overseas students in Spain.

The majority of higher education programs are taught in Spanish, but many are also offered in English.

There are several educational possibilities for adults, but given the problems that adult migrants face, the real potential of access is limited.

There are no comprehensive plans or procedures for adult immigrants' education, however, there are certain initiatives performed by the institutions themselves. There are also private centers that employ a variety of tools, methods, materials and approaches while not always adhering to the same legal framework. Rather, these separate institutions and centers focus on specific efforts that can help them gain a better understanding of the situation.

Some of these initiatives include a training path that begins with literacy and language for those who lack the most basic tool for communicating and functioning, continues with social skills training, management of information and communication technologies training, and concludes with job placement, professional retraining and specialization training.

Adult immigrants are primarily from Morocco, Romania, Ecuador, Colombia, Senegal, the United Kingdom and Brazil. Men participate at a substantially higher rate than women.



Internationalisation of Spanish Higher Education
Source: <http://sepie.es/internacionalizacion>

Attitude to multiculturalism

Spain has always been seen as a country with geographic cultural variety rather than a country with cultural minorities. Despite the lack of a national constitutional declaration of multiculturalism, the government began to recognize the reality of cultural variety and began to focus on the social integration and inclusion of immigrants and minorities. This has mostly been accomplished under the aegis of its National Action Plans on Social Inclusion, which have been produced since 2001 in cooperation with a number of non-governmental organizations and pledge to improve immigrants' social integration. Meanwhile, the Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration describes Spain as a "plural society" with "immigrants of varied origins, cultures, and traits who make up our

shared identity as Spanish society.” And this is of critical social importance because the presence of these immigrants will, and is already causing, a profound transformation of our society, both demographically and economically, as well as culturally and politically.

Although Spaniards are generally favorable to migration, their government’s policy task should be to assuage, rather than aggravate, worries of migrant invasion.

Spain maintains a generally friendly attitude toward newcomers, broken by occasional public worry, but migration has been more politicized in recent years than in earlier periods.

Nonetheless, the Spanish population has maintained a generally positive attitude toward migrants and refugees. Two-thirds of Spanish folks have a favorable opinion of them.



Multicultural Spain

Source: <https://plataformaintercultural.es/>

▣ The Spanish language

State language: Spanish

Castilian is the official Spanish language of the state, according to Article 3 of the Spanish Constitution, and all Spaniards (47 million) have a duty to know it and the right to speak it. In conformity with their statutes, the other Spanish languages will likewise be recognized as official in the respective Autonomous Communities. Furthermore, it establishes that the diversity of Spain's linguistic forms is a cultural legacy that must be maintained and conserved. The Constitution, along with legislation enacted by Spain's multilingual Communities, offers a comprehensive legal framework for the recognition of linguistic rights, regardless of whether the language is Spanish or Castilian.

Spanish, like the other Romance languages, sprang from the fragmentation of Latin. The advent of the Spanish language in America in 1492 was essential in the spread of the language. The Spanish Royal Academy, created in 1713, and the Association for Academies of the Spanish Language decide on the language's orthographic, grammatical and lexical standards.

Spanish is the second most spoken native language in the world, with 400 million native speakers (after Chinese and ahead of English and Hindi). It is now the official language in more than twenty nations around the world.

Catalan is the official language of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands Autonomous Communities. The release of Normes ortogràfiques, Diccionari ortogràfic and Gramàtica by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (1907) allowed the language to be systematized.

Valencian is the Valencian Autonomous Community's official language. The Cortes Valencianas approved the formation of the Academy of the Valencian Language in 1998, with the goal of identifying and documenting the Valencian language's linguistic rules.

Basque is one of Europe's oldest languages. Its origins are the subject of numerous theories. It is currently spoken in the Spanish Basque Country, Navarre's northwestern provinces and the French Basque region. Basque became the official language of Comunidad Autónoma Vasca in 1979, according to the Regional Autonomy Statute. The Royal Academy of the Basque Language developed the norms for this language.

Galician is spoken throughout Galicia, as well as on its borders with Asturias, León and Zamora. The Galician Royal Academy was founded in 1905. This marked the formalization of the Galician language as well as the establishment of idiomatic usage standards.



The Spanish languages

Source: <https://es.slideshare.net/miprofedespanol/lenguas-de-espaa-40144276>

Foreign languages in Spain

More than 6 million Spaniards were born outside of the country, accounting for just over 13% of the population. The majority of Spaniards are from other European countries, although they also come from Latin America, northern Africa and Asia.

Arabic, Romanian, English, French, Portuguese, German, Italian, Russian and Chinese are the most commonly spoken foreign languages in Spain.

Increasing the number of international students and keeping them in Spain has become a policy goal and a national goal. Many universities have increased their efforts to attract international students, for example, by incorporating an international, intercultural, and/or global dimension into the goals, functions (teaching/learning,

research, services), and provision of higher education, as well as by launching international recruitment campaigns.

The SEPIE is important in the field of promotion. This specific public organization helps to promote the Spanish university system internationally and manages scholarship and mobility programs through collaboration agreements with foreign governments for the integration of students, teaching and non-teaching staff into the Spanish university system.

Spaniards have a well-known language learning deficiency. For decades, all data have placed Spain near the bottom of the EU in terms of foreign language knowledge. Experts' most commonly claimed causes include educational and cultural issues, as well as economic concerns. This explains the Spanish people's aversion to learning foreign languages.



Foreign languages

Source: <https://studenttravelplanningguide.com/global-trends-in-foreign-language-demand-and-proficiency/>

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▣ Reflection and application of ICC in Spain

Spain has gone from being a country of emigrants to being a receptor of immigrants from other countries. Despite the great diversity that existed in the past in Spain, reflection, legislation, and educational concern about cultural pluralism began from the moment that immigration became apparent. Examining the intercultural perspective in education in Spain and the relationship between policy and practice, the result is highly satisfactory, especially considering how cultural diversity is approached, both from a legislative and a practical point of view.

Adult education in Spain includes many subjects, such as literacy, basic skills, employability and leisure activities. The training offer is shared by local authorities, employers, and independent training centres. Although participation in learning is increasing considerably, there is still no professional training to become an adult educator.

A review of education in Spain is absolutely necessary in order to adapt the didactic methodologies in the educational system to the needs of a pluricultural student body of the 21st century. Due to this pluriculturalism, educators are rethinking their way of teaching, as they belong to a generation that has not directly experienced the causes and effects of a pluricultural situation like the current one, beyond the evident fact that the territory of Spain was made up of migratory movements from different parts of the world.

That is why Spanish educators need training in the different educational options available for pluricultural contexts, including multicultural and intercultural education.



Think and discuss:

Have you had any ICC training programs in your workplace? If yes, what was your experience like?

▣ Answer questions

1. How long is the Spanish coastline?
2. In what year did the Catholic Kings reconquer Spain?
3. What is a “tapa”?
4. Is “siesta” still in use among the Spaniards?
5. How many Universities are there in Spain?
6. Is Spain a country of immigration or emigration?
7. How many official languages are there in Spain?
8. Which are the most common foreign languages spoken in Spain?

▣ Reflect

- Can Spain be considered a country of sun-and-sea?
- What is the political system in Spain?
- Why the Mediterranean diet is so famous?
- What do you think about the organization of the day and the scheduling of meals in Spain?
- Why do you think that international students find Spain an attractive study destination?
- How would you define the Spanish attitude towards migrants and refugees?
- How would you evaluate the coexistence of several languages in Spain?
- How to explain the unreceptive attitude of the Spaniards towards foreign languages?

