

Teamwork Digital learning:

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In your group, discuss your experience working virtually with classmates and colleagues from other cultures (Variation 1) and with classmates and colleagues from your own cultural background (Variation 2). Use the following criteria to create a comparison table showing which of these variants provides a better experience:

- Speed of making decisions;

Finland: Working with other cultures as a Finnish perspective was way faster and more innovative than working with the Finn. I feel like because people are more interactive in international groups they might open their microphones and show some sign of life. In Finland if not mandatory, people will not say a thing in my experience.

Romania: As a Romanian I believe that the decision process was faster. We didn't make too much small talk as we would normally do in Romania, and we focused on completing the task as efficiently as possible. Also, respecting the date and the time of the meeting helped as in Romania it would sometimes happen that people would be a bit late for these things (we have the so-called "academic quarter" where the 15 minutes you are late are considered ok).

Germany: I have the feeling that decision making with the classmates from my own culture is pretty fast because everyone wants to be as efficient as possible. Often somebody takes the lead and makes sure decisions are made quickly.

Mexico: I had the feeling that the Mexicans took longer to make decisions. They liked to talk a lot more before making the actual decision. Whether it was sharing their own opinion or repeating somebody's else's opinion.

- Feeling comfortable in the meetings;

Finland: It depends highly if you know people you are working with. We in Finland are often put into the breakout rooms so there is at least a bit of contact with humans. People learn in so many ways so there are always the 3 main ways even in online classes: Listening, writing and doing something active. I felt actually really

comfortable with working with Romanians and Germans because they seem to have more energy towards group projects (it also might be because it isn't dark all the time in those countries.)

Germany: Working with classmates of my own culture it can take some time sometimes until they say something and there is often one person who then leads the conversation when the others are more shy.

Germany: It depends whether you know each other or not and it depends on the number of people. If there is a big group that doesn't know each other it is very likely that nobody will turn on their cameras and nobody talks until somebody leads the conversation and asks people personally. But nobody would just do random comments if they are not asked. Because they think it is not necessary but also they feel it is embarrassing.

Mexico: When I had online lessons in Mexico with Mexicans it was a very different experience. Even though the students did not know each other they were very active in the classes and always answered voluntarily when the professor asked something. They also used the chat function a lot.

Romania: I feel like it depends on how many people you are working with. In this case, I felt more than comfortable, because I worked with people I worked with in real life and the fact that their cultures (people I worked with are from Finland and Germany) are very organized helped our decision making process and at the same time we had so much fun working together.

Romania: As a Romanian, I did not notice a big difference when working virtually with colleagues from other countries. Since we are all European, we share many things in common so it wasn't very uncomfortable as it might be when working with people from Asian or American countries.

- . Quality of output.

Romania: I think the quality of output was really satisfactory. I feel like we collaborated properly and we came out with a result very good for everyone, without making compromises.

Romania: As a Romanian, I believe that we managed to produce a really good output. We had a similar mindset when working and values which helped to reach a conclusion fast and efficiently. It was easy to communicate and share ideas which helped speed up the whole process.

Finland: I think it comes from the fact that people have to work by themselves really hard before University in Finland. So they might be used to solve a given problem and not to make arguments or longer discussions with the teachers if not necessary via Zoom, Teams or other Online platforms. In my opinion the quality of the output is the same. At least in universities, there is not much to add to it.

Germany: I feel like the quality of output is pretty good and there is not so much random information coming up, because everyone is very conscious about saying something and is thinking about the answer a lot, before opening the microphone.

Mexico: I had the feeling that the output at the beginning of a discussions sometimes did not have a high quality because people just spoke their mind and sometimes personal matters where more important.

(Discuss the possible reasons for these differences on each criterion. Explain why these differences exist and use the lessons learned from the variation with the better experience to suggest practical ways optimizing the variation with the less liked experience.)

Discussion:

Variant (2): Generally society, intercultural matters and such are easier to work with people from all around the world because you will get new perspectives to it. This group also is a great toolbox for innovating new ideas.

Variant (1): But for more difficult subjects such as science or math it might be difficult to communicate about the matter. There is also the fact that the level of teaching might have been different so there is less room for being innovative.

