



Rationale

"Pictures themselves can teach... If a picture is present in a book, it is hard to disregard," said Perry Nodelman in 1988 in his book, "Words About Pictures".

Picture books have been proven to be extremely valuable educational tools, bringing multiple learning benefits to diverse groups of learners. Such benefits are related to the development of learning skills such as observation, recognition, interpretation and self-perception. In order to understand how identity and diversity may be approached through picture books and visual narratives it is important to understand that there are certain forms of storytelling that empower certain groups of people at the expense of other groups and that the stories told to children often exclude and marginalize the worldviews of minorities, migrants, recent settlers and refugees to the margins. Introducing educators to compilations of carefully selected, high-quality picture books that are well suited for specific educational purposes, can be quite beneficial for both educators and learners.

Objectives

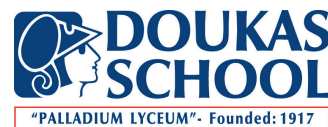
In this regard, the project "Identity and Diversity Picture Book Collections" (IDPBC) aims to deliver a collection of picture books that provide powerful visual stories about young protagonists who encounter diversity and explore issues of identity, difference and inclusion. Teaching materials will also be developed founded on evidence-based approaches, which will accompany the compiled picture book collections. In addition, pre-school and primary school teachers will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and competences to successfully use the collections and materials in their classrooms, and thus make their teaching more inclusive and accommodating.

More specifically, the objectives of IDPBC are to:

- 1) Compile a collection of international picture books in a range of languages;
- 2) Develop, test and disseminate a series of picture-book-based approaches and activities;
- 3) Publish and disseminate a guide that supports practitioners in integrating IDPBC picture books in the curriculum;
- 4) Provide training and professional development to pre- and in-service educators;
- 5) Provide an Open Access Resources (OERs) platform that enables pre- and in-service educators to develop networks of practitioners who integrate picture books in the curriculum.



Partners



Instituto Politécnico
de Castelo Branco

The consortium consists of six European partner-organizations from Lithuania, Cyprus, Romania, Greece and Portugal. This partnership will cover a wide range of expertise and experience related to the scope and the aims of the project IDPBC in order to collect picture books with visual stories that will inspire children and educators.



**Kick-off Project Meeting,
26-27 November 2015,
Vilnius – Lithuania**

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Results achieved so far

- Picture Book Selection Criteria agreed on by the partners and a number of international scholars in the field of children's literature, intercultural and inclusive education.

Next steps

- 2nd Project Meeting, 23-24 June 2016, Castelo Branco – Portugal
- Surveys and Picture Book Nomination
Please fill out our online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/diversitytales>
- Tentative Annotated Bibliographic Catalogue
- Design the curriculum

We will keep you informed!



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