▣ Learn more

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- <https://www.unir.net/educacion/revista/como-afecta-la-multiculturalidad-en-la-educacion-espanola-informe-talis/>
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- <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000144-0a23-d3cb-a96c-7b2f61a80000>
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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb7q-eqeDLq>

Practical application of ICC in Italy

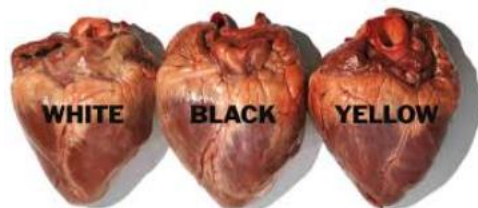
In this topic, we briefly present Italy and the situation there regarding multiculturalism and ICC. Italy's adult educators who work with multicultural and multilingual adult learners in any context should find this information useful as it is extremely important to know one's own culture in order to be able to understand and accept others.

☐ Warm-up

- How do you usually present your country to foreigners?
- What main information do you mention?
- What do you think your country's image is around the world?
- Why do you consider that your country is attractive to foreigners?

Some quotes about Italy

- "You may have the universe if I may have Italy", Giuseppe Verdi, Italian composer
- "The Creator made Italy from designs by Michelangelo", Mark Twain, author and humorist
- "A man who has not been in Italy, is always conscious of an inferiority, from his not having seen what it is expected a man should see", Samuel Johnson, writer and poet



- Oliviero Toscani, Italian photographer and his idea of multiculturalism



Think and discuss:

How many copies are there of the famous David, sculpture done by Michelangelo?

Which is the typical image Italian geography is associated with?

Which is the Italian city composed by 118 small islands?

Where is the oldest library in the world?

Where are the Pope's headquarters located into?

Which are the typical stereotypes associated to Italy?

▣ The country in brief

Geography and main sites

Italy is a Mediterranean country occupying a peninsula located in southern Europe. Italy is composed by some of the most varied landscapes available on Earth. Italian borders are represented by the Adriatic Sea on the east coast, the Tyrrhenian Sea on the west or Mediterranean coast, and the Ionian Sea to the south. In the north, Italy borders with France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. Italy is a long peninsula, looking like a tall boot: this is the main reason why Italy is usually referred to as "the boot," with the Puglia region in the southeast being the "heel of the boot" and the Calabria region in the southwest being the "toe of the boot". Italian main mountain range is represented by the Alps: highest points are along Monte Rosa, which peaks in Switzerland, and along Mont Blanc, which peaks in France. Tuscany, to the south of the cisalpine region, is perhaps the best-known Italian region because of art, architecture and landscape. Running down the length of the country, radiates the tall Apennine Range, which covers the entire width of the Italian peninsula. Much of the lower Apennine chain is near-wilderness, hosting a wide range of species rarely seen elsewhere in Western Europe, such as wild boars, wolves, asps, and bears. The southern Apennines are unstable with several active volcanoes, including Vesuvius. At the bottom of the country, in the Mediterranean Sea, lie the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.



Physical Map of Italy (source: Viaggiatori.net, <https://www.viaggiatori.net/>)

Interesting facts

- Italy has the shortest river at worldwide level (Ri river, 175 meters)
- Italy boasts the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage sites at world level
- Italy has the only 3 active volcanos at European level (Stromboli, Etna and Vesuvio)



The Etna volcano (source: SiViaggia, <https://siviaggia.it/>)

History

Across a span of more than 3,000 years, Italian history has been marked by episodes of temporary unification and long separation, of intercommunal strife and failed empires. At peace for more than half a century now, Italy's inhabitants enjoy a high standard of living and a highly developed culture. Italian history begins with the Etruscans, an ancient civilization geographically located between the Arno and Tiber rivers. Anyway Italian ancient history is worldwide famous for the Romans, whose empire stretched from India to Scotland by the 2nd century CE. The Roman Empire fell in the 5th century CE after a succession of barbarian invasions through which Huns, Lombards, Ostrogoths, and Franks—mostly previous subjects of Rome—seized portions of Italy. The idea of a country divided into portions accompanied the Italian history as a lot of city-states flourished during the Renaissance era. This period was very significant, as it was characterized by a significant intellectual, artistic, and technological improvement. Italian unification was finalized in the 19th century, when Victor Emmanuel II became king after a liberal revolution. In World War I, Italy – which was ally France and Britain – gave a fundamental contribution to the victory of the conflict. Italy completed the unification by acquiring Trento and Trieste and gained a permanent seat in the League of Nations' executive council. The following twenty years were characterized by a dictatorship managed by Benito Mussolini, who opted for the participation in World War II with Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan. The dictatorship ended in a military defeat, Mussolini's arrest and escape, and an Italian Civil War between the Italian Resistance, supported by American armies, and Nazi-fascists. Following the liberation of Italy, Italy abolished the monarchy with a referendum, reinstated democracy, enjoyed an economic miracle, and founded the European Union, NATO, and the Group of Six (later G7 and G20).



The Coliseum (source: Parco Archeologico del Colosseo, <https://parcocolosseo.it/>)

Interesting facts

- The name Italia was originally used only for the southwestern point of the peninsula. Traditionally said to be from Vitali, name of a tribe that settled in Calabria, whose name is perhaps somehow connected with Latin *vitulus*, "calf"
- Once the Italian city of Syracuse used to be the biggest city of Ancient Greece
- St Peter cathedral is the biggest Christian building in the world

Cuisine

If two out three stereotypes connected to Italy ("pizza, pasta and mandolin") are related to cuisine, there should be a reason: Italian cuisine is one of the most popular and copied in the world. It is a typical Mediterranean cuisine in terms of ingredients, recipes and cooking techniques developed across the Italian Peninsula since antiquity. Italy is famous for its regional differences, especially between the north and the south of the Italian peninsula: this reflects directly on Italian cuisine, which is famous for its regional differences in terms of typical products and recipes. Italian cuisine is characterized by its simplicity, with many dishes having only two to four main ingredients. Typical ingredients of Italian dishes comprehend fruits, vegetables, sauces, meats, etc., and most of them are used for the typical Italian dish, pasta. In the North of Italy, the most common ingredients are: fish (such as cod, or baccalà), potatoes, rice, corn (maize), sausages, pork, and different types of cheeses. Ligurian typical product is represented by "pesto", a cr me composed by basil, nuts, garlic and olive oil. Emilia-Romagna is worldwide famous for ham (prosciutto), different sorts of salami, truffles, grana, Parmigiano-Reggiano, and tomatoes (Bolognese sauce or rag ). In Tuscany, pasta (especially pappardelle) is traditionally served with meat sauce (including game meat). In Southern Italy there is the biggest variety of fruits and vegetables: tomatoes (fresh or cooked into tomato sauce), peppers, olives and olive oil, garlic, artichokes,

oranges, eggplants, and zucchini. With reference to the most iconic Italian recipe, pasta, includes noodles in various lengths, widths, and shapes. There are hundreds of different shapes of pasta with at least locally recognized names. Examples include spaghetti (thin rods), rigatoni (tubes or cylinders), fusilli (swirls), and lasagne (sheets). Dumplings, like gnocchi (made with potatoes or pumpkin) and noodles like spätzle, are sometimes considered pasta. They are both traditional in parts of Italy.

