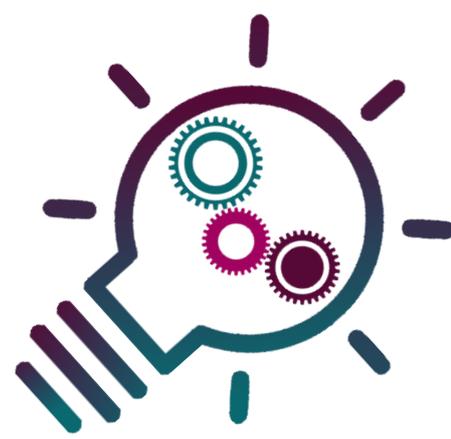


LEADERSHIP



“BLIND SEARCH”

LEADERSHIP, INITIATIVE, RESPONSIBILITY, TRUST

The goal is for young people to learn about leadership and initiative. This activity can also serve as an ‘icebreaker’ type activity to help participants learn each other’s names and to prepare for other activities from the toolkit

The task will help young people to develop their leadership skills, build self-confidence and set the right tasks and instructions to successfully achieve their goals.

The team will learn to trust and rely on the leader to achieve their goals.

Advice: 10-25 participants / 40 min / materials to prepare: large space; blindfolds; soft toys

Instructions:

- The activity can be done with the whole group team or in teams.
- Choose one leader from the group/ each team, and explain the task;
- Blindfold [cover the eyes of] each member except the leader;
- Participants form a line with their hands on the shoulder of the person standing in front of them;
- The leader is the first person in the line. As s/he is not blindfolded, and s/he guides the rest of the group. They can walk around the room with a lot of steps and obstacles to make it more complicated. Objects such as soft toys are scattered around the room and need to be picked up by blindfolded participants;
- The task of the leader is to lead the line so as to pick up all the objects in the room. Whilst moving around the room, the leader makes the line stop so that there are objects at one of the participants' feet. The leader then announces which participant has to get down and find the object at her/his feet. The task is to collect all the objects in the room. The task of the participants is to trust the leader and perform their duties accurately, so that the whole team can reach the goal faster (30 min).



Reflection in the learning community: after the activity, don't forget to make a little reflection with your group. First, ask the leader(s) how it feels to complete the mission, what was easy during the activity and which difficulties were encountered when guiding others? Is a leader's job easy or difficult? Secondly, ask participants to reflect on their journey during the activity – what are their comments on the process?

Participants can discuss the extent to which leadership skills were used in the task. Do all the participants have such abilities? Are they able to lead the team and create trust in themselves? (10 min).

Tips for facilitators

- Before the start of the activity prepare a free space where you can move freely to avoid injury, and make sure participants stay safe while blindfolded;
- Objects on the floor should be soft toys that will not injure the participants;
- You should carry out several rounds of this activity to enable all participants to try the leader role – is it easier for participants who have been blindfolded to guide others if you already know the route and tasks?

