

Reflections on post-EARLI assessment for learning session in Cyprus Limassol:

This was a complete new experience for me. I have to say that I went with different expectations in terms of how the sessions will run, about the dynamics of the discussions, and the entire atmosphere. I think this was the first time (during my PhD) that my research was put under the microscope by a peer who works with me and also by other researchers and experts from a different research approach in a bigger discussion group. Accordingly, I had to come up with a different way of reacting and responding to questions and comments. Although, this was a bit scary when I started presenting my work not knowing what will come after, but it was a great opportunity to reflect on my own research, look at it from a different perspective and consider limitations and strengths in the research approach I adopt in general and the design of my study.

It was also intriguing to observe how other researchers conceptualize and operationalize learning and learning processes from a different yet interesting prospective. I think this is what made the experience rich and unique, because you can only be challenged enough to reflect on your work if people with different perspectives come together and give you feedback on your work. The diverse cultural backgrounds of people in the meeting also added an extra value to the academic and non-academic interactions. Looking back at the experience as a whole, I think this is one of the significant experiences I have experienced in my life visiting or living in different parts of the world, dealing with different perspectives in terms of research and life-expectations, but also stereotypes I come across every now and then as a female, Muslim young researcher.

Kind Regards,
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