

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR BETTER INTEGRATION**

**TOOLKIT**



The project *Re-connecting Europe - challenges and opportunities for better integration* was based on transnational exchange and collaboration among organizations and citizens from Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Italy, and Serbia



Polska  
Fundacja  
im. Roberta  
Schumana



All the photographic materials were collected during the *Re-connecting Europe* project and are part of the archives of Polish Robert Schuman Foundation, European Academy Berlin, Associazione Interculturale NUR.

## Free Publication

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The project was aimed at creating common space to discuss and work together by confronting views and experience on most currently engaging and divisive issues for Europeans, especially within “old - new” EU and the North-South dimensions.

The participants were engaged into learning process from the recognition of common problems and challenges, through critical approach towards the new technologies of communications, effective acting by means of such instruments as open debates, infocampaigns, public assemblies, cultural events.

All activities were designed to give an opportunity to get known and share different perspectives on what bothers Europeans most and which issues are rising tensions in response to different visions of the future of common Europe.

We were searching for mutual understanding for those fears and expectations and working together on possible ways and solutions for citizens and civic organizations to have an impact on re-connecting Europeans.

**Most ideas, methods and approaches presented in the publication are based on the outcomes of projects' activities complemented by participants' researches and their personal experience.**

We hope this publication will be a useful and inspiring source of ideas, tools and methods for all who are interested in designing a learning process on European integration.

# 1. “Grandma, Tiger, Ninja”

## **Type of tool:**

warm-up activity and an ice-breaker

## **Target group:**

all participants, the more sleepy they are, the better!

## **Short summary:**

A quick and dynamic activity and competition to be played with the whole body. It is perfect to tune in and start a day!

## **Behind the tool:**

The activity is similar to “rock, paper & scissors”, but is being played with the entire body. You always play against somebody, you chose a role and play it out, hoping to beat your counterpart.

## **Aim and objectives:**

Warm-up, getting people out of the comfort zone, activating, energizing and focusing.

## **Methodology:**

Informal & physical activity in a room or an open space

## **Step by step:**

The roles are... surprise, surprise: Ninja, Tiger, Grandma.

By playing the roles, use your entire body – limbs, eyes, voice, gestures and posture. For example being a Ninja would mean striking a ready-to-attack pose, with an air-sword or air-nunchaku. Being a tiger would mean making yourself big and strong and going for a long “roar”. Being a Grandma would mean getting small, hunching over and carrying an imagined walking stick.

The powers are:

- + Ninja beats Tiger
- + Tiger eats Grandma
- + Grandma rules Ninja

The procedure is simple: start in pairs, the winner moves on and the loser becomes his fan. If you have a tie – try again. The longer the game, the bigger the fan community. By the end, the last duo will play for the championship title, each with a massive cheering section in the back.



**Materials and resources:**

One-two persons who introduce the activity and the moves. In addition a chart with a scheme who beats whom in the game. And if you find a trophy for the champion, you're the king.

**Outcomes:**

Energized, happy, focused people who are eager to work together.

**Notes for further use:**

You can give the exercise another name and find out different roles (e.g. tiger replaced by bear, ninja replaced by cowboy) – anything that is funny and can be played with the whole body.

source:

<https://smashingideas.com/five-warm-ups-ignite-design-thinking-workshop/>



The activity was carried out during seminar *Think&Tweet - responsible communication in the age of digital revolution* (22-25.03.2018 Berlin, Germany) as a part of *Re-connecting Europe* project

## 2. "All that we share"

**Type of tool:** energizer/getting to know each other; groups: 20-30 people

**Target group:**

All participants, the less they know each other, the better!

**Short summary:**

What connects people in diverse groups: facts, experience or knowledge? Who has blue eyes? Who has been to more than five European countries? Who has partied last weekend? The activity consists of a presentation with questions and everyone who can agree goes to the front. In the end a photo is taken of the newly connected group.

**Behind the tool:**

In big groups it takes some time to find a common things between the people. This activity shall help to find connecting elements between the participants from different countries, backgrounds and generations.

**Aim and objectives:**

Ice breaker, energizer, getting people out of the comfort zone, generating content for further discussion, activating resources, can also be used during discussion, reflection or evaluation phase.

