



Co-funded by
the European Union

INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

PARTNER: Museumsverein Klostertal

COUNTRY: Austria

Museumsverein
KLOSTERTAL

Table of contents

<i>1. Introduction</i>	2
<i>2. Activity Implementation</i>	3
2.1 Activity Objectives	3
2.2 Activity Description and Methodology	3
2.3 Tools and Resources	3
2.4 Suggested integration	3
<i>3. Debriefing and Feedback</i>	4

1. Introduction

The activity helps participants to become more familiar with the diversity of small-scale societies such as communities, neighborhoods, clubs, and other groups. People from different cultural backgrounds are brought together and encouraged to talk to each other. Selected individuals from different countries are invited to talk about their lives and answer questions from the participants. In this way, different migration biographies are brought together. We refer to the background information described in the toolkit for trainers, in particular that on intercultural dialogue and intergenerational dialogue.

The main goal of the activity is to raise awareness of the diversity of small-scale units. Every community has people with intercultural backgrounds, people who come from a different society and were born in another country. They are placed center stage and their life stories are brought to the fore. This is in line with EU values such as the promotion of diversity, tolerance, and acceptance of cultural diversity.

The practice promotes diversity and the participation of members of small-scale societies. They should have as diverse cultural backgrounds as possible. Even in a small village like Wald am Arlberg with about 700 inhabitants, there are many people who were born in other countries. They are ideal protagonists for the practice. Participants do not need any special training, which makes the activity very open and inclusive. The target group consists of young adult learners who are open to new experiences.

The aim is to specifically target people with a migrant background and different levels of education. Ideally, around 20-30 people should take part, depending on the number of discussion partners. The practice lasts around 2 to 2.5 hours, including a short introduction, then the implementation of the discussion in the style of World Cafés, and finally a summary of the results and a conclusion (preferably with a culinary experience).

2. Activity Implementation

2.1 Activity Objectives

The activity aims to raise awareness of the diversity of small-scale societies. To this end, people are brought together to talk to each other and migration biographies are discussed.

2.2 Activity Description and Methodology

The informal training practice is very simple and essentially works according to the methods of a World Café. The aim is to bring people into conversation with each other in a very uncomplicated way. The focus is deliberately placed on people who have immigrated from another country or cultural background. Above all, people who are not often in the spotlight and can tell their stories should be selected.

This requires good preparation on the part of the organizers. They should consciously seek out people with migration backgrounds and motivate them to participate in the activity during preparatory discussions. The success of the activity depends on the willingness of the narrators to open up and share their life stories. The focus should deliberately be placed on people who otherwise tend to remain in the background. In Austria, for example, these are people who came to the country as guest workers, i.e., people who worked on construction sites for decades but otherwise remained in the background. Ideally, four to six people should be found who are willing to talk about their lives.

The activity itself then follows the format of a World Café. One person sits at each table and tells their life story. There are posters on the tables on which the participants write down their experiences and impressions in keywords. This serves to document the activity. The moderator first gives a brief introduction to the methodology. The participants, ideally 20 to 30 young adult learners, are divided into groups of equal size and seated at the tables. The storytellers then begin to talk about their lives. This leads to questions and a discussion. After 15 to 20 minutes, the tables are changed until all groups have sat at each table. This allows many impressions to be gathered and documented. At the end, one participant from each group reports on the activities and the experiences gained.

This combines storytelling, intercultural dialogue, and intergenerational dialogue. Communication and reflection skills are promoted. EU values such as tolerance and appreciation for other cultures are central. It is important that the atmosphere is relaxed. This can be achieved by concluding the event with food and drinks.

2.3 Tools and Resources

Informal training practices are very easy to implement and require only a few tools. These include:

- A suitable, quiet room; in summer, activities can also be carried out outdoors.
- Tables for the number of participants
- Chairs for the groups involved
- White poster paper for documenting the discussions
- Pens in different colors
- Optional: smartphones for documenting the discussions
- Photographic documentation of the activities by the organizers is recommended, not least as a reminder. Of course, the consent of all participants must be obtained. The documentation can be in the form of photos or videos, for example with a smartphone.

A conclusion with small snacks and drinks is definitely recommended. This often leads to more in-depth discussions. Care should be taken to ensure that all materials used are sustainable.

2.4 Suggested integrations

Informal training practices place a strong emphasis on intercultural dialogue. This is why it correlates with the corresponding module in the toolkit for trainers. EU values such as freedom, human rights, and democracy play an important role, as the participants often come from countries where these values are not guaranteed (which is why they have fled these countries in some cases). In-depth reflection can take place after the discussions in the form of a World Café.

In any case, it is also advisable to link this to the intergenerational dialogue module in the Toolkit for Trainers, as the discussion partners are sometimes older people who talk about their lives “between cultures.” This requires a certain sensitivity when dealing with migration biographies. Methods from other practices in the EU Values Toolkit can certainly be helpful. The documentation of the training practice in the form of posters, photos, and videos can be published in various ways, for example via social media.

In any case, the practice can also be the starting point for a longer-term discussion about interculturality in small-scale societies. Ideally, this can lead to important initiatives such as exhibitions or films on topics such as cultural diversity, reflection on otherness, or EU values.

3. Debriefing and Feedback

At the end of the exercise, it is important to give all participants the opportunity to speak and to gather feedback. This is particularly important for those who have opened up and shared their life stories. They should feel comfortable during all activities. It can also be useful to gather their impressions in one-on-one conversations and take them into account for future activities.

The trainers who organized the exercise and explained the methodology should moderate the feedback round. The following guiding questions may be helpful

- What new experiences did I gain?
- Which story/anecdote particularly fascinated me?
- What new things did I learn about my community?
- How would I like to pass on these experiences in the future?
- What do the stories I heard say about a united Europe?
- Which values that I associate with Europe were expressed in the activity?

The trainers should also seek feedback on the process, for example, whether the task was clear and everyone knew what to do. The results on the posters should also be compared for this purpose.

If you would like more detailed feedback, you can also hand out questionnaires to the participants or use online tools for this purpose. However, the most important thing is to talk to the storytellers who shared their stories.

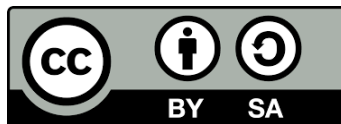
DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Authors

© 2025 - ENCRE - European Network of Comics Representatives and Entrepreneurs (BE), Skill Up Srl (IT), Cap Ulysse (FR), Museumsverein Klosters (AT), Complexul Muzeal National Moldova Iasi (RO), Quiosq (NE).

This publication was carried out with the financial support of the European Commission under Erasmus + Project “ONE Culture - Overcoming Nationalism and Euroscepticism through Culture”, N. 2024-1-BE01-KA220-ADU-000243645.



Attribution, share in the same condition

(CC BY-SA) : You are free to Share- copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format and Adapt – remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms under the following terms: **Attribution** – you must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggest the licensor endorses you or your use **ShareAlike**- If you remix, transform or build upon the material, you must distribute your contribution under the same license as the original.

No additional restrictions – you may not apply legal terms.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Overcoming Nationalism and Euroscepticism Through Culture