

**EU&I - Training course for  
teachers and trainers  
(Document 8)**

**Intercomprehension Activities  
Songs**

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**“Songs” Group: Multinational team with a special interest in NARRATIVE, ACTION, and DIDACTIC songs**

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- Alberto Fanzone (Giovanni Falcone Secondary School - Italy)
- Anne Stokes (University of Stirling-Scotland)

## The activities aim at:

- acquainting participants with several European languages
- helping participants associate icons (visual symbols of theme / meaning) with song texts in known and unknown languages
- helping participants associate song lyrics with song melodies on the basis of cultural knowledge/tips
- helping participants recognise the European anthem and associate it with a symbol of cultural identity and unity
- helping participants become aware of and respect cultural and religious diversity

The selected corpus is composed of:

- popular and didactic songs from different countries
- a national anthem

**Those doing the exercises are expected to:**

- become aware of linguistic and cultural similarities and diversity within the European context
- accept different cultural and religious habits

**It is time to do the proposed exercises.**

**Step 1:**

After having chosen a language you do not know, click on the Ipod which is on the bed in the hotel room.

**Step 2:**

Read the instructions and try to understand them. Move on to the 1st screen of 'Songs' Activities.

## Step 3:

Move on to the 2nd screen. You will find the first activity. Before clicking on each loudspeaker, look at the pictures from the left to the right. Write down the ideas (in a separate file that you'll send as homework) that come to your mind when you look at the icons.

1st icon-

2nd icon-

3rd icon-

4th icon-

5th icon-

## Step 4:

- Click on the 1st loudspeaker and listen to the song.
- Try to think of a similar song in your culture. Consider the following elements: (a) the melody, (b) repetitions, and (c) similar words you find in your language.
- Choose an icon and see if it corresponds to the song.
- Has the picture helped you guess what the song is about?
- Continue doing the exercise in the same way. If your choices are correct, you will listen to a few notes of another song at the end. Can you identify it?  
(note: answer these questions on the homework file that you have created)

## Step 5:

Before moving on to the second activity, answer the following questions (in your home work file)

- Were the images fundamental to the identification of the songs? If not, which ones would you suggest to be included in this exercise? Explain why.
- Have your religious beliefs and cultural background helped you to identify the songs? Explain how, if the answer is positive.
- Identify the languages in which the songs are sung (from the left to the right):

Song 1-

Song 2-

Song 3-

Song 4-

Song 5-

## Notes on Activity 1:

You have probably had difficulties with songs 2 and 5.

- Song 2 is a Portuguese rocking song, through which a baby is rocked from one side to the other by his mother or someone else. The image of a pregnant woman does not really fit the song and the technical team has already been alerted to this mistake as far as the choice of the picture is concerned.

## Notes on Activity 1 (Cont.):

- Song 5 is a German Christmas song about the Christmas tree. The picture with the letters of the alphabet does not correspond to the song, and has, thus, to be changed.

## Move on to Activity 2:

- Read the instructions. Even if you have not understood them, you are led to think this is a multiple choice exercise. So...click on the 1st loudspeaker and guess what the correct answer is.
- After listening to song 1, write down the elements that helped you choose the best option. Continue doing the exercise in the same way.

Song 1:

Song 2:

Song 3:

Song 4:

Song 5:

- If you have not chosen the correct answer, you have probably found the tip related to song 3 difficult, since whenever you clicked on letter c, the tip was «undefined». How would you correct this tip?

- **Congratulations!** You have reached the end of the 'Songs' Group activities. Remember that whenever your answers were correct, you heard excerpts from the European anthem. It is time to hear the entire tune!
- Click on the loudspeaker, listen to the anthem and answer the following questions:
  1. Why was the European anthem chosen as the last song to conclude the 'Songs' Group activities? State your opinion.
  2. Were the 'Songs' Group activities useful to enhance your intercomprehension skills? Justify your answer.

Thank you for your participation! Do not hesitate to e-mail me if you have any doubt or if you want to exchange a few ideas. All the best!

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