Interesting facts

- In Italy more than 9,3 million of coffees are consumed every day (50% of Italians usually have at least 1 cup of coffee per day)
- Every year each Italian eats an average of 25 kilos of pasta
- More than 5 million of pizza are made every year in Italy



Italian cuisine (source: Taccuini Gastrofisici, <https://www.taccuiniqastrofisici.it/>)

Specifics of everyday life

The family (la “famiglia”) is the most important aspect of an Italian’s life. Families provide emotional and economic support to the individual and form the basis of their social circles. The main difference, in comparison with the past, is represented by the typical size of Italian families, which have become smaller as consequence of a decrease of fertility rate. The structure of families is changing as well, because one parent is often unavailable during the week due to commuting long distances for work. Nevertheless, relationships remain extremely close.

Most Italians seek autonomy and independence, but due to the economic climate, many stay at home for years into their adulthood. Indeed, Italians leave their parents’ home at one of the highest ages in Europe. On the other hand, there is a deep respect for elderly family members in Italian culture. Senior family members are deeply dedicated to their children and grandchildren, in particular in the South part of Italy where kindergartens are not

systematically diffused. The family still plays an important role in creating social cohesion and a sense of belonging: this is particularly true in some small villages and towns where families have resided next to one another for generations. This brings to a strong emphasis on maintaining family reputation. For Italian families, among the most popular daily leisure activities are watching television, listening to the radio, reading newspapers, and going to the cinema; reading books and engaging in sports are less common among the majority of people. Though the popularity of home entertainment has grown, the use of public spaces remains important. Young Italians meet friends on a daily basis, often in the cities' piazzas in the evenings, making frequent trips to bars, cinemas, pizzerias, and discos. Even more, Italian piazzas are the typical meeting point for elder people, who meet there to talk, play cards and tell the histories belonging to their past.



The Italian piazza (source: Margie in Italy, <https://margieinitaly.com/>)

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Think and discuss:

What cultures have influenced Italy?

From which countries immigrants to Italy come from?

Do you consider Italy an inclusive country?

Who are the actors involved in multicultural adult education in Italy?

Is the Italian historical background an element towards multiculturalism or towards cultural closure?

▣ Multicultural adult education

Where and how does it take place?

Immigrant adults moving to Italy come mainly from the following countries: North Africa, Romania, Albania, China and Ukraine. With reference to formal adult education, the Italian situation is characterized by the existence of public and private adult education providers. An economic and social connotation is given to lifelong learning, as the most recent changes in the Italian social structure and composition show. The strong difference between North and South and the recent increase in the migration phenomenon during the last few decades brought the political authorities to focus lifelong learning on social inclusion. Local public institutions offer several courses for adult learners with a strong priority on basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as on foreign languages and Information Technology (IT) competences. The private sector provides different categories of courses promoting the enhancement of adults' life skills. With reference to non-formal adult education, it is mainly managed by NGOs working within the field of Adult Education. A non-formal learning service is provided by the Folks Universities (Università Popolari), which are a series of private and public organizations whose specific aim is to promote the education of adults. They organize diverse typologies of activities, mostly addressed to adults, but are also open to younger people. The first universities were opened at the beginning of the 20th century, following the Danish and Swedish examples. Another example of non-formal learning is represented by the Università per la Terza Età, specifically dedicated to those over 50 years of age (usually retired people) who want to enhance their educational background. The association which coordinates these providers at a national and international level is called Unitre (National Association of Università per la Terza Età).



Comunità di Sant'Egidio operating in the field of multicultural adult education (source: Comunità di Sant'Egidio, <https://www.santeaidio.org/>)

Attitude to multiculturalism

Like a majority of their European counterparts, Italians generally tend to have negative impressions of the overall impact of multiculturalism in their country. Only 18 per cent of Italians believe that multiculturalism has had a positive impact on Italy, while 57 per cent believe it has had a negative impact. Two factors help to account for this. First, Italians tend to inevitably link multiculturalism to immigration and perceive that many who are coming to Italy are not genuine refugees (that is, they are not escaping war or persecution) but are economic migrants, in search of a better life. This is also reflected in public debate which most often refers to newcomers merely as migrants, not making distinctions between different migrant categories. Second, perceptions of migrants and refugees are mainly influenced by individuals' attitudes towards 'the other', i.e. people who are different from them. Those who are more positively disposed towards refugees are also more positively disposed towards welcoming migrants in general, including from non-refugee backgrounds; and the same pattern is largely true for those who oppose refugees and migrants. The vast majority of Italians therefore express similar attitudes towards the reception of refugees and migrants. The lack of jobs and pessimism about persistent unemployment means that economic concerns play a greater role in shaping attitudes towards migrants in Italy and, consequently, towards multiculturalism. In addition, some emerging political parties have been riding the wave of a substantial closure towards multiculturalism. Despite this substantial closure towards multiculturalism, it is worth mentioning Italian case studies in which multiculturalism has been conceived as a tool for social enrichment. The so-called Riace model, for example. The hilltop medieval village of Riace on Italy's south coast was almost a ghost town 15 years ago. Houses were derelict and the local school was near to closing. The village was in danger of becoming extinct as residents disappeared to northern Italy, and abroad, for jobs during the economic boom. Since then, Riace has seen a change in its destiny, by openly welcoming a controlled number of migrants, who live and work as part of the community. This transformation was possible thanks to the mayor, Domenico Lucano, who created a scheme, funded by the Italian government, to offer refugees the abandoned apartments and training. It has helped to rebuild both the town's population and economy. About 450 migrants, drawn from more than 20 countries beyond Europe, are living in Riace – about a quarter of the village's total population. Riace model offers migrants the ability to participate in their new society, free from the extreme economic and social pressures many have faced as they tried to earn enough to sustain themselves. Migrants are then able to focus on inclusion, learning the local language, interacting with locals and getting the skills they need to build a better future for themselves.

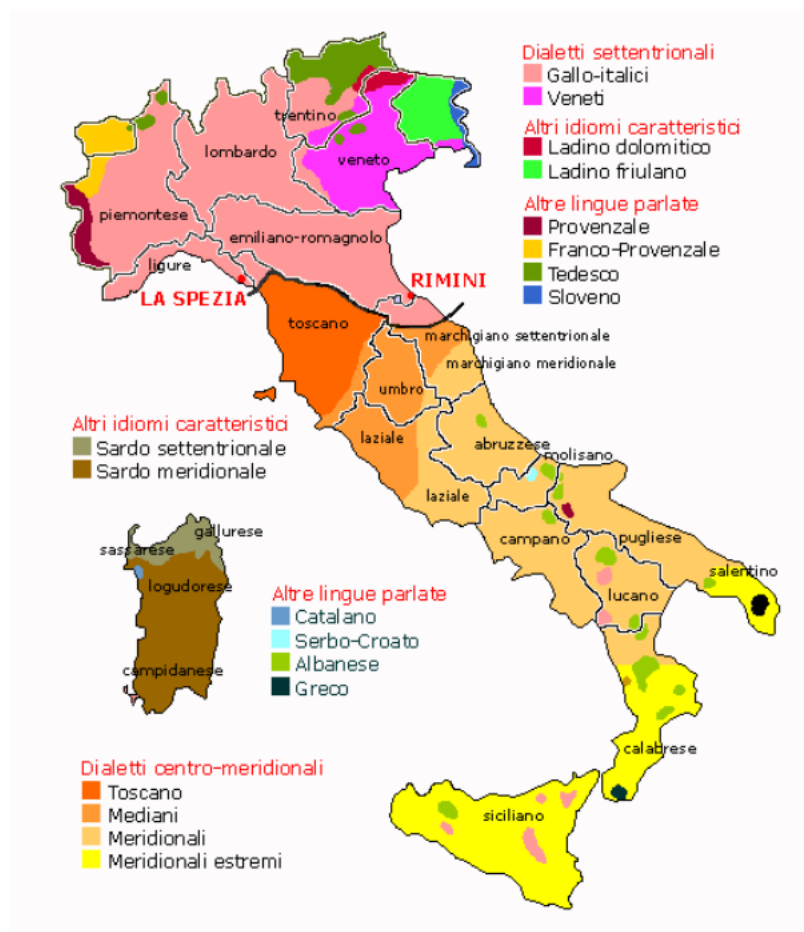


Street paintings in Riace (source: The Local, <https://www.thelocal.it/>)

