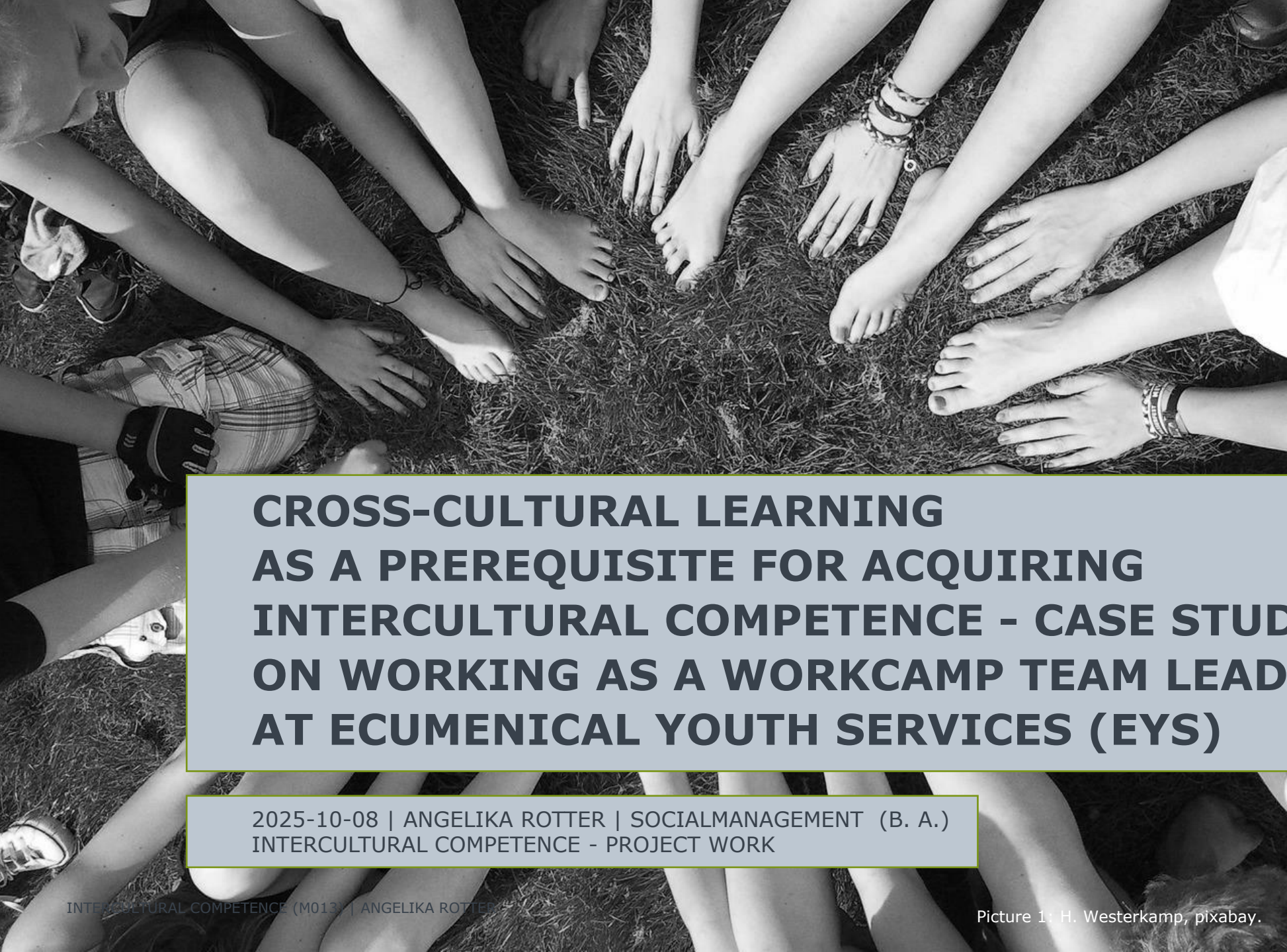




CROSS-CULTURAL LEARNING AS A PREREQUISITE FOR ACQUIRING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE - CASE STUDY ON WORKING AS A WORKCAMP TEAM LEADER AT ECUMENICAL YOUTH SERVICES (EYS)

2025-10-08 | ANGELIKA ROTTER | SOCIALMANAGEMENT (B. A.)
INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE - PROJECT WORK

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1 Introduction



Picture 2: Logo of the EYS, flyer.

