

Comparative studies - dialectics of differences and similarities on the example of the project “Cultural education of adults in Poland and Germany”

Sylvia Słowińska, University of Zielona Góra
Hanna Solarczyk, Nicolaus Copernicus University

Hannover, 28.-29.09.2015

“Cultural education of adults in Poland and Germany”



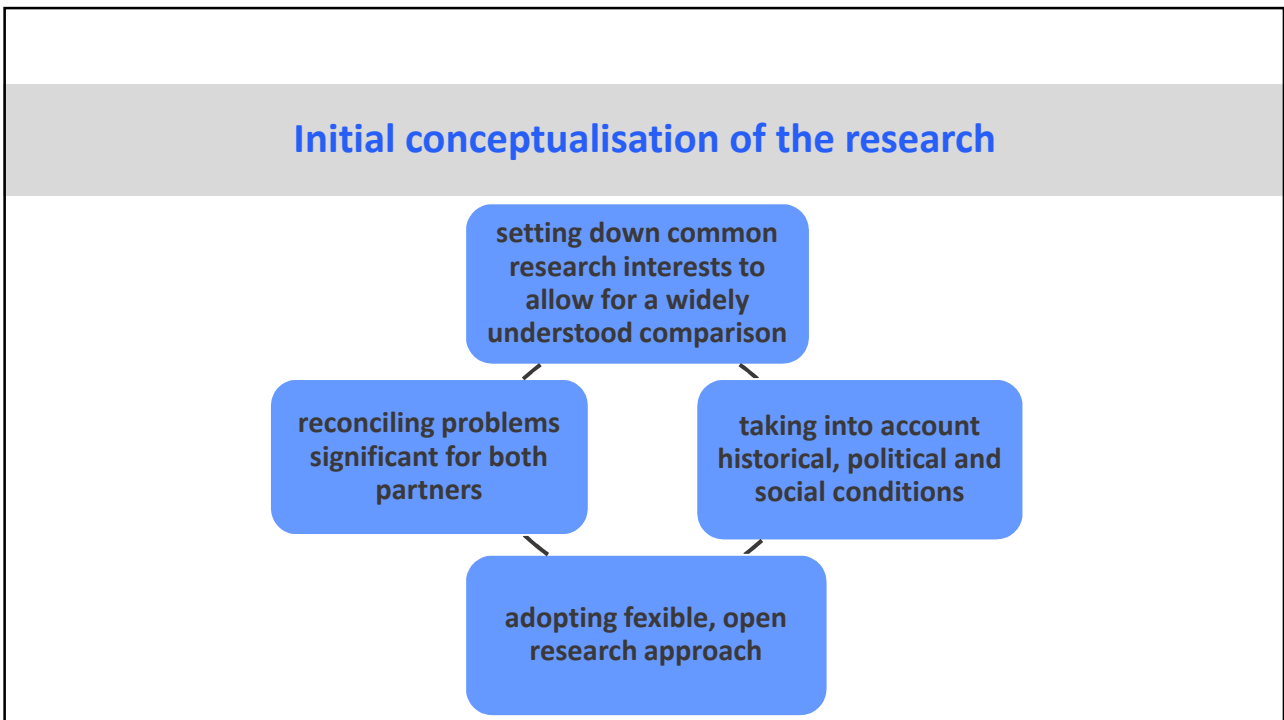
Erwachsenenpaedagogischer Report, deutsch-polnische Forschergruppe (Hrsg.),
Interkulturelle Betrachtungen kultureller Bildung in Grenzregion – mit Buckower Empfehlungen, Berlin
2005.

Metaconditioning of comparative studies

- historical and present relations between the countries,
- common political and social interests, as well as rules of acting in a community,
- contacts and cooperation between the partners up until present time,
- objective conditions of cooperation (culture, policies, legislation),
- research traditions in the partner countries,
- researchers' interpretative schemes
- researchers' styles and attitudes
- specialised language,
- sources of funding.

The specific nature of comparative adult education studies

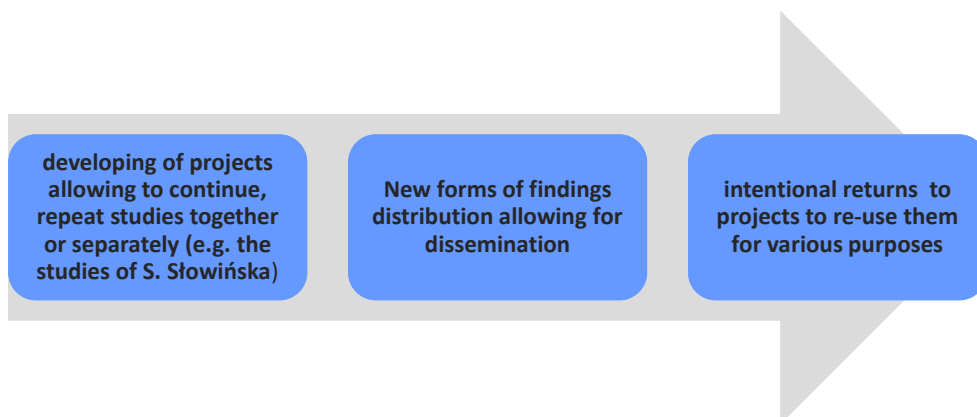
- **differences among countries concerning:**
 - Aims and **tasks** of adult education,
 - legal and economic environment of adult education,
 - model of educational market,
 - tradition of adult education research
- adult education as a part of European transformation processes



Further conceptualisation and implementation of the project

- accepting different theoretical approaches and knowledge about them,
- a common research strategy that takes into account the specificity of attitude towards research in a given country,
- the same questions do not have to lead to identical research procedures,
- finding the intersection, common points
- constant differentiation and specification of questions and methodology according to the situation,
- case studies as a method to reveal/look for differences.

When the project has been finished – durability and continuity



Principles of cooperation in international research projects

- reconciling common research interests, questions and procedures in direct contact,
- taking into account historical, political and social conditions
- openness to differences, looking for common points,
- formulating wide-rangig research problems,
- looking for research procedures compatible with the conditions in each country, instead of standardising
- openness and flexibility towards theories and methodologies,
- assembling differentiated and multigenerational research teams.

Added value of comparative studies

- creating conditions for international cooperation,
- cultural familiarisation, breaking stereotypes,
- developing tolerance, openness, overcoming difficulties,
- reciprocal learning in the professional, social and cultural field,
- inspiration to individual research and further cooperational projects,
- learning/perfecting foreign languages, getting to know people and countries,
- building an international community.

**Building an international community
through research projects**