**Step by step:**

1. Think about some things/emotions/facts that can be common to the people (e.g. blue eyes);
2. Turn them into sentences and write down on slides. Be creative with the questions and adopt them to the respective group. One sentence pro slide (*We have blue eyes*);
3. Optionally: use photos, emoji and symbols to make it more visible;
4. Now, in the room explain the activity to the participants. Make everyone in the room stand up: if they feel addressed by the sentence, they should come to the dedicated square in the front;
5. Show the first slide, let people react to it, make a photo (you can also make photos or people's reactions);
6. Let the participants to come back to their previous positions, show another sentence, repeat the procedure until the end;
7. Make a collage out of the answers, use it during workshops, spread it around, and be creative!



## Materials and resources:

Slides prepared in powerpoint, prezzi, canvas...; projector, big room for the people to move, photo-camera or a smartphone, optionally tripod for a good shot; alternatively also possible with posters.

## Outcomes:

Broader knowledge about commonalities among the participants in a very short period of time, getting to know each other better, ice-breaking and activation.

## Notes for further use:

Adaptable to any learning or teaching phase; more or less advanced questions possible, instead of photos a video with more interactions can be made.

source:

This method has been used by the Danish TV as an advertisement for more tolerance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD8tjhVO1Tc>



The activity was carried out during seminar *Think&Tweet - responsible communication in the age of digital revolution* (22-25.03.2018 Berlin, Germany) as a part of *Re-connecting Europe* project

### **3. Creative Lego Lab**

## **“Design your message to your fellow Europeans”**

**Type of tool:**

Activity, lego design workshop

**Target group:**

Anyone old enough to play with Lego products

**Short summary:**

Constructing a message about Europe's past, present, and future with Legos.  
See other mindsets / imagination physically in front of you

**Behind the tool:**

It's a tried and trusted methodology used by consultants around the world to use creative methods to construct a product or develop strategy

**Aim and objectives:**

Creating answers to different opinions in Europe. Build the Europe you want to see. Compare with others.

**Methodology:**

Collaboration, experimental learning, physical touch combined with critical thinking stimulates the brain: opens creative side in everyone.

**Step by step:**

1. Get a lots of Legos
2. Engage a facilitator (best option: trainer of creative & design thinking)
2. Facilitator guide through the philosophy of the task and the building steps
3. Start building, put your ideas and visions into Lego landscapes
4. Look at others' constructions and get inspired by their creations
5. Discuss ways of connecting ideas
6. Combine your creations into a huge visionary landscape
7. Shift back from the playground to the World of words and presentations – use the inspiration for new projects and ideas.

**Materials and resources:**

A bunch of (old) Legos, lots of space, tables, joyful participants, some charts/sheets & pens to sum up the task.

**Outcomes:**

It opens people's minds to other perspectives and their own creativity.  
It solidifies their image of Europe.

**Evaluation and comments:**

We all ended up having a deeper appreciation of each others' visions.

**Notes for further use:**

Discover the child in you!



The activity was carried out during seminar *Think&Tweet - responsible communication in the age of digital revolution* (22-25.03.2018 Berlin, Germany) as a part of *Re-connecting Europe* project



## **4. Democratic Meme Factory:**

### **Creating memes for social media**

**Type of tool:**

Activity, workshop, skills enhancement training

**Target group:**

Users of social media from different groups, both digital natives and digital immigrants

**Short summary:**

Get creative together and develop memes on current issues to use in social media as a positive and creative way to take a stand and fight hate in the Internet.

**Behind the tool:**

Social media is becoming more important for informing / influencing public discourses, however these media spaces are often dominated by problematic discourses around racism, discrimination and hate. By creating democratic memes you change the discourse into a more constructive and positive manner.

**Aim and objectives:**

Creating answers to different opinions in Europe. Build the Europe you want to see. Compare with others.

**Methodology:**

Collaboration, experimental learning, creativity for team building with the use of digital devices.

**Step by step:**

Explain case studies of successful memes,  
Explain processes of creating idea generation in groups,  
Let groups decide on current issues,  
Provide multi-media material,  
Facilitate creative group working

**Materials and resources:**

Presentation software – laptop, digital devices for the memes and a lot of creativity

**Outcomes:**

Digital democratic memes that can be used in a multifold manner in the social media.

**Evaluation and comments:**

Don't get too philosophical about the task, just use your imagination, build upon ideas of the others and you will have lots of fun and great products at the end.

**Notes for further use:**

Just do it!



