

PSYDID: Blending Psychology and Didactics Through a Collaborative Online International Learning Course

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Abstract

In response to the pedagogical demands of increasingly digital and intercultural learning environments, this paper presents PSYDID (Blending Psychology and Didactics through COIL in EMI Courses), an innovative Collaborative Online International Learning initiative developed within the UNITA Universities Alliance. The project was jointly implemented by the Public University of Navarra (Spain) and the West University of Timișoara (Romania), engaging more than 80 undergraduate students enrolled in English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) courses: third-year Education students and second-year Psychology–Cognitive Science students.

The initiative pursued several objectives: strengthening students' academic English proficiency (C1 level), fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills, enhancing intercultural communicative competence, and promoting collaboration in interdisciplinary and international contexts. It also aimed to develop students' ability to apply psychological knowledge to authentic educational situations.

The pedagogical design followed a COIL framework integrating project-based, challenge-based, and team-based learning. Over eight weeks, students worked in mixed-nationality interdisciplinary teams using digital collaborative tools. Each group selected an educational challenge related to a psychological topic, conducted guided research, and developed a pedagogical proposal addressing real educational needs. Assessment included a collaborative written project, an oral presentation supported by a visual knowledge poster, and an individual reflective learning diary.

Quantitative (pre- and post-tests) and qualitative (reflective journals) data reveal significant learning gains, including improved academic English, stronger intercultural awareness, enhanced digital collaboration skills, and greater ability to integrate psychological concepts into pedagogical design.

Keywords: Digital Collaborative Learning; English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI); Intercultural Communicative Competence; Interdisciplinary Learning