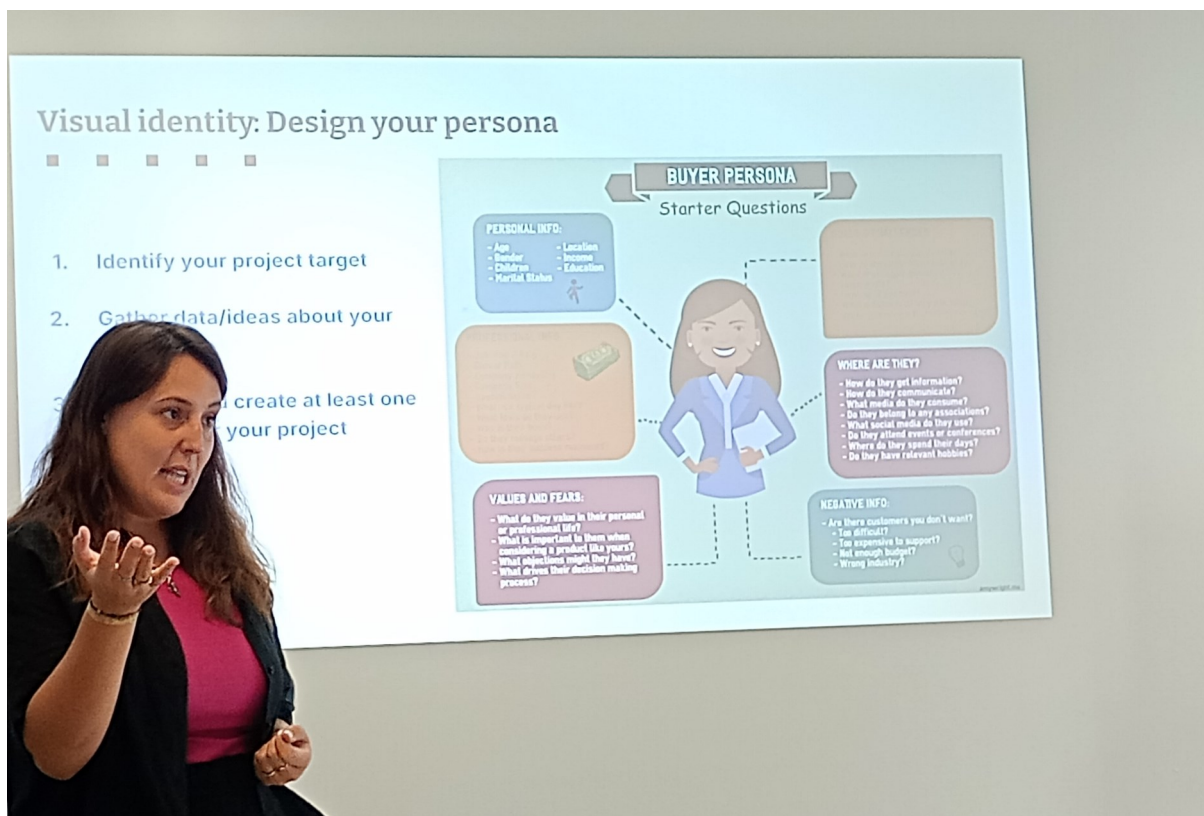INTERVIEW

teaching educators in Erasmus programs

an interview from our teacher

Melissa Galia

E. GEMENETZI/ P. ZARIMPA/ E. LAPPA

What are the biggest challenges you face when teaching educators in Erasmus programs?

