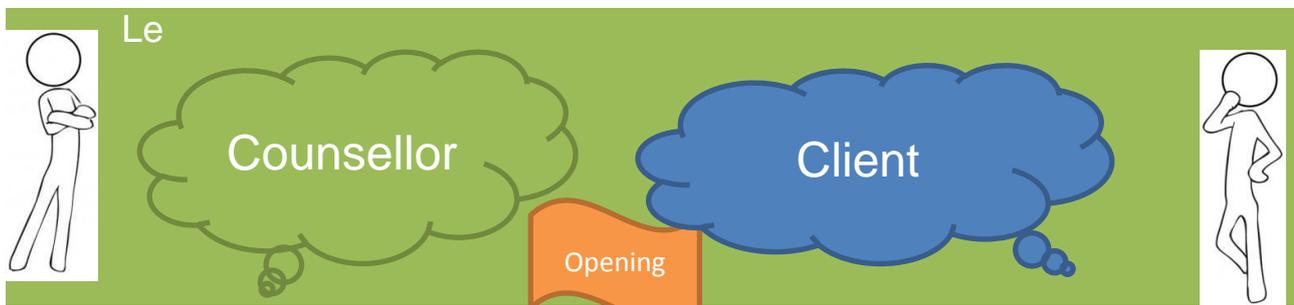


Intercultural Issues

- This session is important to explain the **importance** of intercultural issues to your client and **provide basic information** about the intercultural requirements in Europe on where your client can find information on the cost of living, the accommodation and the leisure opportunities.
- Furthermore you will explain the **stages of procedure** that are required for your client to be able to work or study in another member state and provide information about which **institutions** and which **contacts** deal with this subject.



Welcome back! It's nice to see you again.

Thank you! Nice seeing you again too!

As you know, this meeting is to clarify the steps of the intercultural aspects, which you need to take into consideration when going to Germany.

Yes, I remember.

But first of all, as usual, did something come up in the meantime that you would like to discuss first?

Good that you ask, I even started writing it down. Let me see, yes, I wanted to know something about the German bank account. I still have a question left from last time. Do I need the contract with my training supervisor first or can I open it before?

That's a good question. In your case you would need the contract first, since you don't have the German citizenship. This way you show the bank that you have a reason to stay in Germany and can also prove that you have a wage income but however it also might be necessary to have an address in Germany as well, so maybe you could ask your friend in Germany to help you out with that and of course, even better, to check this with the bank first. There are always certain regulations that might change so it's better if you ask first what exactly you would need in advance.

I see. That's what I thought as well. Ok, I'll do that. Would I have to contact the bank myself then?

Well, if you don't feel safe enough in the language you can ask your friend to gather the information first.

Ok, great, thank you. I'll do that. Alright then, that was it. We can continue☺

Alright, now to start with, let's summarize what should be discussed today. **Do you remember what we should talk about?**

Situation Analysis

Vaguely, but I will try. So regarding the intercultural aspects, we said that I would need to focus on the language, so German, on the costs of living and of course, my integration there.

Exactly. Now we will have to go through it step by step to elaborate each aspect thoroughly so you can also understand the meaning of each topic.

Language Competencies

Okeydokey☺.

Now, let's have a closer look at your language competencies. You told me last time that your German reading and understanding is pretty good, the writing however lacks some practice. And you also elaborated your competency on a scale of 1 to 10 as a 7, which is pretty good.

Yes, more or less. Since I don't really know how to establish my qualities; but I can assure you that I can understand people, get by and I even understood 90 % of the information in German you gave me. The writing, I would say it's very ambitious to call it moderate☺.

I see. Nevertheless, this is already a much better evaluation of your language knowledge and **how would you describe your language knowledge and usage in the everyday life, for example, going groceries shopping in Germany?**

So, groceries shopping are good, I mean like I said if you get involved with someone in a small talk and for the basic things, such as buying food, going to a pharmacy, buying clothes and even going to a restaurant. I have and had no problem with that when I was there.