▣ Italian language

State language: Italian

The official language across the country is the Italian one, which has its origins in the Tuscan dialect. Despite being an official language, Italian has kept a wide variety of regional languages, some of which have gained official recognition (like Sardinian). These regional languages are not mere dialects, but languages in their own right that are quite different from Standard Italian. Northern regional languages are actually closer to French and Occitan than to standard Italian or southern varieties. Regional languages include: Cimbrian, a language of west-Germanic origin; Italkian, spoken mainly in urban areas in Rome and in central and northern Italy; Piedmontese, a language with considerable French influence distinct enough from Standard Italian to be considered a separate language spoken in Piedmont; Ladin, a Rhaeto-romance language spoken in the Dolomite mountains; Ligurian, a language closer to Piemontese, Lombard, and French than to Standard Italian; Lombard, a language very different from standard Italian; Neapolitan-Calabrese, spoken in the Campania and Calabria provinces; Emiliano-Romagnolo, a structurally separate language from Italian, related to Lombard, spoken in Northwest Italy, in parts of the territories of Emilia and Romagna; Venetian, a language distinct from Standard Italian spoken in Northern Italy, in the city of Venice, and the area of the Tre Venezie; Sicilian, distinct enough from Standard Italian to be considered a separate language; Mócheno, a language related to Bavarian and Cimbrian and spoken in Valle del Fersina (Trentino) by about 1,900 Italians.



Map of Italian dialects (source: *Linguaenauti*, <https://linguaenauti.com/>)

Foreign languages in Italy

Foreign (or minority) languages are those which are official national languages in other countries and are spoken by local minorities within Italy. They are therefore different from Italy's regional languages, which are specific to Italy. Foreign languages that are the national language of another country or variants thereof: German, spoken in the province of South Tyrol in the North of Italy; Slovene, spoken in the north-eastern region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia near the border with Slovenia; Molise Croatian, a diaspora dialect of Croatian, which can be found in the southern Molise region; Arbëreshë Albanian, spoken in several areas located in Avellino, Potenza, Taranto, Cosenza, Catanzaro, and Palermo provinces in Southern Italy and in central Sicily; Franco-Provençal (called Patois in France) spoken by about 70,000 people who live in the Aosta Valley region; some 15,000 Catalan speakers reside around the area of Alghero in the north-west corner of Sardinia; Corsican, spoken in Maddalena Island, northeast coast of Sardinia. The immigration having Italy as destination also generated a plethora of new languages, including Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Turkish, Kurdish, Mandarin Chinese, and others.



Bilingual signage (source: Il Piccolo, <https://ilpiccolo.gelocal.it/>)

References with more information:

- https://eaea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/italy_country-report-on-adult-education-in-italy.pdf
- http://migis.eu/?page_id=96
- <http://slowitaly.yourguidetoitaly.com/languages-of-italy/>
- <https://languageknowledge.eu/countries/italy>
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/Italy/Languages>
- <https://euroalter.com/it/the-riace-model-or-migration-as-a-value-for-a-truly-global-citizenship/>
- <https://www.eurozine.com/the-riace-model/>

▣ Reflection and application of ICC in Italy

For many years Italy has been a country of emigration; only in the last few decades Italy went through an inversion of this trend. Since the 1970s Italy has moved from being a net exporter of migrants to a destination country. Each year Italy continued to grow as a global destination for migrants and today it counts among the European countries with the highest volume of immigrants on its territory. Despite this phenomenon, the multicultural paradigm that developed in many parts of Europe in the 1970s has never taken root in Italy. Only at the beginning of the 1990s, a lively debate on intercultural issues started to emerge, and this discussion mainly impacted the Italian educational system.

Education is a fundamental right as specified in the Italian Constitution. According to Article 34 of Italian legislation “education should be available to all, compulsory and free for at least eight years. Schools should play a key role in creating thoughtful, caring and productive citizens”. And education – more than any other aspect of our lives - plays a pivotal role in the development of intercultural dynamics, as it can help foster the elimination of stereotypes, prejudices and racist behaviors. This brought to the political interventions described above. Despite its official adoption, the intercultural approach in Italy over the past few decades has been vaguely conceived of and poorly executed. Different aspects contributed to this partial result. First of all, the number of immigrants reaching Italy in the last years has been higher than any other European country. Secondly, the Italian school system and the public institutions in general found it extremely difficult to deeply commit themselves to the challenges offered by the cultural diversity agenda: public funds are sometimes used to promote a “fake” inclusion, while continuous monitoring of available resources is lacking. The main reason why the Italian way to interculturalism is anyway successful depends on the presence of the third sector, which is a recurrent aspect in Italian society. The third sector emerged over time as an important agent to fill the gap left behind by the politics and by schools’ lack of preparation. Interventions of volunteer-based organizations and NGO’s managed to deliver a number of valuable intercultural services to support immigrants (teaching Italian language as a second language, promoting foreign languages and cultures, etc.).

▣ Answer questions

1. Which are the main Italian mountain chains?
2. Which are the 3 active Italian volcanos?
3. Which Italian historical period has been marked by a huge artistic and cultural ferment?
4. To which animal was originally linked the name Italia?
5. How many kilos of pasta each Italian eat every year (average value)?
6. Which is the name of the famous historic horse race organized in Italy?
7. Which is the city taken into account as model of multiculturalism?
8. From which dialect is descendant the Italian language?

▣ Reflect

- Do you know some of the Italian UNESCO sites?
- What is the political system in Italy?
- Which are – apart from gastronomy – the typical Italian products which are famous all over the world?
- What are the key elements of the Italian cuisine?
- Are there differences between North and South Italy in terms of lifestyle?
- How would you define the Italian attitude towards migrants and refugees?
- How would you evaluate the coexistence of several languages in Italy?

▣ Learn more

Links to all mentioned sources and additional materials:

- <https://accademiadellacrusca.it/en>

- <http://www.italia.it/en/travel-ideas/gastronomy.html>
- <http://slowitaly.yourguidetoitaly.com/10-most-famous-cities-of-italy/>
- <https://learnamo.com/en/italian-famous-monuments/>
- <http://www.italia.it/en/home.html>
- <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/italy/articles/the-10-most-important-italian-artists-you-should-know/>
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/italy_en
- <https://learnamo.com/en/school-education-italy/>
- https://ec.europa.eu/immigration/country-specific-information/italy/highly-qualified-worker_en

Videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlRwssZYRM0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DPkfKZkYq>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psdNX3o142s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSrnN9q7WYY>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_4p6_KsqoE
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myzzfwB-9Cc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y16QLJOVP6s&t=77s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd-slRiRkEw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUM2-JiynMo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrMVRGuYxXw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hAOxsTpVY>

Practical application of ICC in Cyprus

In this topic, we briefly present Cyprus and the situation there regarding multiculturalism and ICC. Cyprus's adult educators who work with multicultural and multilingual adult learners in any context should find this information useful as it is extremely important to know one's own culture in order to be able to understand and accept others.

