

Keep Democracy Great! E-booklet

Non-Formal Education Methods Addressing the Topics of Active Citizenship, Importance of Democracy, Integration, Fighting Against Populism, Media Literacy, and Critical Thinking.

Courtesy of European Training Centre Copenhagen, Erasmus+ Programme, and the Participants

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1. UP THE HILL DOWN THE ROOTS

TOPIC: Raising aware about democratic participation traditions in rural areas.

SUBTOPIC: Active citizenship.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 15.

AGE GROUP: 18 – 67.

TIME: 25 minutes.

MATERIALS: 2 large papers, 5 A4, 5 pens, 3 markers. Video projector.

PREPARATION

The trainers prepare the room with the video projector and the materials. They write on papers the main three topics of the discussion (active citizenship, sustainability, and rural traditions) and they put it in difference places where the groups will gather to work.

DESCRIPTION

This session will show up how the knowing of the rural traditions can help us in achieving a more active citizenship society. Back in times, rural communities had the power to decide what it was affecting their territory. The activities will connect the participants in order to maintain and promote this sustainability way of living.

The participants will have an historical approach of how they managed the rural areas to be empower with the decision making. After, we will make a brain storming dividing the participants into three groups. The topic of the discussion will be: which needs they are seeing up in the video. We will share the needs that were found in order to prioritize these needs. This will be done by asking the participants to move between two corners: very important - less important.

The main schedule will be:

1. We are running a warmup activity. (2 mins).
2. We watch a video created by the team that depicts the activities that rural area citizens used to follow dealing with the works on the earth. It also depicts the traditional activities they used to follow during the daily life. (5 mins).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDnntQQJ2TE&list=PLena4m0TIZIfpMos4KhOoMz3K47kaXcTj>

3. We split into 3 groups for reflection based on the video. In this activity each member of the group is called to recognize the needs of the protagonists of the video in terms of active citizenship, sustainability, and rural traditions. (5 mins).
4. We share the points of each group to the team. Facilitator announces each need one by one, and the participants are called to make steps on the ground according to their view in terms of the importance of each need. (8 mins).
5. We make debrief. (5 mins).

DEBRIEF

We ask these questions based on the activities:

- Who can be benefit from this practice?
- How can they get benefit?
- How can the decision of the open councils come true?
- Why is it important to remember the rural roots in order to achieve a more sustainable area?
- Will this method help to connect the youth with the elders?

2. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

TOPIC: Promoting the importance of democracy.

SUBTOPIC: Participation.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 20.

AGE GROUP: 18-23.

TIME: 30-35 minutes.

MATERIALS: 4 pieces of paper with the paragraph regarding Thesalstrand, 20 post-it notes to vote on, pens, and a cardboard box with a hole at the top.

PREPARATION

The facilitator prepares 4 strips of paper with the same issue written on it. The facilitator will also prepare post-its, a cardboard box with a hole at the top.

DESCRIPTION

The facilitator divides the 20 participants into 4 groups of 5 people and provide them with pieces of paper in which there is written the following:

“In the village of Thesalstrand; Recently Roma immigrants moved there, the children of the immigrants are going to the school of the village. Some of the non-immigrant parents are complaining about the behaviour of the immigrant children attending the same school as their children and are sending angry letters to the mayor office. The mayor calls for a meeting with representatives of citizens”

The groups are provided with a representative role by the facilitator.

The 4 roles are:

1. Association of Traditional Families
2. The school
3. Foundation of Roma Families
4. The Town Council

In the groups, there will be discussion for 10 minutes, on how they would resolve the situation. Each group then gets 1 minute to present how their association would resolve the provided issue.

After everyone has presented their resolution, the participants will have a debate for 10 minutes regarding the resolution. Each participant must vote for two proposals.

DEBRIEF

- Do you think your participation has an impact on solving the issue? Why?
- What new perspectives did you gain by being part of the role you were assigned, and through the debate with the other participants?
- How did you contribute to the conversation with your group?
- What new knowledge did you gain through the activity?
- What was the work process like during the discussion in your group?

3. SIMULATION OF PROJECT CREATION

TOPIC: Immigrant's integration.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 15-20.

AGE GROUP: 18-32.

TIME: 20 – 25 minutes.

MATERIALS: projector, papers, pens.

DESCRIPTION

1. Introduction: (1 min).

As European active citizens involved with their societies, we are looking for an NGO who can manage the immigrant integration in our country. We are members of a multicultural company, that has been created thanks to immigrants coming around the world.

For celebrate the International Day of Immigrants, we would like to give 300.000 euros for an NGO, which will work with newcomers, respecting European values.

2. Instructions:

Facilitator divided people to 3 groups. Each group should present draft of a project for getting this money. Project should be in European values framework (key values: pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity, and equality). For creating a draft, participants should: (12 mins to prepare; 3 x 2 mins for presentations).

