

SOFT SKILLS IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION

Кик-дргас Йоанна

Университет имени Адама Мицкевича
(г. Познань, Польша)

The lack of knowledge of a foreign language, as well as the increasing internationalisation of domestic markets, are the causes of many communicative difficulties at the corporate level. Inefficient communication leads to a slowing down of decision-making processes and

a deterioration of the quality of the services offered. In this respect, soft-skills oriented LSP teaching can close the existing gap in employee training and enhance employees' chances for success in the international environment.

Keywords: soft skills development, presentation, negotiations, project.

Due to changes in the modern globalised world (international projects, new media, migration), mastering a set of soft skills seems to be one of the obligatory requirements – next to professional expertise – that can enhance the efficacy and quality of the teaching outcomes. However, the need to implement soft skills in an educational environment does not always accompany certain training, although foreign language teachers need soft skills as a part of their profession and to be able to develop them by their students. The existing demand for completing a set of prerequisite qualifications can be satisfied by offering soft skills practice training, either within the academic curriculum, or through a synergetic combination of soft skills development with other forms of training. The design and implementation of soft skills training methods that can be offered as an integral part of the Foreign Language Teacher training seem to be a solution to the existing demand. The project aims at providing universities with an instrument (in form of manual and online course) to be used as a reinforcement of soft skills development by future foreign language teachers, who as agents of change are believed to support soft skills development of their students they are to be considered a target group.

Aims of the project:

- creating innovative new directions and programs of teacher training integrating soft skills development preparing the foreign teachers:

- to work with people coming from different cultural background
- to prepare own students to cooperate better on the labour market
- to adjust flexibly to the new conditions of teaching in the changing Europe (new media, division of time and space, online courses, etc.)

- to teach cooperativeness within the accessible nets in Europe
- preparing a manual and a course (available in English for all EU members), for future foreign language teachers taking into account modern methods of teaching, such as the project method, or task approach.

The acquisition of the skills at the university level will have impact on the quality of the work performed in the future by the students of language studies taking part in the offered training programme. The integration of soft skills development into foreign teachers training can make future foreign language teachers more aware of the potential problems they may face in the reality resulting from the changing situation in current Europe (migration, intercultural differences, long-life learning, implementation of multimodality within their classes, meeting the changing needs of their students etc.) and help them dealing with them in the future. Moreover, being aware of the meaning of soft skills in the current world foreign language

teachers can also present soft skills (negotiations, presentations, team work etc.) and support their training by their own students, preparing them all the same better for meeting of requirements of the labour market.

The development of guidelines/ IT supported integrated course for development soft skills that could be available for centres organising foreign language teachers training all around the world.

The outcome of project will be widespread through papers presented at local and international conferences, which the involved researchers regularly attend, and articles published in domestic and international journals as well as monographs. Papers in the journals for active FLA teachers. For the informing about current advancement of the project and results the use of social media is foreseen: projects own website, Facebook, Twitter. Interesting materials also in form of MOOCs will be presented online. Information about the project will be also available at the websites of the universities, institutions involved.

Over the last years, in addition to traditional university activities such as teaching and scientific research, a 'third mission' has come to life, that is direct cooperation with the socio-economic environment in order to come up with new and innovative initiatives to meet the requirements of training of future employees and prepare them for the ever changing labour market. Those who are employed in the economic sector and business are expected, in addition to professional competence, communication skills in a foreign language – general and the industrial, which already requires a different approach to studying. That is, the creation of a model of teaching – learning foreign languages, which would meet labour market needs – it can be achieved by a proper preparation of foreign language teachers.