

Cultural awareness

- Describe a situation where your interaction with people from cultures other than yours, went different from how you had initially expected it to be? What you think could be the reason behind (Hint: relate it to the different models that you have learnt)

One situation that went very different from what I expected came from the difference between teachers in Dutch and Romanian/Bulgarian culture. Coming from a typical high school I was used to communicate in a very formal way with the teacher. Here in the Netherlands I was surprised how much more friendly the teachers were as well as open to communicating in general. Especially the part where they ask for feedback constantly. I think the reason behind this would be the values between the cultures in the sense that we are used to the teacher a person who just gives you the learning material in a more traditional sense, but here in the Netherlands a lot more accent is put on the relationship teacher-student and more openness in general.

- How would you act in the future when you know that you need to communicate or collaborate with a person from another culture?

In the future when I need to collaborate with a person from another culture I would first like to get to know them at least a bit and gauge how they think, especially in a working together sense. This would allow us to better synchronize with the other person. For example: are they more relaxed or rushed when it comes to deadlines? Do they get started fast and work gradually or begin whenever they want and work a lot but much less often?

- In your project group, what did you do to improve the group communications with respect to cultural differences?

In our project group Certiorem we didn't really have cultural problems even though all of us are from different countries. Of course sometimes we had different ways of saying the same thing but that didn't pose much of a problem. Whenever any of us had problems the others were quick to answer the questions and help.