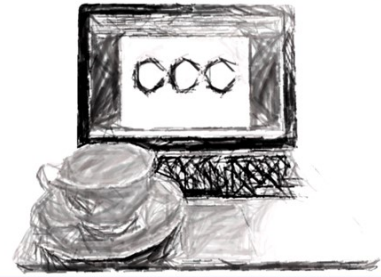




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### **CCC-Break 7: 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2019, How can we use new media and technology to bring cross-cultural training to the next level?**

During the Open Space facilitated by Joanna Sell and Mithun Mridha at the SIETAR Europa Conference in Leuven this year challenges and chances of digitalization and disruption caused by the virtual working were an important theme addressed in many sessions. Hence the CCC break directly after the conference was very hands on and focused on working with different tools.

The question: What do you associate with virtual working was answered as follows:



showing the variety of perception among participants of the CCC break. The pros outweighed the loneliness and distance factors, addressing the greatest challenges of digital communication. Further concerns and chances regarding the use of various tools were echoed the following questions gathered by the participants in the menti presentation:

## Summary

- ✓ How can you have closer in-person connection in virtual tools?
- ✓ Are there specific apps for cross-cultural communication?
- ✓ How can we help more reluctant people to see it as a chance, as inspiring, motivating and worthwhile, valuable?
- ✓ Which is the most interactive tool you have worked with?

As the CCCBreak takes approx. 45 minutes we addressed the challenges of building the relationships in the virtual spaces and focused on the specific tools for the cross-cultural communication, trying to find answers to the first two questions asked by the participants.

## What are your spontaneous questions regarding different virtual tools?

Mentimeter

### How can you have closer in-person connection in virtual tools?

We emphasized the importance of the “check-in” at the beginning of the virtual session so that a feeling of proximity can be reached. Possible questions could be: “Where do your feet touch the ground at the moment?”, “What has been your day like so far?”, “What does an object of your choice near you tell the others about your motivation now?” and so forth.

We discussed how to work with several tools synchron and asynchron and what tools we have tried out and consider efficient and easy to work with. The list of digital tools we share with everyone who works virtually is therefore incomplete and mirrors the experiences and preferences in the group. Our favorite tools are: Trello, Menti, Kahoot, Google forms, Socrative, Slack and Asana. Those who are concerned with use of facebook groups and whatsapp groups due to data security reasons may switch to jabber or adobe connect. Of course additionally to adobe, there is a choice of digital platforms that are suitable for organizing and hosting virtual meetings, such as ZOOM, Skype. All these platforms continuously develop more advanced forms of meetings and many of them offer break out rooms enabling splitting a big group of participants into smaller working groups.

Additionally to our cups of cappuccino, Americano, water and tea we had a “delicious” virtual dessert as one of the participants, Elena Shliakhovchuk, who bringing a vast experience in virtual gamification tools, shared with us a choice of video games that can support intercultural competencies development: Survival, Against all odds, We are Chicago, Spent, Darfur is dying, Real lives, Polygon of parables, Sirian Journey and Peacemaker. Additionally, Joanna Sell and Gradiola Kapaj mentioned online tools that can be applied in the intercultural learning as well: Cultural Detective and Cultural Buff Game.

Many thanks to all the participants for the active participation, generous sharing of ideas, inspirations and tolls and staying tuned. See you after the Summer break. Your CCC Breaks Team

# SIETAR Europa Cross Cultural Coffee Breaks

## Summary

Thanks for this summary of our CCC Break discussion to Gradiola Kapaj (moderator) and Joanna Sell (contributor):



For any further questions, remarks, even more pieces of advice, feel free to contact us:

Contributor: Joanna Sell, [j.sell@interculturalcompass.com](mailto:j.sell@interculturalcompass.com) or connect via: [LinkedIn](#)

SEU Moderator: Gradiola Kapaj, [gradiola@sietareu.org](mailto:gradiola@sietareu.org), or connect via [LinkedIn](#)

# SIETAR Europa Cross Cultural Coffee Breaks

## Summary

Thanks for intriguing discussions to all our participants:

