

Title of Best Practice	Subject: German regional studies
Target group	based on the experience with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newcomer, <input type="checkbox"/> not relevant (for all) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> diverse group
Outcome/added value for target group	<p>At our school we have a special subject, which is called “German regional studies” (Landeskunde). It combines learning the new language with aspects of everyday life and provides orientation.</p> <p>Each lesson of regional studies covers different topics, which are very important for the life and integration in Germany. Therefore, the students acquire knowledge about Germany as a country, from different angles and perspectives: culture and politics, how people live and interact in Germany, and the values on which German/European society is based.</p>
Content in detail	<p>The subject is embedded in the curriculum of the international classes with two lessons per week.</p> <p>Scheduled topics are for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family and friends • healthcare sector • eating and drinking • educational system • workplace • history • activities and sport • festivals and celebrations • nature and environmental protection • current issues of local, national and international politics <p>The selection shall also be based on the interests and prior knowledge and experiences of the students, because the intrinsic motivation is essential for a successful learning process. It is important to talk about the daily questions und difficulties of the students. Every day holds new situations, which they have to cope with. For example, they have to go to a doctor, or they have an invitation of a German friend. So, together we discuss how to manage the situation, by searching for helpful vocabulary or phrases. In addition, we practice the situations in role plays. Especially vocabulary and role plays are very important to give the students a good self-confidence to manage the new situations.</p> <p>The students are mostly very thankful for each kind of tip. In the next lesson they usually report on how they mastered the situation or where they experienced any problems. Thus, there is a constant reflection on their own actions, abilities, and constant improvement of their communication skills.</p> <p>As can be seen, the knowledge about regional studies is essential for a successful integration into a foreign society. Without the knowledge about the culture in the target language, it is not possible to learn German communication skills.</p>



Form of implementation and carried out by	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal <input type="checkbox"/> non formal <input type="checkbox"/> combination <input type="checkbox"/> other – please explain ... The teaching colleagues in this subject have studied history, politics or languages, and all of them are native speakers of German. It is important that the teachers have intercultural skills and are also interested in the students' home countries so that cultural exchange can take place. As a teacher you also learn a lot and can reflect on yourself and your lifestyle. In addition, there is an exchange about the cultures which helps to overcome prejudices and gain new insights for the teachers and students alike. At the beginning, the teaching colleagues oriented their topics on already existing material and exchanged views with their English colleagues on regional topics in the subject English. In addition, the Goethe Institute website, for example, also offers many helpful materials for the international classes.		
Key Success factors (KSF)	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 1 Involvement of the whole staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 6 Relation to real world	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 11 Cooperation with parents and involvement of social environment
	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 2 Exchange of experiences with other schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 7 Strengthen basic education	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 12 Communication and Cooperation I
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 3 Stimulate mutual learning processes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 8 Democracy in school	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 13 Communication and Cooperation II
	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 4 Diversity within staff members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 9 Feedback culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 14 Education is more than school - Focus on non-formal and informal education
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KSF 5 Cross-subject themes out of the living environment	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 10 Further education and training of staff	<input type="checkbox"/> KSF 15 Development of personal future perspectives in education, occupation and life

Fact box



Key words: Germany, society, traditions, learning the German language
Organisational framework (School type...): vocational school
Legal and financial framework: https://www.berufsbildung.nrw.de/cms/upload/ausbildungsvorbereitung/infoblatt_internationale_foerderklasse_.pdf
Theoretical basis (underline) and sources: focus on German as a foreign language, several textbooks e.g. Zwischendurch mal Landeskunde, Hueber Verlag
Further information / attachments:
Links etc... https://deutsch-lernen.zum.de/wiki/Landeskunde
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