Alright, that's already a good pre-condition. To be able to actually evaluate your level, we would need the Common European Framework of References. From the look on your face I assume that you're not familiar with it☺.

Nope☺. I mean, I've heard of it but that's it.

Alright, so let me explain it you: This language references make it easier for people in a globalized Europe to actually move, live and work abroad. Especially for

employers it's important to know the level of the language competencies of each applicant and to be able to make a choice. For the applicant it is also important to understand what level he/she has in a certain language and if and how he/she can improve it.

The separation is made between a basic user (A level), independent user (B level) and a proficient user (C level). Amongst these three is a further sub-separation in 2 steps. The higher your step in each level and your level of course, the more you can master a language.

Here you have a printed version for it and I am also giving you the link where you can always look up more information:
www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/source/framework_en.pdf.

Wow, that's very interesting indeed. Now I know what all the letters stand for and what they represent.

Exactly, now, concerning what I have just explained and assuming that you understood it, **what level of knowledge (competencies) would you say you have currently, according to the Common European Framework of References for Languages that you would need for Germany?**

According to your explanation I would say B2. But can I test it as well?

B2 sounds great and it's exactly the level you would need to be able to learn and study in Germany. Of course you can and I encourage you to do it, since you will need it to prove you can start a dual vocational education.



Alright then. Let me guess, you will tell me later how I can do the test, once we established all other topics.

Nobody can outsmart you 😊.

Alright then, now that's clearer now. What else should I keep in mind?

Now let's move on with the cost of living in Germany. It's a broad topic so that's why I will break it down into the most important aspects for you. First of all, **how would you estimate the cost of living in Germany?**

Hm, since I already spent some time there, I would say that it is not too different from Spain, however, I would say that it depends in which city you are in. I remember that I spent all the time in Mannheim where my friend lives and everything was cheap there or let's say affordable or normal. Then we visited Munich for a day and I didn't even want to take my wallet out anymore 😊. It was really expensive there.

That's true. Germany is actually, depending on the regions or the "Länder" quite cheap. There are of course even cheaper areas in the north, north East of Germany, such as Brandenburg with Berlin and even really expensive cities, such as Frankfurt or Munich.

Yes, that's how I remember it. That's why I chose Mannheim, because of my friend and also because of the rather lower costs.

Alright. **How expensive do you think it would be to rent an apartment in Mannheim?**

Good question, I hope that you can help me out with that, but I hope that it is average and not too expensive.

Of course I will, we are collecting everything now and I can give you the right information later.

Puuuh, I'm glad.

Now, let's move on with the social and cultural integration. Again, I know, it's a big word but it actually refers to very simple things such as spending free time, having friends and so on.

Social & Cultural Integration

Ah ok, sounds easy.

How do you think you could integrate into the new life in Mannheim? I know now that you have a friend there and I assume that you will do just fine.

Yes, exactly, since I have my friends there and I have already been there it so it will be easier than expected. They will probably show me more things and there are also Facebook groups which I can join so I don't really worry about it that much.

That's the right spirit!

(Nodding)

What about your free time and how would you spend it in Mannheim?

Hm, good question. As I said, I like to spend my free time in front of the computer. But I also like to play computer games, go to fairs, such as CEBIT or Gamescom; both very famous in Germany. My friend and I both love medieval architecture, so we would probably go together to medieval festivals and castles.

I think that since you are very open and communicative you won't have problems at all to get along with both friends and colleagues.

(Nodding) Thank you!

You're welcome. Now, as usual, **let's prepare a To-Do List with the targets of today and try to prioritise them.**

Target Definition

Alright, my turn then. I would say that the language is the most important aspect, so first of all, I would need a language course in German to improve my knowledge.

Preferably a couple of weeks before my arrival to avoid late evening courses.

This would be your choice, of course. Since I think that you will be pretty busy in the afternoon and evening, I also recommend an intensive course one month before the dual vocational education starts. I remember that I provided you some information on courses both in Granada and Mannheim. Were you able to find something?