☐ Warm-up

- How do you usually present your country to foreigners?
- What main information do you mention?
- What do you think your country's image is around the world?
Also quotes about your country could be included and learners could be asked to say whether they think those opinions truly reflect the situation in their country.
- Discuss the following quotes:

"The deal with multiculturalism is that the only culture you're allowed to disapprove of is your own." — Martin Amis

"I've been waiting over 40 years to come to Cyprus, and it has not disappointed – the birthplace of Aphrodite, the Crossroads of Civilization" - Joe Biden

References with more information:

- <http://www.heartcyprus.com/about-cyprus/cypriot-wisdom>
- <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/multiculturalism>
- <https://quotestats.com/topic/quotes-about-cyprus/>

☐ The country in brief



Think and discuss: What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word Cyprus?

Geography and main sites

Cyprus is the easternmost and third biggest island (9,251 km²) of the Mediterranean Sea. Its geographical position is unique as it is located at the crossroads of trade routes between Europe, Africa and Asia. Due to its significant location the island has been conquered and colonized throughout the years by a number of civilizations and cultures. Currently the island is divided into four segments. The Republic of Cyprus (South) which is the internationally recognized government and member of the European Union. The North part of the island the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is occupied illegally and is only recognized by Turkey. The Green Line buffer zone between the North and the South part which is controlled by The United Nations and two British bases in the south of the island (Akrotiti and Dhekelia). The whole island is divided into six districts: Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos, Famagusta and Kyrenia. The population of Cyprus is approximately 1.2 million and its capital city is Nicosia. Nicosia is known as the only divided capital city in the world. Cyprus has a rich and diverse landscape which comprises of long sandy coasts, crystal blue waters, rocky mountains, green valleys, forests, numerous hiking trails and vineyards. The island's main mountain ranges are Pentadaktylos (1023 m), situated in the North,

and Troodos (1951 m) in the South. Cypriots enjoy more than 300 days of sunshine a year. Although, Cyprus is known for its hot and dry summers and mild winters the residents still have the opportunity to enjoy snow in the mountains during winter.

Interesting facts:

- There are more cats (1.5 million) living in Cyprus than people (1.2 million).
- There are more than 1950 species of flowering plants in Cyprus, 140 of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Main sites:

1. Ancient Kourion Greek/Roman ruins:



Source: <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/rural/sites-monuments/item/2402-kourion-archaeological-site>

2. Aphrodite's Rock/ Petra tou Romiou:

Known as the birthplace of Aphrodite the Goddess of Love. Legend says that swimming around the Aphrodite rock brings good luck and eternal youth.



Source: <https://cyprusconferences.org/sofsem2020/about-cyprus/>

3. Larnaca Salt Lake:

In winter flamingos inhabit the lake in search for food.



Source: <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/cyprus/articles/20-must-visit-places-in-cyprus/>

References with more information:

- <https://www.justaboutcyprus.com/geography/>
- <https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions/cyprus-cy.htm>
- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/cyprus/attractions>
- <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/>

Videos:

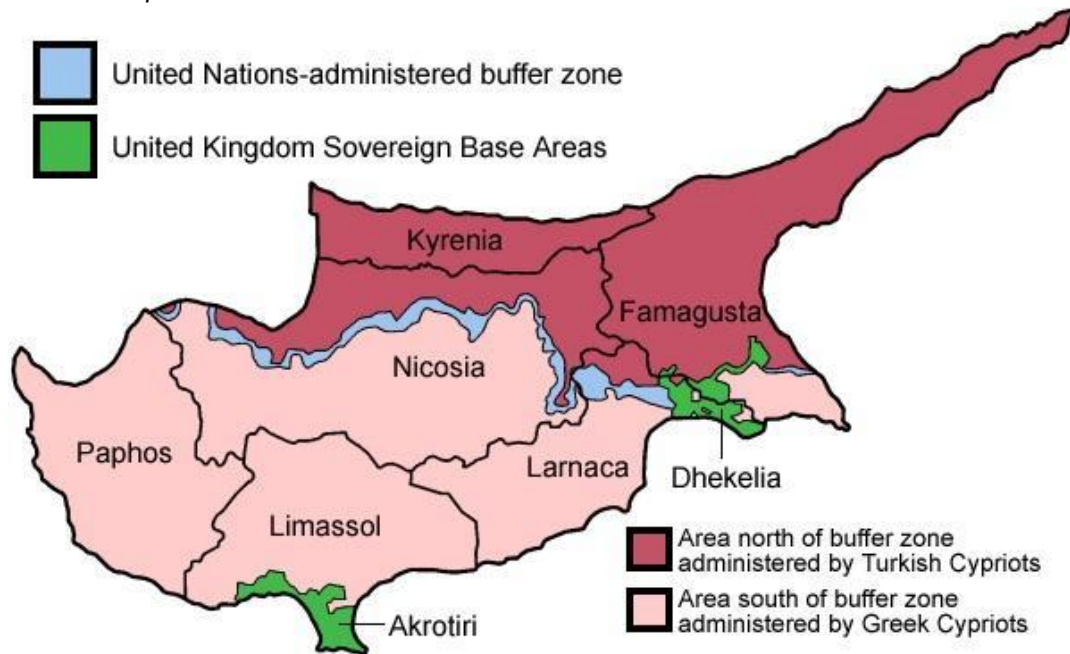
- Time-lapse video of Cyprus: Experience the emerald ocean and sandy shores of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus/images-videos#/media/1/148573/241856>
- Better Days are Here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCh3rN41_Nq
- Cyprus welcomes the world!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kb2-6zemmj8>

History

Although Cyprus is a relatively small nation, it undeniably has a long and rich history with a lifespan of more than 10.000 years. As mentioned in the previous section the island's ideal and strategic location made it a target for various cultures and civilisations. The Mycenaean Greeks were the first to set foot on the island more than 3,500 years ago and introduced and established their civilization and culture to the prehistorian age inhabitants of the island. Years after, several other cultures colonized the island such as the Phoenicians, the Assyrians, the Egyptians, the Romans, the Franks, the Venetians, the Ottomans and the British. As a result, the history of Cyprus is a unique blend of diverse cultures and periods. Cyprus is home to a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Greek Temples, prehistoric settlements, Roman ruins, Byzantine churches, castles, Muslim mosques, British colonial buildings and many more. In the 1500s, Cyprus was under the control of the Ottoman Empire for more than 300 years. It was then officially colonized by the British in 1925. In 1960, the island finally managed to gain

its independence. However, a few years later, in 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus and as a result the island is now divided in two parts, the Greek-Cypriot part (South) and the Turkish-Cypriot part (North). There is a buffer zone between the North and the South controlled by the United Nations that acts as a peacekeeping force. Despite the unfortunate situation, Cyprus officially became a member of the European Union in 2004. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is recognized as an official government only by Turkey.

