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From *Dissens – Institute for Education and Research* we prepared a workshop for the ACE partnership where we tried to combine an ice breaker exercise with reflective questions of non-normative approach.¹

We performed the workshop „Bingo!“ in the first session of the meeting in Bordeaux. The aim of the workshop is to get to know each other slowly in a non-formal matter and to learn each others' names by mixing humor and neutral topics with sensitive topics. In this way we personalise the topics of discrimination to make the discussions reflective. The aim of this workshop in the context of the ACE-project were a) to introduce non-formal education approaches and methods and b) to bring out the relevance of discrimination in the field of Active Citizen Rights in Europe.

In this exercise we asked the people to take a sheet of Bingo paper and start mingling in the room with each other. They were to talk as much as possible with participants they hadn't met before. In the exercise people were discussing two and two and going from one participant to another. There were some words that had to be explained, such as “lookism” or patchwork family during the exercise.

After a while there was a bingo and we gathered to reflect on the exercise per se rather than the topics that came out of the discussions as some of the questions are too personal to take in a big group. But as we from Dissens wanted to present the exercise as an example of what we do and something that can be exchanged to the other organisations for them to use in their work. The participants found the exercise good and relevant.

Please see the manual for the workshop on the next page.

1

Manual for Bingo!

Try to complete one line of the questions below by finding a person who can say yes to the given description and filling in his or her name. You can use each name only once on your sheet, so you have to ask different people. The person who first completes a vertical, horizontal or diagonal line shouts “bingo” and wins the game. She or he then tells the names of the persons he or she filled in the cases of the completed line. Everybody is free to refuse to answer questions they think too personal.

Someone who is tired	Someone who as an idea what “lookism” might mean	Someone who thinks racism is a problem in their country	Someone who was born in May	Someone who has lived in a country where they weren’t born for at least 2 years
Someone who thinks sexism is a problem in their country	Someone who is or has ever been friends with a person who had to flee their country/ region for economic or political or other reasons	Someone who comes from a country where it’s possible to have an ‘other’ as gender in their personal documents.	Someone who is part of a patchwork family	Someone who has already or is working with human rights
Someone who speaks more than two languages fluently	Someone who thinks boys are sanctioned more harshly or quickly than girls at their school	Someone who has or has ever had a gay, lesbian, bisexual or queer person among their friends or family	Someone who thinks homophobia is a problem in their country	Someone who as a child or youngster didn’t like to go to school
Someone who as a youngster thought about or fought against discrimination	Someone who works at a school with more than 100 students	Someone who has ever witnessed a girl getting harassed at school	Someone who has ever found themselves in a minority position for more than a few weeks	Someone who thinks antisemitism is a problem in their country
Someone who has ever lived in materially precarious conditions	Someone who thinks there are injustices in the treatment of the financial crisis	Someone who is or ever was friends with a handicapped person	Someone who is or ever was close friends with a person not part of the ethnic majority of their country	Someone who worked with developing the questionnaire for ACE

Method Description

Name of the Method

Bingo!

Duration

20 to 45 Minutes

Target Group/Criteria for Access

Young people from 12 years old and adult people. The “Bingo”-Sheet has to be adopted to the group members and their potential interest and state of confidence

Group Size

Minimum of participants: 12

Material

A prepared and adopted Bingo sheet and a pen for each participant

Learning Outcomes or Effects

Knowledge

- To get in touch with the other participants
- To learn names of the others
- To become aware of the relevance of multiple affiliations, different background and experiences, and the distinction between simple differences and dominance relations

Skills

- To become sensitive regarding differences
- To experience the principle of reciprocity, what means to be in the position of an interviewer and an interviewee alternately

Competencies

- To be able to ask for differences
- To be able to see differences
- To accept differences and to value them

Method Instruction

Bingo is an easy game. It is a real starter method. The concrete aim of the game is to fill out two rows in a bingo-sheet. The person who filled out two rows is the winner.

A row consists of five single boxes of questions which can be horizontal, vertical and diagonal. An example for a question is: Do you have 3 or more siblings? Do you like to listen to hip hop music? Or: Do you know what the Koran is and you can explain it in a few words? The aim related to the learning process is to get in touch with each other and to establish a respectful and trustful level of communication between each other. If the group is working on the issue of social differences the debriefing of the Bingo method may focus on the different feelings coming up being asked certain question (like e.g. "Are you living as a heterosexual?") or asking certain questions (as e.g. "Did you ever live in materially precarious conditions?")

Step-by-Step Description

First the facilitator introduces Bingo as a game that opens up the chance to get to know each other. You can ask the participants, if they know the common Bingo. Let the participants explain what they know.

Then you can show a bingo sheet to the group. Explain that in this Bingo each person can ask questions to the others and will be asked back by the other students. Give one example for a question: Do you like to listen to hip-hop music?

Point out that the questions are on different levels. The mission is to ask the other participants the questions in the boxes and to collect names in the particular box. Each participant can write a name of a person in the box if the question is answered with YES. The questioned persons should write the name themselves into the box. Each person may sign only once in each bingo sheet. If the player has filled out two rows, the game is finished. The winner shouts BINGO! Now they can read the two rows with the questions and the names of the person who gave the answers.

After finishing the game you can make a short debriefing with the following questions:

- Are all questions on the same level?
- Have some questions been difficult to ask?
- Were there some questions that were difficult to answer?
- What were easy and what were difficult questions/answers?
- What was easier: to ask or to be asked?
- Have you changed the row because you didn't want to ask a certain question?
- What makes the difference between questions like "What is your favorite colour?" and "Do you live with a single parent?"

Possible difficulties

As already mentioned, Bingo is a real starter. Hence you don't know the group well. You should be sure that everyone is able to read the small statements on the Bingo sheet.

Comments and Experiences/Evaluation

Even if the participants know each other quite well (e.g., a school [Ccass](#)) they like to ask the questions and give answers.

Bingo is a get to know each other exercise, but inside that you can use it to get a sensitisation for the difference between simple differences, for example a personal taste and power relations

Source

Bingo is going back to different source, amongst other Bildungsteam Berlin Brandenburg (www.bildungsteam.de), PeerThink-Project (www.peerthink.eu).