## 5. Pluralism, Integration and Solidarity: Berlin Study Challenge. Organizing a City Tour

### **Type of tool:**

A half-day or day activity, thematic study trip and guided-tour through the city.

### **Target group:**

All participants, from locals to non-locals, diverse group.

### **Short summary:**

Creating a study trip/tour of a location for foreigners by locals to give a more diverse, non-touristic glimpse into the character of the city, its achievements, challenges and its European connections (e.g. politics, history, media, society, environment, innovation, sustainability, integration, migration...).

### **Behind the tool:**

Different theme tours to show more of Berlin to participants. Developed and executed based on a co-working & co-shaping principle.

### **Aim and objectives:**

Non-formal learning and peer-to-peer exchange by visiting different locations, meeting people. An effective and interest-based way to learn more about Europe, multicultural societies, policies or media.

### **Methodology:**

Local participants, under the guidance of the project partner, create a series of study trips through the city to different locations with a theme in common. They jointly develop the routes, define the key places to visit or people to meet, form key questions and/or tasks to be used during the study trip.

### **Materials and resources:**

- Digital tools or a city map
- Entrance fees, expense allowances
- Public transport, food money





### **Step by step:**

1. Define the overall subject, overall aim and time frame;
2. Define the number of tours and people responsible;
3. Discuss the thematic framework, brainstorm about possible places and people;
4. Use digital tools to design the route (length, public transportation, accessibility);
5. Calculate the costs for the breaks and possible entrance fees or other expense allowances;
6. If possible make a test and try the route, if necessary make corrections;
7. Make a short concept of your route, think about additional tasks for participants.
8. Invite participants for a study trip, enjoy the walk
9. Document the activity with photos, videos and other "souvenirs"
10. Talk with participants about their experiences!

## 6. Street Interview Challenge



**Aim and objectives:** Developing communication skills, gathering and discuss different opinions. If done in an international setting the activity can work as a good team building exercise, especially if the national groups are mixed up.

**Materials needed:**

- recording devices (portable digital voice recorders, cameras, smartphones etc.)
- pen and paper for taking notes
- image release forms/privacy consent forms to fill in
- badges for interviewers (not mandatory, but a nice addition)
- material for brainstorming – flipcharts, sticky notes, markers, pens etc.

**The idea behind:** Street Interview Challenge is to encourage participants to get out of their comfort zone and pick up some new skills by doing a public survey: the goal is for them to hit the streets and interview as many passers-by as they can about some previously agreed upon topics which are relevant to them and to the project being carried on.

**Good practices:** We carried out the activity in Cagliari, where not everyone speaks or understands English very well, so we invited the Italian participants, as hosts and the only ones who spoke the local language, to split equally among the different teams and act as translators for the interviewing process. They were much more involved in the challenge because of this additional responsibility, and the activity had the added effect of boosting their self-esteem, their communication skills and their ability to cooperate effectively.



## **Steps by steps:**

### **1. Prepare the group for the task:**

Give the participants some tips and tricks about how interviews work, how to write a good interview and how to conduct one, how to approach strangers to ask a few questions in the street, etc. It is best to have an expert, for example a journalist, give a short workshop on those topics before the beginning of the challenge. Have them also explain clearly to the group how to properly use the recording devices they'll be using, and that it is important to get the interviewees' written consent before taking their picture or recording their voice.

### **2. Choose the topics, hand out the equipment:**

- facilitate a brainstorming for participants to come up with some topics they would like to address and learn more about, then group them according to their interests; you can also choose a few relevant topics in advance and assign them yourself, for example: "the future of the EU" and "immigration";
- form teams of at least 4-5 people around a common topic; if working in an international setting, make sure to mix the national groups and to have someone in each team who can speak the local language;
- give each team at least one recording device and the consent form papers; if you had them prepared, give each participant a badge with the project's logo where they can write their own name if they wish to. Having badges is not mandatory, but it is a nice touch in terms of recognition and visibility.

### **3. Prepare the questions:**

Give each team some time - at least 1 hour - to discuss the chosen topic among themselves and to decide whom they would like to interview (target group) and what questions they would like to ask. Remind them to pick open questions as much as possible, and tell them to write down the final ones and, if necessary, to translate them into the local language.

#### 4. Practice time:

As an optional step you can ask the teams to mix up and go around interviewing one another for 15-20 minutes to get acquainted with the instrumentation (if they're using some new voice recorders) and to try out their questions and techniques.