1. *Cyprus Political map:*



Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/awxe4z/political_map_of_cyprus/

2. *Choirokoitia Archaeological Site (Neolithic Settlement) UNESCO World Heritage Site:*



Source: <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/rural/sites-monuments/item/757-choirokoitia-archaeological-site-neolithic-settlement>

3. *Commandaria “the gift of the gods”: world’s oldest wine originates in Cyprus:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh8KFGbdYUk>



Source: <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/food-drink/local-drinks1/item/384-commandaria>

Cuisine

Cypriots are extremely passionate and proud of their local cuisine, hence why sharing and enjoying food is part of every social event including family get-togethers, special occasions, festivals etc. The Cypriot diet and gastronomy comprise of various delicacies influenced mostly by Greek, Middle-Eastern and Roman cultures. The main ingredients of the Cypriot diet include olive oil, seasonal vegetables, meat, legumes, fresh fish and unique dairy products. The most famous local produce of Cyprus is the Halloumi cheese which has been produced on the island for centuries. It is made of goat’s milk and is part of Cyprus’s cultural heritage. Locals consume it on a daily basis in various forms (sandwiches, barbeque, stuffed in Cypriot ravioli, soups, pasta etc. Another popular traditional food custom of the island is the Cypriot “meze”. It is best described as a large feast which is normally part of a social event and includes various diverse small dishes such as traditional dips, grilled meats, sausages, cheeses, legumes, stewed and clay cooked dishes and traditional deserts. Other dishes unique to Cyprus that are worth mentioning are “kolokasi”, “koupepia”, and “souvla”. Kolokasi is a root vegetable similar to a sweet potato and can only be found in Cyprus. It is normally fried and stewed with pork in a tomato and celery sauce. Koupepia is a traditional dish made of grape leaves, stuffed with rice, minced pork or beef, fresh herbs and other seasoning and then cooked in a tomato sauce. Finally, Souvla is the ultimate Cypriot barbeque. It involves the slow-cooking process of big chunks of pork or lamb meat on a long skewer over a charcoal. The process of cooking the souvla is considered as a “ritual” and a fundamental part of Cypriot culture and is usually done by men.

1. Cypriot Meze:



Source: <http://www.cyprusbeat.com/why-we-love-cypriot-meze/>

2. Kolokasi dish:



Source: <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/el/discovercyprus/food-drink/local-recipes/item/360-kolokasi-taro-root>

3. Souvla:



Source: <https://globalstorybook.org/10-traditional-dishes-try-cyprus/>

Links:

- Traditional Cypriot deserts: <http://www.cyprusbeat.com/10-traditional-cypriot-desserts/>
- <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/food-drink>
- <https://www.delightfulcyprus.com/en/the-cypriot-gastronomy/>

Specifics of everyday life

Despite the island's intense and violent history, it is considered one of the safest countries in the world and is regarded as a family-friendly destination. Crime levels are quite low when compared to other EU countries and people feel safe walking alone during all hours of the day¹. Cypriot people are known worldwide for their hospitality and their *laid back* Mediterranean mentality. The majority of the residents work a normal 8-hour shift and usually have the weekends off to relax and spend time with their loved ones. The warm weather and the 300+ days of sunshine per year allow the residents to enjoy numerous outdoor activities such as going to the beach, diving, mountain hiking and even skiing during the winter time. Cyprus is known for its café culture. Most coffee shops in Cyprus stay open until 12 o'clock at night. This might seem unusual to most European cultures but Cypriots love to hang out, socialize and enjoy their coffee in outdoor coffee shops for hours on end, even at night. The island has a vibrant nightlife with countless choices of bars and clubs in the main cities that stay open until the early morning hours. The main choice of transportation in Cyprus is driving a car. Unfortunately, public transportation is not as reliable and Cypriots are not that keen on using bicycles for transportation. An interesting fact that can be mentioned is that Cyprus is one of the four countries in the EU that drives on the left side of the road. Another important thing to add is that family and spending time with your loved ones is a key priority of Cypriot culture. Majority of Cypriot families spend their Sundays eating souvla with their families or go out to eat in a restaurant.

References with more information:

- <https://www.expats.com/en/guide/europe/cyprus/19629-the-cypriot-lifestyle.html>
- <https://www.chooseyourcyprus.com/9-reasons-why-we-love-cyprus.html>
- <https://johanneslarsson.com/living-in-cyprus-8-reasons-to-move-here-entrepreneur-perspective/>

Video:

- Cyprus | Discover Humanity [Episode 9]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMaSw5dAGc0>



Think and discuss:

How do the specifics of everyday life in your country differ from the ones in Cyprus?

¹ https://www.numbeo.com/crime/country_result.jsp?country=Cyprus

▣ Multicultural adult education

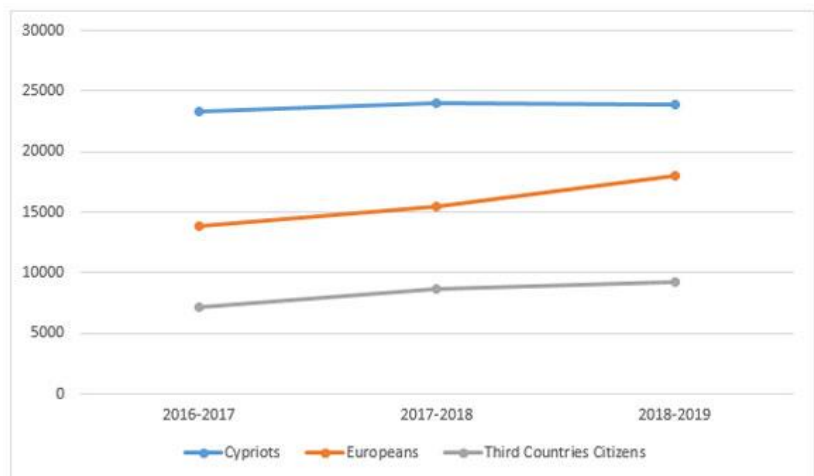
Where and how does it take place?

- *multicultural higher education – number of students and where they come from, what they choose to study, what languages they study in, whether they stay in the country after graduation, etc.*
- *other multicultural adult education: formal and non-formal – who the adult learners are by nationality, age, and gender, what they learn and why.*

