



INTEGRATION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

**By: Anina Poehlmann, Stephanie Sowell, Beatriz
Molina, and Angela Manova,**

STRUCTURE

- Definitions of cultural diversity
- Expansion of foreign people in each country
- Instructions from the curricula of each country
- Questionnaire



DEFINITIONS OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

foreigner pedagogy:

- term of the early 70th
- school education of migrant workers child
- targeted pedagogy
- aim: to teach foreign pupils german quickly
- having a class of different students and backgrounds



HOW IS CULTURAL DIVERSITY SHOWN IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

- Countries participating:
- Germany & USA & Bulgaria

- We focused our questionnaire on the teacher and students inside elementary schools.
- We asked how they used cultural diversity in their classrooms so we could learn the differences in countries.



EXPANSION OF FOREIGN PEOPLE

Germany

- 2005: 18,0% foreigners
 - 2008: 19,0% foreigners
 - thereof 21,9% under 15 years old
 - most came from Turkey and Russia
- source: Institut der dt. Wirtschaft Köln



INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CURRICULUM OF EACH COUNTRY

Germany

- Constitution of Bavaria: Art. 131 (2+3)
- basic education
- interdisciplinary training and education task:
separate sections: intercultural education
- individual subjects: religion, German, foreign languages, home and social studies, music
- intercultural education plays a major role in German school



CONTINUED...

United States

- Lesson plans include plans for individual differences
- Core subjects- Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies
- Teachers must include ways to involve students of multiple back grounds
- Race, gender, ethnicity
- Must be culturally aware



WHAT WE ASKED IN QUESTIONNAIRE...

- How many foreign students are in your class?
- From what countries are students in your class from?
- Are there any problems with the students in your class?
- How do you use cultural diversity in your classroom?
- How does cooperation from parents help?
- How do the foreign children get along with their classmates?
- Explain and describe a situation of one of your students who is foreign.



WHAT WE FOUND...

- **How many foreign students are in your class?**
- **From what countries are students in your class from?**
 - USA response
 - 3 students from foreign countries; Mexico and Nigeria

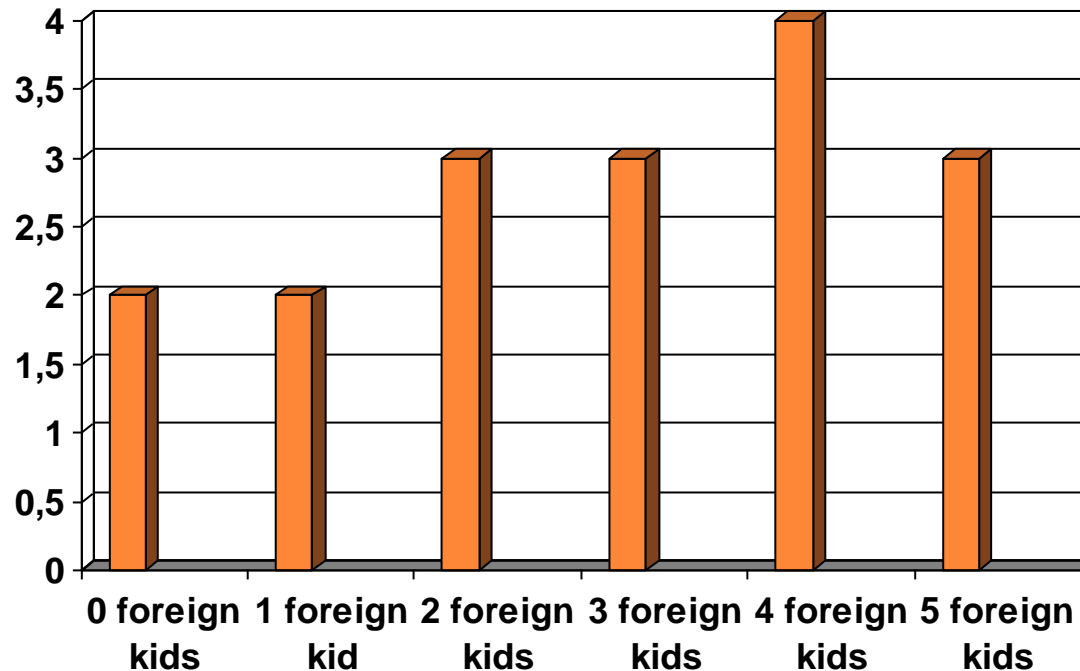
 - Bulgaria response
 - 2 pupils. The boy is from England and the girl is from Russia.



WHAT WE FOUND

○ How many foreign students are in your class?