1. Answer the following questions:
 - i. What is the main immigrant's problem? and how you can try to solve it?
 - ii. Which tools you can use for solving this issue?
 - iii. How can you make them feel like a part of society?
2. Make short financial plan (which should include the main items of expenditure and the approximately amount for each item)

Evaluation Criteria:

- Problems can be following: integration, languages, accommodation, legalisation, unemployment, health care.
- Tools: administration affairs (access to education, health insurance and workplaces), create local community.
- Provide them mentors.

DEBRIEF

(6 mins).

- What was the most complicated issue?
- What was the most useful in this activity?
- Do you think immigration problem is the most threatening for EU? Why/ Why not?
- Do you think it easy to get money for NGO?

4. ELECTIONS

TOPIC: Promoting the importance of democracy.

SUBTOPIC: Fighting populism.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 15-20 (2 candidates, 2 journalists, 10-15 citizens).

AGE GROUP: 18-30.

TIME: 20 – 25 minutes (the more the better).

MATERIALS: Papers with the roles printed on them.

PREPARATION: the trainer prints out the roles, and the legend with enough copies for the group.

DESCRIPTION

The facilitator chooses the two candidates from each party and gives them their roles.

After that, the two journalists and the secret spy will be chosen. It is important that nobody knows who the secret spy is. 3 minutes of preparation for the speeches. While the four main characters are preparing their speeches, the citizens will have the time to read the backstory (legend) and discuss it. After the 3 minutes end the two candidates will present their speeches which will be 2 minutes long each. They can talk about the bullet points we give them, but they can also improvise what they want to say.

Next journalists will present their 1-minute speeches. Their job is to talk about one of the candidates. They can either focus on praising their candidate or criticise the opposing candidate.

Afterwards citizens will also get the chance to speak, 5 times, for 45 seconds. The spy should also talk at least once.

After all these they will elect one of the Prime Minister candidates. If they elect the populist candidate (and dictator) they lose, but if they elect the democrat the participants win. The main aim of this method is to teach people to fight against populism, through the election process. The job of citizens is to recognise the manipulation of populist party and vote against them to fight populism.

The process of the game:

- The facilitator will hand out the roles.
- Citizens will read the legend and discuss shortly, meanwhile the others prepare their speeches (3 minutes).
- The candidates will talk first, for 2 minutes each. (4 minutes).

- Afterwards the journalists will present their 1-minute speeches to the public. (2 minutes).
- After this the citizens will have the chance to discuss a little. They will have 5*45 seconds, everyone can speak only once. (3-5 minutes).
- After all this we will have the elections. Everybody votes for the candidate of their choice, and we reveal the winning candidate, and whether the participants won or not. (Max. 3 minutes).
- Finally, debrief questions. (5 minutes).

DEBRIEF

- How did you recognize the populist candidate? If you didn't, what deceived you?
- Was the fake news believable? / Did you believe the news was true?
- Could you recognize the journalist propaganda?
- Did you recognise spy of populist party among you?
- What did you learn from this activity?

ROLES

- Candidate 1 (populist) -> 2-minute speeches.
 - I'll raise the minimum wage by 5%!
 - Unemployment rates will drop!
 - I am with you; I know your pain! We're together against the rich!
 - Immigrants are threats to our national identity! They are dangerous people who endanger our security and families.
 - The biggest problem: corruption. I will put an end to this craziness.
- Candidate 2 (democrat) -> 2-minute speeches.
 - We're standing for democratic values.
 - We respect minorities, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community!
 - We promise economic stability!
 - We promise cheaper healthcare!
 - We'll put an emphasis on corruption.
- Journalist 1 (populist) -> 1-minute speeches.
 - Gay people on the streets
 - Only candidate 1 is good
 - Candidate 2's party has caused deaths with protests
- Journalist 2 (democrat) -> 1-minute speeches.
 - Candidate 1 is corrupt and should never be in charge again
 - We are for equality in everything
 - Only candidate 2 is good
- Citizens -> 5*45 seconds speeches.

- Secret populist spy among citizens.
 - Should try to push people to vote populist party's candidate.
 - Do it subtly, don't get caught.

THE BACKSTORY/LEGEND

Homeland is a developing democratic country. They largely depend on a power country and their financial help. They do have some concerning problems. 20% of the population is unemployed, and it is ruining their economy. Minorities/LGBTQ community are oppressed and feel scared every time they step outside of their houses. Corruption is growing more and more and is becoming an enormous problem.

Homeland will their elections in 10 days. The campaigns are roaring. There are 2 parties with 2 candidates running for Prime Minister.

5. NEW COUNTRY, OLD PROBLEMS

TOPIC: Promoting the importance of Democracy.