In fact I did. I found a course here in Granada but there are many levels to register for so I wasn't sure which one to take. And even, I don't know how I should proceed in Mannheim then. I mean, which course I should follow and so on.

I see, well, as we discussed today about the levels of your language, you would need a test to make sure which course you "belong" to. There I would suggest you write or call them and ask for a test. Usually they have one online, so maybe you can check again. But as I know, you can do a test online or even there and then they will let you know which course you can go to. But I will suggest making it quick; these things are always booked in advance☺.

Alright, I will, good to know. And what about the courses in Mannheim then?

Yes, of course, depending on the course you will do here, you would need your certificate with the level on it, and then you can ask in Mannheim and even have a look at the website for courses that follow after your level so you can simply continue on this basis.

I see, alright then. I will take care of that. Thank you.

You're welcome. So **Target Nr. 1** would be a language course which you should apply for very early since they are booked very quickly. **Target Nr. 2** would be to inform yourself about the city, the standard of living there, the accommodation options.

Yes. And then I will have to organise myself, meaning where and how I can meet new people, what I can do in the new city or even the surroundings.

Exactly. **Target Nr. 3** would be social and cultural integration.

Good. Now how can I do all of them and prepare myself? ☺

Now it's my turn☺. So for the language course, as I already told you two weeks ago, when I provided the information on the course options here in Granada and in Mannheim, here you have some more websites and institutions both in general and for the city of Mannheim:
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/de/spr/deindex.htm>.



This is, as I mentioned two weeks ago, the institute that offers, depending on the situation, free courses to young migrants.

<https://www.abendakademie-mannheim.de/>.

This is an institution in Mannheim, which is organised by the state. The courses are not expensive and if you pass the evaluation test, the state will pay you back the half of the amount you paid. And since I have told you about testing your language, you can do the test once you apply for the course or even have a language test at high school as well.

Wow, that's great. Yes, now I know about the courses and the levels. But can I just apply for a level test or how does it work exactly? I'm sorry, I didn't quite understand that part, maybe you can tell me more about it.

Of course. So, as I said, you can first of all, do a language test, just a basic one at the high school. This will put you into a certain level. From what you described you already have a level of B2 in German. Of course it has to be tested just to make sure that you're on the right track.

I see.

Now online, both here in Granada and in Mannheim, you have the option to test yourself as well, before you register for the right course. This way they establish that you have the right level to continue on this basis. So before you register here in Granada, take a test and then you have your level which you can improve with the right course.

Perfect, and it would work the same for the one in Mannheim?

Exactly. When you have your course finished here in Granada, you already improved your language and have a certain level, which you can show in Mannheim and then continue to improve it there.

Now I get it, I just wanted to have a common thread in it to make sure I understood it correctly.

I'm glad you asked. Now, for the costs of living in Germany and the city of Mannheim:

<http://lebenshaltungskosten.info/wie-hoch-sind-die-lebenshaltungskosten-in-deutschland/>.

This is basic information with FAQs regarding everything you need to know about living in Germany:

<http://www.unicheck.de/Baden-W%C3%BCrtemberg/Mannheim/>. This is information about the standard of living in the city of Mannheim.

Cool, that's very useful, thank you!

Now for the social and cultural integration the Federal Office for Migrants gives you basic background information: www.bamf.de and

this website provides the information on all the events that take place in the region of Mannheim: www.mannheim.de, www.m-r-n.de.

Alright thank you so much! I really appreciate all your help and support.

No problem. I'm always glad to help. Now **which steps will you have to take care of in the following days?**



I will have a look at the language courses and their schedule; maybe even do an online test, if possible. Then I would have a look at the website of the city, the accommodation offers as well as the social and cultural options there and nearby.

Perfect. Now that sounds like a plan. Next time, we will put everything together we have covered for the past meetings and we will focus on how to apply for your dual vocational education and help you get to Mannheim with the right preparation 😊.

Great! I'm looking forward to it! Thank you very much and see you next time.