#### 5. Final instructions:

- when all the groups are ready, get them together to explain the rules of the challenge before the start. Explain that each team will have to go out in the streets for a set amount of time and collect as many interviews as they can, before coming back to the meeting point and share what they learned;
- set the time limit according to your aims and needs, we suggest at least 2 hours. You can set a minimum amount of interviews to be collected or even make it explicitly into a competition, especially if working with younger participants;
- once again remind everyone of how to properly use the recording devices and of the importance of collecting the interviewees' signatures on the privacy consent forms, then make sure that everyone knows when and where to come back to and send them out.

#### 6. Restitution:

After all the teams have come back from the challenge, give them some time (min. 30 minutes) to go through the material they collected and pick a few quotes that they particularly liked or that they feel are a good representation of the people's opinion on the given topics.

If there's enough time and there are the means in the group, you can ask the teams to prepare a short video presentation or a "best of" cut of their interviews, especially if they filmed them or took a lot of pictures as well. Invite then all the teams to share what they have learned in plenary and open up the floor for discussion.

## 7. Panel debate

### The idea behind:

Public debate on a particular topic or problem in front of the audience with moderator and several panelists. It should be ensured that the group of panelists is sufficiently diversified (e.g. gender, nationality, representing different attitudes and approaches to the discussed topic).

### Aim and objectives:

The general aim of this tool is to offer different perspectives and views on some specific issues and encourage participants to express their views and opinions within democratic political culture. Involving participants from different countries and cultures can help you to facilitate the intercultural learning.

### Materials and resources:

To organize this kind of event you would need a good sound equipment - speakers and microphones, depending on the space in which you plan to organize the debate. Organizing discussions in some small spaces with good acoustic quality may not require any sound equipment at all. If you want to reach a larger audience, use the camera and provide livestreaming via social media.

### Good practices:

The moderator should act as a neutral participant in a debate, holds panelists to time limits and tries to keep them from straying off the topic of the debate. Moderator should leave room for questions to keep the audience engaged.



The activity was carried out during event *North meets South: challenges of European integration* (8-11.12.2017, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia) and *Contact Making Seminar* (25-28.10.2018, Sremski Karlovci /Novi Sad, Serbia) as a part of *Re-connecting Europe* project

## **8. Public street event. Organizing activities for participants and visitors of a street event.**

### **Type of tool:**

String of activities lasting a few hours to a whole day

### **Short summary:**

Using the platform of a street event to present results of a specific project, initiative, action or a cause to a larger audience.

### **Behind the tool:**

Celebrations of the Day of Europe in Warsaw (Poland) take form of a parade and a street festival (Schuman Parade and Schumanville) organized for the people that attend the parade. Both events attract young people from all over Poland as well as local citizens and daily tourists in the Polish capital and visitors count on having some fun. Organizers each year invite a variety of institutions, organizations and informal groups to present their activities, draw attention to topics important for European citizens. Participants of *Re-connecting Europe* used the platform to present the topic of solidarity, especially through the idea of volunteering.

### **Aim and objectives:**

Project participants create and develop interactive activities to engage visitors/passersby and focus their attention to a given topic. In case of Schuman Parade and Schumanville the goal was to create dialogue, promote solidarity and reflect on the European project.

### **Methodology:**

Non-formal education and peer-to-peer action. Street festivals attract short, interactive activities engaging multiple senses so as to attract visitors of diverse profiles. Examples: games, question boards, quizzes, give-outs, etc. anything is allowed really as long as it is fun and carries a message.

### **Good practices:**

Presentation and promotion are extremely important as street event visitors are invited to many activities also in other stands or tents. Activities need to be visualized and presented verbally to each passerby as well. Verbal messages need to be short and catchy.

