



**COMMENTARY – University of Kassel**  
**(FB 08 English and American Studies: Research into MFL Teaching and Learning)**

**Experience**

A positive aspect is the fact that we were able to broaden our knowledge. By meeting colleagues from various European partner countries, we were able to ascertain that teaching always has a cultural connotation and is interpreted differently. It is especially important for us to recognise that in other countries very interesting work is being carried out and that we can learn a lot from one another through appropriate cooperation. This is where we feel the greatest element of successful learning is to be found. This is especially well documented in the hours of video recordings that were made.

**Academic Support and Evaluation**

The data and scientific analyses as well as the evaluation have given us many new ideas regarding the urgent need to reform the qualifications of those teachers employed in bilingual teaching in European countries. It is clearly recognisable that certain pedagogical elements, which we had assumed would be present, are not. This concerns the cultural dimension in particular and therefore raises questions of multi-viewpoints and also questions concerning language and cultural awareness.

External evaluations, as in this case, should be used constructively, i.e. test results should be constructively understood and analysed to improve the school system. They should aim to further improve upon existing weaknesses and build on strengths. Furthermore, from the test results we can obtain much guidance in respect of whether cognitively challenging teaching methods are taking place or not. In the European context this can produce a valuable synopsis of results. This synopsis integrates and develops criteria that take into account the European Dimension across all countries concerned. Furthermore, this acknowledges and promotes cultural dialogues within the individual European countries.

As a result of this project, future prospects for the development of such a synopsis can be envisaged.