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Emoena Europe presentation English summary

In 2020, we started a research project about the impact of interfaith learning. Up to now, many questions on the process and outcomes of interfaith learning have remained unanswered. In this presentation, three questions are discussed: 1) what are the learning objectives of interfaith programs? 2) what are the learning outcomes of interfaith programs? 3) what does the process of interfaith learning look like? Firstly, we have analyzed 93 interfaith programs worldwide and categorized their learning objectives of interfaith learning. This categorization has taken the form of a matrix of twelve interfaith learning objectives. Our article about this analysis and the matrix of interfaith learning objectives can be found [here](#). Secondly, we have analyzed the learning outcomes and evaluations of 42 interfaith initiatives. This analysis showed that some competencies seemed to be addressed more easily than others. For instance, appreciation for others was reported as a learning outcome relatively often. At the same time, other competencies seemed more challenging to develop and evaluate. More specifically, behavior and societal consciousness seemed difficult to develop and evaluate in interfaith programs. Our article about this analysis can be found [here](#). After establishing the ‘starting point’ and ‘finishing point’ of interfaith learning, we studied the process of interfaith learning based on the reflection reports of participants in Emoena. Those reflections showed that participants came in with different expectations and needs, which influenced the aspects of the program they found most interesting or most challenging. These differences can be distinguished as four learning orientations:

- 1) Literacy-oriented learning: How can I deepen my knowledge and understanding of other worldviews and societal challenges?
- 2) Connection-oriented learning: How can I build harmonious relations with others and celebrate our religious diversity?
- 3) Competency-oriented learning: How can I apply what I learned here in my own context as an interfaith leader?
- 4) Reflection-oriented learning: How can I become more aware of my own position, prejudices and blind spots?

You can reach out with questions or to request the full presentation via h.j.visser@vu.nl.