## **Step by step:**

1. Form the group of project participants that would like to present the project results or topic at a street event (for future purposes called “working group”). If the number of project participants is large, it can be divided in several smaller groups. Each group could be in charge of preparing activities for a certain period of time or each could prepare and facilitate one activity;
2. Identify an appropriate street event compatible to the project by topic and contact the organisers;
3. Define the specific message you would like to send out, e.g. disseminating specific project result or tackling a message on a topic of choice;
4. Discuss the conditions at the street event (e.g. what sort of space/venue conditions are available – tents, stands or whether the working group need to provide it on its own, what is the time frame);
5. Discuss the framework, decide on the age group(s) you want to reach out to, brainstorm about the possible activities. Remember that activities need to be interactive as you plan to engage members of a constant flow of passersby/bystanders who would stop for a few minutes and then maybe go on to something else. In order to attract as many people as possible activities need to be replicated indefinitely, over and over again for each individual (group of) visitor. That means activities need to be interesting and fun for you as well, not only for visitors;
6. Prepare a programme of activities minute by minute for the whole duration of the street event / engagement of the working group in the street event;
7. Make a list of materials you need;
8. Prepare a visual presentation of the venue (your stand or tent);
9. Create a working plan of who/when and what needs to be done;



10. Divide the tasks between (smaller groups of) participants.

Remember about:

- *preparations before*: communication with the organiser, purchase of needed materials, transport of materials to the venue, setting up or decorating the stand/tent, promoting the event and activities organized by the working group;
- *on the day*: who facilitates which activity at what time/for how long, documentation of the activities and instant uploads to social media;

11. If the working group is international, make sure that there is always a few people speaking the local language present during each activity;

12. Be prepared to invite participants to take part in the prepared activities actively and constantly so as to reach as many people as possible. Visitors at street events are looking for fun but their attention span is short due to a large number of attractions offered;





### Outcomes:

Promotion of the project itself, dissemination of its results. Opportunity for project participants to present their opinions and ideas to a larger audience and get creative together.

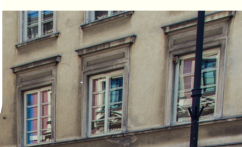
### Evaluation and comments:

Response of visitors taking part in the activities can be a valuable source of feedback for project participants.


### Notes for further use:

Adapt as much as you can to the nature of the street event you take part in. Be prepared for crowds of people asking about the project and the purpose of the activities you offer.

Do not forget to enjoy the event yourself!



The activity was carried out during event *Europe - Mode on: solidarity* on the occasion of the Day of Europe and Schuman Parade (10-12.05.2018, Warsaw, Poland) as a part of *Re-connecting Europe* project



Thanks to this project I've overcome the fear of speaking in public. It inspired me to crash the walls that I had built between me and other people.

VERONICA, ITALY



For me a reconnected Europe is a grass roots Europe. The process of reconnecting is the process of questioning and redefining what we consider European heritage.

ANJA, SERBIA

IT INSPIRED ME TO SEND THE WORD ABOUT THE BENEFITS EUROPE OFFERS. PEOPLE TAKE SO MUCH FOR GRANTED.

Emilio, Germany

TEENAGERS ARE MORE OPEN MINDED THAN I THOUGHT.

Maria, Italy



It was my first time I had participated in such a project - a great chance to go abroad and exchange views with people from other countries. That was an eye-opener

Jakub, Poland

**THIS PROJECT INSPIRED ME TO SPEAK MY MIND OUT, TO DISCOVER MANY POSSIBILITIES. IT INSPIRED ME TO SEEK CONNECTIONS AND EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS THAN MINE, AND TO LEARN FROM THEM.**

Luna, Serbia

**NOW I KNOW THAT AGE OR LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES ARE NOT AN OBSTACLE. YOU CAN FIND A COMMON TOPIC WITH EVERYONE - ALL YOU NEED IS JUST A BIT OF CURIOSITY.**

Ola, Poland

**This is vital – why isn't there more of this ?!**

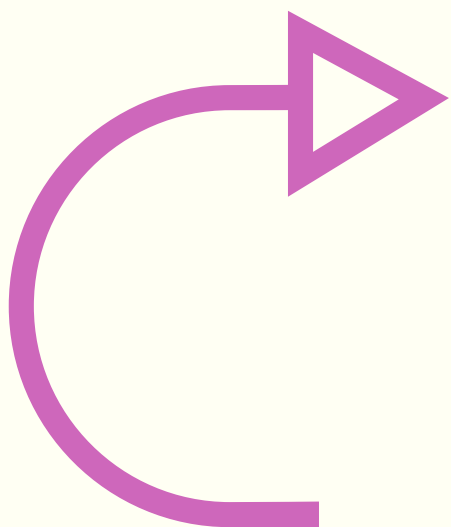
Tobias, Germany

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**#reconneurope**

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