

**Daria Avramchyk**

*Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Kyiv)*

**Scientific supervisor – Assoc. Prof., Maryna Vyshnevskya**

## **INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

In our current globalized environment, professionals frequently engage with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders from various cultural backgrounds. As workplaces become increasingly international and interconnected, the capacity to communicate efficiently across cultures has emerged as an essential skill for professional advancement. Intercultural communication involves more than just language skills; it includes comprehending cultural norms, values, and communication styles that significantly affect professional interactions.

Intercultural communication extends beyond just knowing a language and merely sharing information among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds; it requires grasping cultural perspectives on hierarchy, decision-making, and workplace behaviors. In a professional context, varying communication styles can result in problems such as misunderstandings, differing expectations, and poor collaboration.

What is more, it also requires recognizing underlying cultural values, non-verbal cues, and the influence of cultural disparities on professional relationships. According to the PMI's article "Intercultural communication in global business," cultivating intercultural competence allows professionals to assess and comprehend cultural dynamics, leading to enhanced leadership effectiveness and collaboration in international environments (Dzenowagis, 2008).

In addition, intercultural communication holds significance not just for individuals in international business but also for professionals in sectors such as education, healthcare, diplomacy, and various others. The article "Language Learning: Why Is Intercultural Communication Important?" highlights that developing intercultural competence enhances cultural sensitivity, adaptability, and global awareness, which are essential for professionals working in ever more diverse settings (Middlebury Language Schools, 2023).

Effective professional training programs should integrate intercultural communication as a fundamental component. A study, "Developing Intercultural Competence as Part of Professional Qualifications. A Training Experiment," by Kaisu Korhonen, published on ResearchGate, details a training experiment designed to enhance intercultural competence among students in Finland. The research revealed that employing interactive learning techniques, such as case studies and culture-general assimilators, notably improved students' capabilities to participate in intercultural exchanges (Korhonen, 2023, p. 3-4). The training initiative merged traditional classroom instruction with self-directed learning, enabling participants to gain a more profound comprehension of cultural variances and their impact on professional interactions.

Organizations and educational institutions can adopt comparable training methods by incorporating practical scenarios, role-playing activities, and intercultural simulations into their professional development programs. These techniques assist individuals in identifying cultural biases, enhancing their adaptability, and honing their communication strategies within a global professional environment.

In conclusion, the ability to communicate across cultures is a vital competence in today's professional landscape. By integrating intercultural skills into training programs, both organizations and educational institutions can equip individuals to effectively manage cultural disparities, enhance global partnerships, and create more inclusive workplaces. As globalization increasingly influences professional exchanges, honing intercultural communication abilities is essential for achieving success in any profession.

#### REFERENCES:

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