Picture 3: Meeting of the team members, 2023.

**International youth exchanges are
a learning place for intercultural
competence.**

**Example:
Ecumenical Youth Services (EYS)**



2 THEORETICAL PART: INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE AND INTERCULTURAL LEARNING

Intercultural Competence

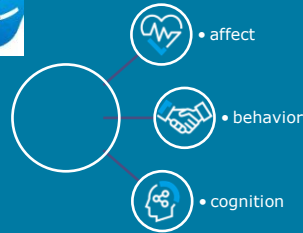
= a person's context-specific
ability to act effectively
across cultures



Iceberg model of culture by Edward Hall



Affect Behaviour Cognition Model (ABC-Model)



Pyramid model of intercultural Competence

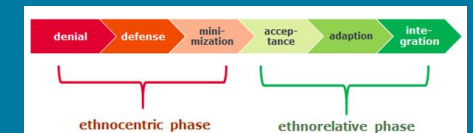


Intercultural Learning

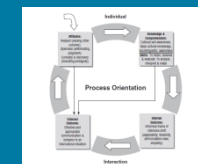
= process to acquire
knowledge & skills through
interaction with other cultures



DMIS model of Milton Bennett



Process model of Deardorff



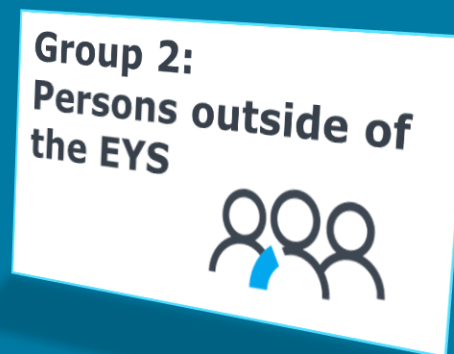
3 Case study at EYS

Research question:

What is the impact of recurring short-term international volunteering on young people's intercultural learning and competence, compared to limited intercultural exposure?

Procedure:

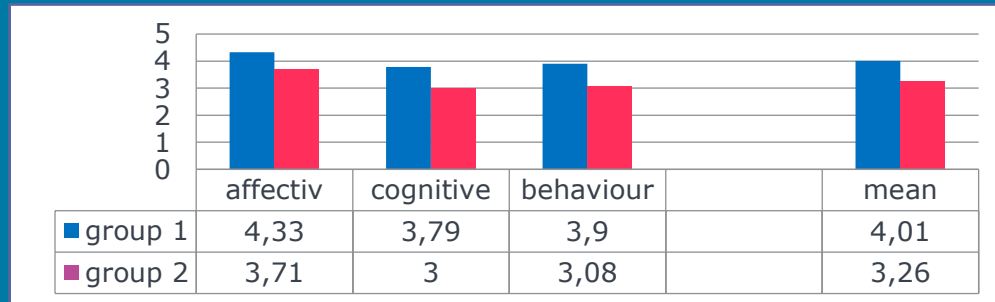
- ☐ Comparative study
- ☐ questionnaire to assess three dimensions of intercultural competence (affective, cognitive, behaviour)
- ☐ based on the named theories of intercultural competence
- ☐ base: short questionnaire by the Free University of Berlin (2023) & by Engel and Kempen (2017)
- ☐ two comparison groups