- German response

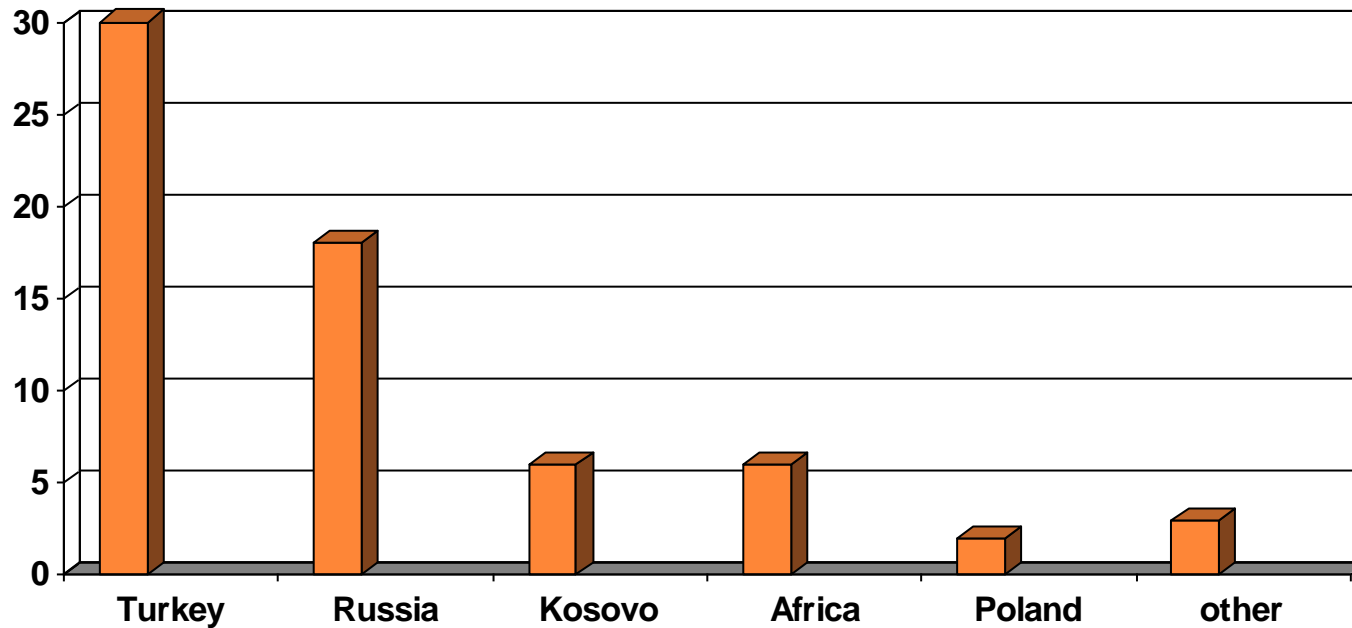


- one teacher has 10 foreign kids in his/her class and one teacher has 7 foreign kids in his/her class



WHAT WE FOUND

- **What countries are students in your class from?**



○ **Are there any problems with the students in your class?**

- USA response
- “...planning lessons and group work that English as a Second Language Learners can have extra reinforcement if questions arise.”
- Bulgaria response
- “You have to pay more attention to them which makes the work at class a little slower and the other children are not so concentrated.”
- German response
- 74% of the interviewed teachers had no special problems with foreign kids
- only 4 teachers named linguistic problems



○ How do you use cultural diversity in your classroom?

- USA response
- “We discuss background information and had a class community building activity in the beginning of the year. We also have share time where students can share an item or a story which also gives opportunity for diversity in school.”
- Bulgaria response
- “I am trying to help every child to take part of the lesson with more simple paired questions for them.”
- German response
- “Good morning”- Song in different languages, christmas in other countries, religion (mosque visit),



- **How does cooperation from parents help?**
 - US response
 - “They help out in whatever way they can and I provide two-sided letters home written in English and the reverse in Spanish. The only problem I have had is scheduling conferences with parents and adjusting to their work schedules.”
 - Bulgaria response
 - “I do not have any problems with parents of these pupils. When they come to get their children we discuss the day, home works and the progress of the kids.”
 - German response
 - more than a half of the interviewed teachers named language problems



○ How do the foreign children get along with their classmates?

- US response
- “My students get along well with each other and tend not to notice or focus on their differences. The student who just transferred from Nigeria is having a great time making new friends because she has such an interesting story. When learning new vocabulary other students love it when we learn new words and they can say it in a different language.”
- Bulgaria response
- “They share their life stories, adventures with friends and trips with parents.”
- German response
- all interviewed persons said, that foreign kids get not other along with their native classmates



EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE A SITUATION OF ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS WHO IS FOREIGN.

- US response
- “One of my students, Jessica, has recently moved to the United States in January 2010. She moved from Africa from the country Nigeria. Her parents put her and her younger brother into foster care for two years in Nigeria while they established a home in the USA. While in Africa, she had never been in school before or received any type of education so we were very impressed by how fast she began to learn in kindergarten. Jessica is a very hard worker and completes all of her work in class and at home. The parent support is great in her family because they want what is best for their children. She does have an accent and is quickly learning the grammatical rules of English. Sometimes I notice her having difficulty with the past tense and picking the right words to say but she is a joy to have in my class.”



EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE A SITUATION OF ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS WHO IS FOREIGN.

- Bulgarian response
- “During the first few months for Yanika were a little quiet. She was a little bit stressed and did not contact with the others. So she started an extra lessons like painting and music lessons. That integrated her very well. Now she communicates with her new friends as well as the old ones.”



EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE A SITUATION OF ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS WHO IS FOREIGN.

- German response
- A turkish boy didn't communicated with his feminine teacher, because of her sex. The father of this pupil said in a consultation, that women had nothing to tell in Turkey.

The teacher communicated then with a other boy to the turkish boy.



SUMMARY

- USA, German and Bulgaria differ in how their teachers approach cultural diversity
- US and German schools have special programs for students learning foreign languages
- Classrooms all over the world have students who are diverse culturally
- In Germany are most foreign people from Turkey