The biggest challenges in teaching educators in Erasmus programs are the varying levels of English proficiency, which can hinder effective collaboration and sharing of practices, and the differing levels of knowledge on relevant topics, which can create disparities in engagement and contribution.
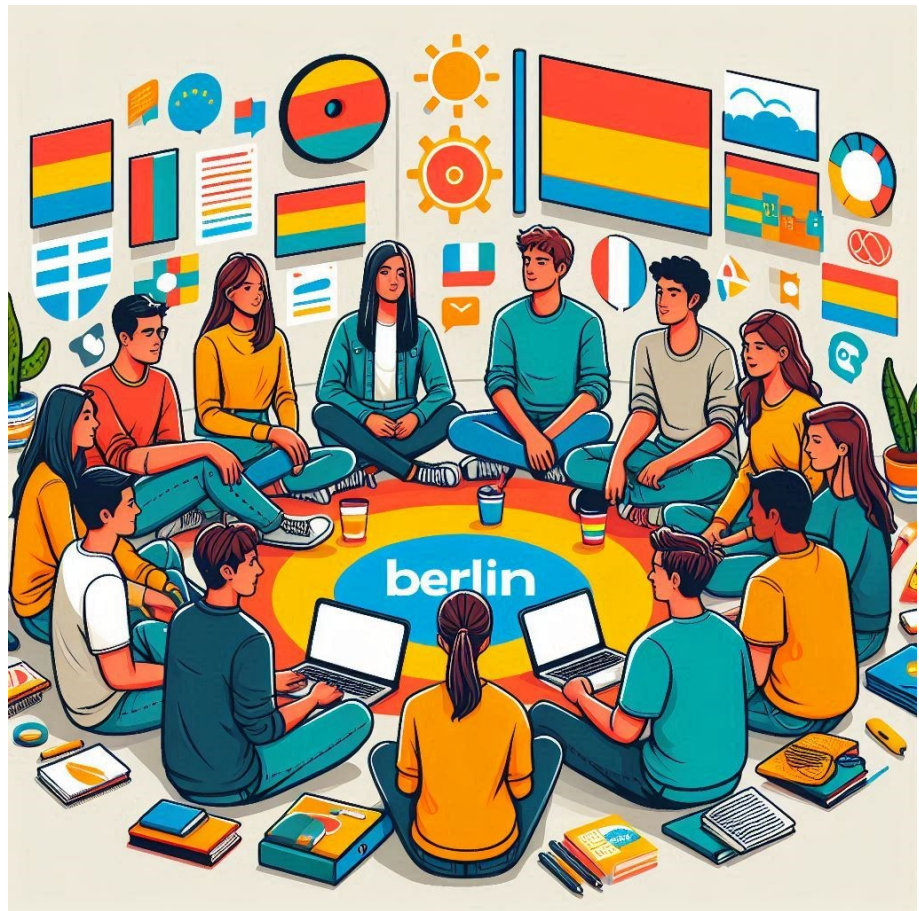
How do you believe new technologies can enhance the educational experience for students?

New technologies can enhance the educational experience for students by increasing engagement and motivation, and by fostering essential skills. Since GenZ is born with technology in their hands, a blend of analogue and technological tools is crucial to cater to their learning preferences and needs.

How do you address the differences in technological proficiency among the educators participating in the programs?

To address differences in technological proficiency among educators, I incorporate plenty of hands-on parts in courses involving technology. This allows me to support teachers in overcoming their boundaries, whether they're dealing with basic tasks or using sophisticated software. This approach helps foster individual learning, independently of the level.

What skills do you consider essential for educators in the 21st century?

Essential skills for 21st-century educators include technological proficiency, especially in leveraging AI to enhance differentiated instruction and inclusive practices. AI can help tailor educational experiences to meet individual student needs, making it a valuable tool for modern teaching. Beyond technology, strong communication skills are crucial for effectively conveying information and fostering understanding among students. Emotional intelligence is also vital, as it enables educators to manage classroom dynamics, support students' emotional well-being, and create a positive learning environment.

" these tools can be allies for teachers, supporting them in their roles and contributing to their mental well-being by reducing workload and stress

What is your opinion on the future of education with the use of new technologies?

I believe the future of education with the use of new technologies holds great promise. When balanced well and without neglecting human relationships and the joy of sharing real-life experiences, technological tools can act as catalysts for tailored learning. They can provide personalized educational experiences, addressing individual student needs more effectively. Additionally, these tools can be allies for teachers, supporting them in their roles and contributing to their mental well-being by reducing workload and stress. The key is to integrate technology in a way that enhances, rather than replaces, the human elements of education.