4 IMPORTANT RESULTS

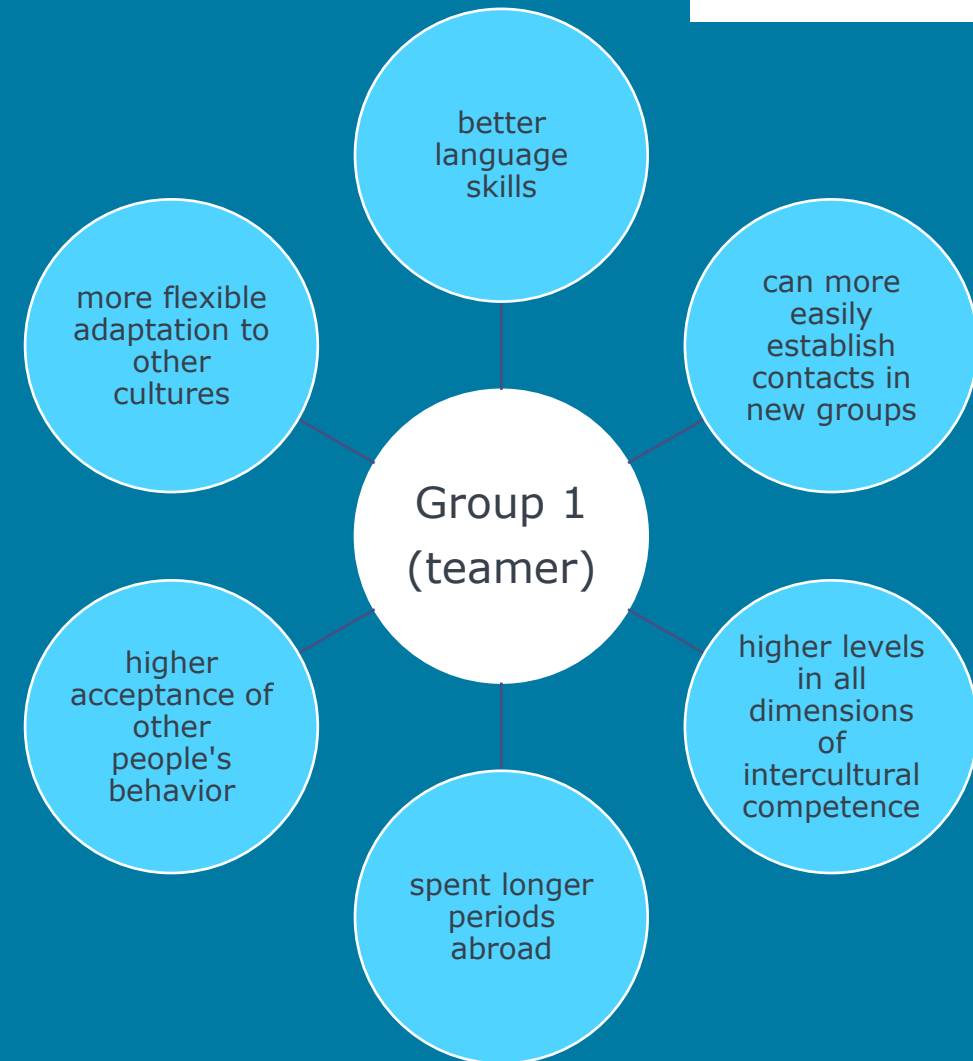
4.1 Quantitative results:

Results "Intercultural Competence"



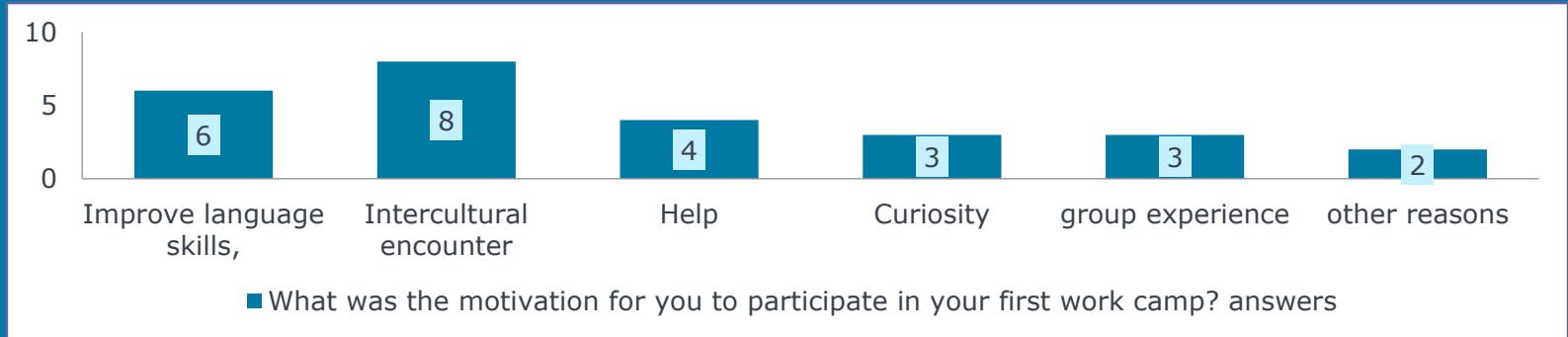
Problem:

➡ no clear correlation between frequency of work camp leadership and intercultural competence, but with frequency of intercultural contacts

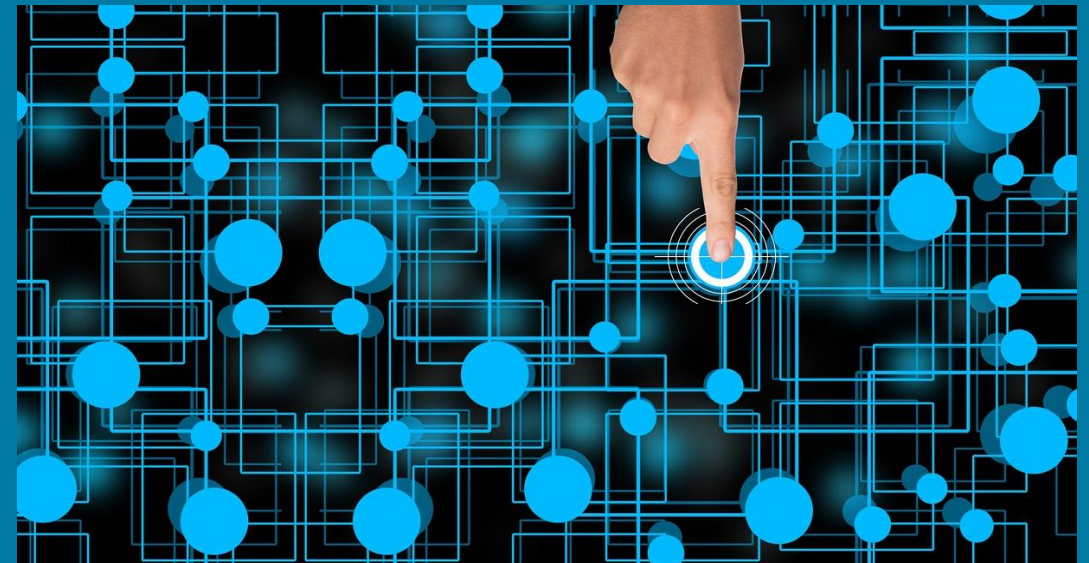


4.2 QUALITATIVE RESULTS:

- **Combined interpretation of qualitative & quantitative questions = shows importance of short-term, frequent intercultural encounters in the EYS**



Significance for biographies



5 CONCLUSION

- ❖ Workcamps
 - = important platform for intercultural learning
 - = catalyst for intensive engagement with other cultures
- ❖ intercultural learning = complex & an ongoing process
- ❖ informal, recurring and temporary interactions can contribute to this
- ❖ important to promote such encounter formats



Limitations of the study

- small sample
- self-assessment
- more comprehensive pool of measurement instruments
- further research needed

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List of pictures, figures and tables

Bild 1: Henning Westerkamp, picture "team-group-people-motivation". Published by pixabay. Available under <https://pixabay.com/photos/team-group-people-motivation-386673/> (2025-08-02).

Bild 2: Logo of the EYS. Available under <https://eys-workcamp.de/en/>

Bild 3: Meeting of the team members, 2023. Image is privately owned by the author.

Bild 4: Altmann, G., Bild „Netzwerk, sozial, abstrakt". Published by pixabay. Available under <https://pixabay.com/de/photos/netzwerk-sozial-abstrakt-3535305/> (2025-08-19).

Bild 5: truthseeker08, picture "hands, team". Published by pixabay. Available under <https://pixabay.com/photos/hands-team-united-together-people-1917895/> (2025-08-20).

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