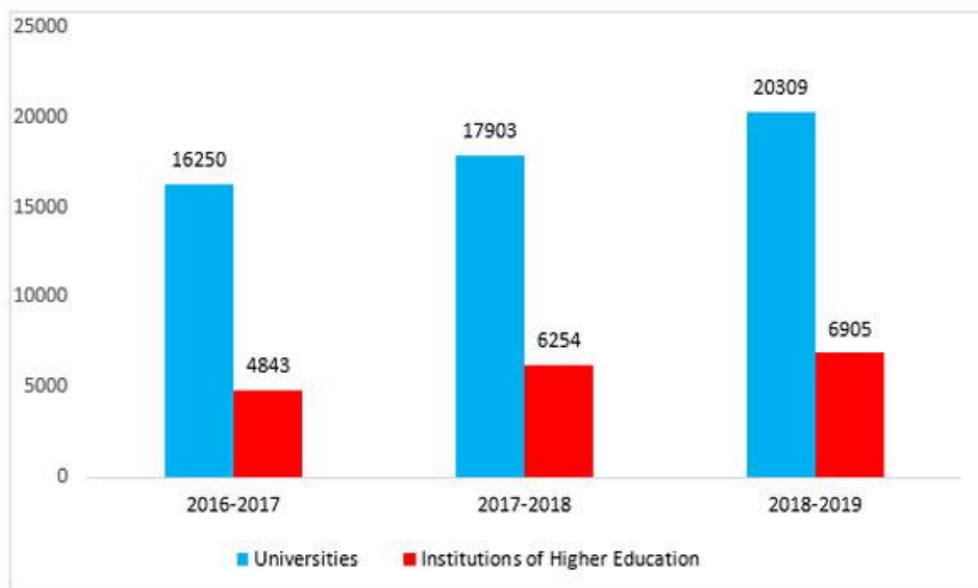
Multicultural higher education

The number of foreign students in Cyprus has risen significantly over the past few years. According to the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth website, during 2018-2019, 27.214 foreign students were studying at Cyprus's Higher Education Institutions (20309 in universities and 6905 in institutions of Higher education). During 2018-2019, out of the 51,086 students in Cyprus's higher education institutions 17,959 (35%) were European citizens and 9,255 (18%) were third country nationals. The majority of foreign students in HEI's in Cyprus are from Greece, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Nigeria and Russia (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth Annual Report, 2019). The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth attributes the significant increase of foreign students to the country's quality education and programs that are linked to the global work market, its safe and friendly environment and affordable living conditions, its ideal location and climate. In addition, Cyprus offers an abundance of courses in the English language, making it even more attractive for foreign students. The majority of higher education programmes in state universities are taught in Greek, however, private universities and higher education institutions offer almost all of their programmes in English (European Commission website). No specific statistics were found on what foreign students choose to study in Cyprus, however, according to infographics, the most popular fields of study of tertiary education graduates (aged 25-34) are Business Administration and Law (32,7% men, 29,2% women), Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction (21,5% men, 6,2% women), Social Sciences, Journalism and Information (14,6% women, 9,2% men). It is also important to mention that studying Medicine in Cyprus has become very popular among international students as it has been reported that the 650 medical students at UNIC (Cyprus's largest private university) come from 58 countries (Cyprus profile, 2019).

Graph 1: Number of Foreign and Cypriot students in Cyprus for the period of 2016-2019



Graph 2: Number of Foreign Students at the Higher Education Institutions of Cyprus for the period 2016-2019



Source for both graphs: <http://www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/international->

Other multicultural adult education

Another programme that is offered on a formal education level is the Greek Language Learning Programme for adults provided by the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Labour Institute. It is a multi-level Greek language learning programme for adults which aims to increase their knowledge of the Greek language. By learning Greek, foreigners will be able to achieve greater communication in their everyday lives, increase their chances of getting employed and overall become better integrated in the Cypriot society. Additionally, on a non-formal level, there are a number of programmes/workshops/seminars offered by Municipalities and NGOs that are targeted towards migrants. The workshops/seminars cover the following topics: cultural identity programs, management of emotions and situations in relation to migration, orientation and social skills, creative expression, empowerment, and cultural acquaintance.

References with more information:

- <https://www.cyprusprofile.com/articles/cyprus-a-growing-international-education-hub>
- <http://www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/international-students.html>
- https://www.unhcr.org/cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2019/03/Perceptions_FULL-REPORT-FINAL_8March2019.pdf
- https://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/country-profiles/cyprus_en
- YOUNG ADULTS AND EDUCATION, 2nd QUARTER 2019: Infographic for young adults and education based on data from Labour Force survey for 2nd quarter 2019 Date of Release: 06/11/2019 :
- [https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/all/CBEEABE5CDCFC987C22584A900335998/\\$file/Cystat-Young_Adults-EN-Nov19.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/all/CBEEABE5CDCFC987C22584A900335998/$file/Cystat-Young_Adults-EN-Nov19.pdf?OpenElement)
- <https://www.cyprusprofile.com/articles/cyprus-a-growing-international-education-hub>
- http://www.moec.gov.cy/en/annual_reports/annual_report_2019_en.pdf

- <https://help.unhcr.org/cyprus/integration-support/>

Attitude to multiculturalism

Although Cypriots are known for their hospitality and welcoming attitude there is still a portion of the population which feels threatened and is cautious when interacting and dealing with foreign people. This can be somewhat understandable having in mind the local's history of occupation and constant battle for freedom and independence. Over the past few years, foreign migrants have taken over manual and service jobs. A part of Cypriot citizens is unhappy with the fact that most workers in the food and retail industry can only communicate through the English language. Some locals feel that this increase of diversity opposes a threat to their traditional lifestyle and culture. On the other hand, majority of the residents, especially those that have travelled and lived abroad, have more positive attitudes towards this shift. As the years go by, the majority of Cypriots are becoming more aware about the benefits of multiculturalism and are starting to embrace it. Moreover, the number of locals marrying foreigners has also rapidly increased during the last years which suggests that any racial and cultural barriers still existent will slowly start to fade in the future (Lonely Planet website).

According to a study conducted by the University of Cyprus (2019), Cypriots perceptions of refugees and migrants are improving. The Cypriot community overall recognises that refugees are in need of support and that the state is responsible for taking care of them. Although some Cypriots are worried about the integration of refugees and often look down on them, the study reports that majority of Cypriots believe that refugees should be integrated in the local society and not placed in isolation camps.

References with more information:

- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/cyprus/background/other-features/374f9213-c552-4c29-8caf-f017823f5d5f/a/nar/374f9213-c552-4c29-8caf-f017823f5d5f/358801>
- https://www.unhcr.org/cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2019/03/Perceptions_FULL-REPORT-FINAL_8March2019.pdf

Videos:

- *Just another Youth story* Burak Berk Doluay
https://www.facebook.com/plugins/video.php?height=314&href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FOrganismosNeolaiasKyprou%2Fvideos%2F147096690221461%2F&show_text=false&width=560
- *Just another Youth story* Νικόλ και Δήμητρα
- <https://www.facebook.com/OrganismosNeolaiasKyprou/videos/471803807133726/>

▣ Cyprus's language

State language

The Republic of Cyprus has two official languages Greek and Turkish. According to its Constitution, both languages are used for legislation and public administration purposes. However, Greek- Cypriots which inhabit the South part of the island use the Greek language and a Cypriot Greek dialect in terms of everyday communication. Turkish is spoken mostly in the North part of the island. Greek was first introduced to Cyprus by the Greeks who arrived in the island in about the 12th to 11th century BC. There are only 2 countries in the world that have Greek as their official language, Greece and Cyprus. This means that there are approximately 13,5 million Greek speakers in the

world, 11 million in Greece and 1.2 million in Cyprus. It is important to note that there are also large Greek and Greek Cypriot communities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. What is unique about Cyprus is that although Greek is the language that is used for instruction in education and for reading and writing purposes, Cypriots mainly use Cypriot Greek to communicate verbally in their everyday lives. Cypriot Greek is a unique dialect which is only spoken by Greek Cypriots living in Cyprus and Greek Cypriots living abroad. The Greek Cypriot dialect is quite different to standard Modern Greek, hence why people from Greece have difficulty in understanding it, especially when Cypriots speak very fast. The Greek Cypriot dialect differs in terms of phonology, vocabulary and grammar and syntax. It comprises of sounds, words, and idioms influenced by other languages such as Turkish, English and other languages of cultures that colonized the island in the past.

Main characteristics of the Greek Cypriot dialect (The online Greek Tutor website):

- Use of double consonants in various words, e.g. ποττέ (Cypriot Greek) ποτέ (Modern Greek)- never.
- Use of **-v (n)** at the end of nouns and verbs τραπέζιv (Cypriot Greek)- τραπέζι (Modern Greek)- table, παίζουμεv (Cypriot Greek)- παίζουμε (Modern Greek)- we play.
- Use of sounds like **'tz'** for the 'k' sound e.g. **"tze"** instead of "ke" and the **"sh"** for the "h" sound e.g. **"eshete"** not "ehete".
- The use of the pronoun after the verb. E.g. Greek Cypriot: "είπεν μου" = he said to me, Modern Greek: μου είπε (to me he said).

