

LOCAL SEMINAR 2 AFTER WORKSHOP IN TRIESTE

University of Trieste

The second seminar was held on 6 December 2019. It was led by Flora Mefondjo and Ana Maria Irimescu and was attended by 8 interpreters/mediators working in different settings: medical, legal, social services and education.

It opened with a summary of the first seminar and with some remarks on the role of interpreters/mediators as bridges between languages and cultures, and the danger of stereotypes related to the cultural background of interpreters/mediators.

The main topic, role plays as training tools for interpreters/mediators, was then addressed. After an introduction covering aspects such as the nature and goals of role plays and their theoretical foundations, the direct involvement of learners and the fourfold activity they entail (feeling, thinking, watching and doing), indications and suggestions were given on to how to prepare a role play.

Participants were then asked to choose a setting and actually do a role play. Education was chosen and four participants volunteered to play a mother, a teacher, a school principal and the interpreter discussing a pupil's learning disabilities, with the mother refusing to accept reality and rejecting all forms of support. The role play had a double focus: on the one hand, lexical difficulties and, on the other, the interpreter's ability to do her job in a very tense and difficult situation.

The role play was followed by an extensive debate in which all participants offered their comments and evaluations.

At the end of the seminar all participants expressed their satisfaction.