SUBTOPIC: Media Literacy.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 20-30.

AGE GROUP: 18 – 25.

TIME: 20 – 25 minutes.

MATERIALS: paper and pens.

DESCRIPTION

The trainer starts by reading a story to the participants: Once upon a time a little population wanted to get independence. After a long fight, they finally got it. However, they started to face many problems. Some people wanted to implement democracy as political system, but some of the former elite wanted to undermine the idea, targeting the young people. So they started to control the communication channels: Television, social media and newspapers. Therefore, the people who believed in democracy faced an important mission. They need to think of the ways how to prevent manipulation done by the media, and raise awareness in young people about the importance of the democracy.

After dividing the groups in 4 smaller groups the trainer gives the following instructions:

1. The ones who are part of the tv group should do a report about the election process. You should create fake news regarding the election process and present it as a role-play (like you were a journalist).
2. The ones who are part of the Social Media group should create fake news about corruption and other corrupted politicians and then post it on the Facebook group or write it in a piece of paper.
3. The ones who are part of the newspaper should write about the measures about immigration in other countries. The ones who are part of the democratic believers should prepare counter arguments in order to answer to the fake news.
4. The ones who are part of the people who believe in democracy should prepare counter-arguments to the fake news and mix them with the pros of democracy.

TV:

They need to produce fake news about the election process and present it like a tv report. They have 5 minutes to prepare it and 2 minutes to present it.

Social media:

They need to produce a fake, new post about corruption of democratic politicians and then post it on the social media group (in case you have one) or they can present it on piece of paper. They have 5 minutes to prepare it and 2 minutes to present it.

Newspapers:

They need to produce some kind of hateful (hate) speech regarding measures applied in other democratic countries about immigration. They need to present it in a form of an article in a newspaper. They have 5 minutes to prepare it and 2 minutes to present it.

People who believe in democracy:

This group need to think about the possible arguments from the media and prepare counter-arguments and present the pro's of democracy.

After that, all the medias should present their work. Democratic people should sit in the center with media in front of them, on the left and on the right. After each media presentation, the democratic people are to present the counter-arguments, like a debate, addressing the fake news. Pointing out the false information and present how the reality really looks like and by that showing the pros of democracy.

DEBRIEF

- What do you think we just did here?
- What is your opinion about the media behavior?
- What do you think about democratic people behavior?
- What tools can we use to protect ourselves from fake news?

6. INFORMATIVE COMPETITION METHOD AND STICKY PAPER ON THE FOREHEAD

TOPIC: Promoting the importance of democracy.

SUBTOPIC: Critical Thinking on Rising Populism in Europe.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 15-20 Participants.

AGE GROUP: 18-35.

TIME: 20 – 25 minutes.

MATERIALS: Sticky Cards for the taboo game, papers, pens, projector, presentation, Kahoot game.

PREPARATION

The trainers prepare a PowerPoint presentation for open questions and Kahoot game for the competition with the multiple-choice questions.

Trainers will prepare the sticky cards with country names. There also will be 3 forbidden words in each paper in order to make the game more competitive and challenging for the participants.

DESCRIPTION

The trainers will explain the rules of the competition. Participants will create a group of 2 or 3 persons. Participants will reply to questions of the game in 30 seconds.

Trainers will prepare the sticky cards with country names. There will be 3 forbidden words for each country. Participants will try to describe those countries by avoiding the use of forbidden words.

DEBRIEF

- Do you see common points in different populist parties in Europe?
- Is populism a result or a cause?
- Who is the most popular politician according to you?
- How can we overcome rising populism?
- What did you think about this activity and learn from this activity?

EXAMPLE

Critical Thinking on Populist Parties in Europe

**1) What is the name of
the leader of the
Front National ?**

- a) Charles De Gaulle
 - b) Marine le Pen
 - c) Emmanuel Macron
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2) Who said “Europe can only be saved by returning to Christianity” ?

- a) Pope Francis
 - b) Viktor Orban
 - c) Andrej Duda
-

3) Which populist said “Migrants carry parasites and protozoa”?

- a) Jaroslaw Kaczynski
 - b) Boris Johnson
 - c) Tayyip Erdogan
-

4) Who said “European populists should stand against socialist?”

- a) Matteo Salvini
 - b) Vladimir Putin
 - c) Rocket Guy (Kim Jong Il)
-

5) Which populist party in the government?

- a) Alternative für Deutschland
 - b) Five Star Movement
 - c) Fidesz
-

6) Which populist party is established by Intellectuals?

- a) Danish People's Party
 - b) Podemos
 - c) Perussuomalaiset
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Open Ended Questions

- Do you see some common points in different Populist Parties in Europe?
 - Who is the most popular populist politician according to you?
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