References with more information:

- <https://www.justaboutcyprus.com/learn-greek/>
- <https://www.theonlinegreetutor.com/cypriot-language-cypriot-dialect/>
- <https://www.worlddata.info/languages/greek.php>
- https://www.kiprinform.com/en/cyprus_interesting/the-cypriot-language/
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/population-demographic-situation-languages-and-religions-15_en

Foreign languages in Cyprus

Cyprus is considered a multicultural tourist hub, therefore, being able to speak a foreign language is a must as the island's economy is mainly based on tourism. The English language is the most popular foreign language in Cyprus. According to statistics (Special Eurobarometer 386, 2012) an impressive 73% of Cypriots speak English. English is taught in Cypriot schools from a very early age and it is also the language of instruction in most universities and HE institutions. Having a basic knowledge of English is a requirement for almost any type of job in Cyprus. According to a recent study, (Kkese & Lokhtina, 2017) Cypriots consider English to be extremely useful to their professional careers and do not feel that it is a threat to their native dialect. The study also indicated that locals value the importance of working in multilingual environments and are inspired by it as they believe that it broadens the contexts of interaction which ultimately enhances their education and learning capacities. Overall, the study indicates that Greek Cypriots value the importance of learning foreign languages and acknowledge their significance related to the workplace, media and education. Other popular foreign languages learned by Cypriots include French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian. An interesting thing to mention is that road signs in Cyprus are in 3 languages: Greek, Turkish and English. Additionally, restaurant and cafe menus are offered in Greek, English and Russian especially in tourist areas and cities like Limassol where there is a growing Russian community.

References with more information:

- <http://www.heartcyprus.com/about-cyprus/language>
- <https://languageknowledge.eu/countries/cyprus>
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/population-demographic-situation-languages-and-religions-15_en
- Kkese, Elena & Lokhtina, Irina. (2017). *Insights into Cypriot-Greek attitudes toward multilingualism and multiculturalism in Cyprus*. *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. 26. : https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325116116_Insights_into_Cypriot-Greek_attitudes_toward_multilingualism_and_multiculturalism_in_Cyprus

▣ Reflection and application of ICC in Cyprus

Cyprus is considered a highly multicultural island as migrants make up 13% of the country's population. It is estimated that around 13,000 migrants move to Cyprus every year. The number of foreign university students is constantly increasing due to the country's safe and friendly environment, ideal location and climate. Cyprus became an immigration destination in the mid-1980s, as a result of economic growth and the subsequent demand for a foreign labour force. Migrants have taken over manual and service jobs in Cyprus and although a portion of Cypriots is not very accepting of this situation, the majority of Cypriots are becoming more aware about the benefits of multiculturalism and are starting to embrace it. Even though migrants represent such a large part of the island's population, there is no mandatory and generalised integration programme in Cyprus. During the last decade, a number of projects have aimed to provide (free) Greek language classes or civic education to young and adult TCNs, as well as to promote integration awareness trainings to employers, teachers, journalists, public officials, etc. Moreover, four Migrant Information Centres (MICs) permanently operate across the country that serve as one stop-shops for services to TCNs and applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. Given the high numbers of migrants on the island, it can be concluded that more systematic application of intercultural competence programmes is needed.

▣ Answer questions

1. What is unique about Cyprus's capital city?
2. Cyprus is located on the crossroads of which continents?
3. Name some of the civilizations which colonized Cyprus in the past.
4. What is the buffer zone and where is it located?
5. How would you describe the Cypriot cuisine?
6. Why do international students choose to study in Cyprus?
7. How does the Cypriot Greek dialect differ from the Greek language?
8. What percentage of Cypriots speak English?

Reflect

- What surprised you most about the geography of Cyprus?
- Are there any other main sites/attractions in Cyprus that you think are worth mentioning?
- How does the Cypriot cuisine compare with your country's cuisine? Are there any similarities?
- Are you familiar with any other multicultural education initiatives in Cyprus? What are the needs and gaps?
- What are your experiences with locals and their attitudes towards foreigners and multiculturalism?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between Cypriot culture and your culture.

Learn more

- <https://www.justaboutcyprus.com/geography/>
- <https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions/cyprus-cy.htm>
- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/cyprus/attractions>
- <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/>
- <https://www.visitcyprus.com/index.php/en/discovercyprus/food-drink>
- <https://www.delightfulcyprus.com/en/the-cypriot-gastronomy/>
- https://www.numbeo.com/crime/country_result.jsp?country=Cyprus
- <https://www.expat.com/en/guide/europe/cyprus/19629-the-cypriot-lifestyle.html>
- <https://www.chooseyourcyprus.com/9-reasons-why-we-love-cyprus.html>
- <https://johanneslarsson.com/living-in-cyprus-8-reasons-to-move-here-entrepreneur-perspective/>
- <https://www.cyprusprofile.com/articles/cyprus-a-growing-international-education-hub>
- <http://www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/international-students.html>
- https://www.unhcr.org/cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2019/03/Perceptions_FULL-REPORT-FINAL_8March2019.pdf
- https://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe/country-profiles/cyprus_en
- YOUNG ADULTS AND EDUCATION, 2nd QUARTER 2019: Infographic for young adults and education based on data from Labour Force survey for 2nd quarter 2019 Date of Release: 06/11/2019 : [https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/all/CBEEABE5CDCFC987C22584A900335998/\\$file/Cystat-Young_Adults-EN-Nov19.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/all/CBEEABE5CDCFC987C22584A900335998/$file/Cystat-Young_Adults-EN-Nov19.pdf?OpenElement)
- <https://www.cyprusprofile.com/articles/cyprus-a-growing-international-education-hub>
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- https://www.unhcr.org/cy/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2019/03/Perceptions_FULL-REPORT-FINAL_8March2019.pdf
- <https://www.justaboutcyprus.com/learn-greek/>
- <https://www.theonlinegreekutor.com/cypriot-language-cypriot-dialect/>
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- Kkese, Elena & Lokhtina, Irina. (2017). *Insights into Cypriot-Greek attitudes toward multilingualism and multiculturalism in Cyprus*. *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. 26. :
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Videos:

- Time-lapse video of Cyprus: Experience the emerald ocean and sandy shores of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus/images-videos#/media/1/148573/241856>
- Better Days are Here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCh3rN41_Nq
- Cyprus welcomes the world!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kb2-6zemmj8>
- Commandaria: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh8KFGbdYUk>
- Cyprus | Discover Humanity [Episode 9]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMaSw5dAGc0>
- Just another Youth story Burak Berk Doluay
https://www.facebook.com/plugins/video.php?height=314&href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FOrganismosNeolaiasKyprou%2Fvideos%2F147096690221461%2F&show_text=false&width=560

▣ Self-evaluation questionnaire

1. What are the three things you have learned in this unit?
2. What are other learners doing in discussions that you like and would like to incorporate in your own discussion responses?
3. When you were feeling challenged in understanding a new concept, what did you do to get “unstuck”?
4. What did you find easy about learning the material in this unit?
5. What did you find most difficult about learning the material in this unit?
6. What is one thing you were doing really well while learning the material in this unit?
7. What is one thing you need to improve? What is your plan for making that improvement?