




# Euro-Mediterranean Citizens Forum (3 Colour cultures)

THEME/FOCUS: INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND PERCEPTIONS

 **Group Size** | 15-25    
  **Age Group** | 15+    
  **Total Time** | 180 Minutes    
  **Level of Complexity** | 3

 **Materials Needed** | Coloured crepe paper in blue, green and red colours that can be used for costume making, some clothes, props (glasses, jewellery, hats, scarves). Markers, flipchart, A4 paper, tape,...

 **Keywords** | Intercultural encounters, different perceptions and intercultural sensitivity.

<b>Purpose/ Learning objective</b>	The activity provides the space to reflect upon different perceptions of a same lived experience and promotes the conceptualization of this learning by extracting elements to be considered in other situations.	
<b>Preparation/ Instructions for educator</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Instructions step by step</b>
	10 min	Introduce the exercise, explaining it is a role play simulation, where 3 groups will have a concrete role to which they have to stick till the end of the activity.
	10 min	Divide the participants into three sub-groups, each corresponding to a different colour; green, red and blue (Handout 2)
	30 min	<p>Once in the sub-groups, the task is to read carefully the colour-culture characteristics and to get into the roles. Groups may request your presence and clarifications to fully understand the concrete aspects of their given roles. If you have the support of co-facilitator, each one could support a different group, if you are alone, circulate to each group providing separate clarifications.</p> <p>Participants get time to practice all the behavioral characteristics of their colour-culture as described in their handout (way of touching/ or not touching people, way of talking, etc.)</p> <p>Participants should dress up with the distinctive colour (allow creativity to be expressed while respecting the behavioral given role) The groups may decide on a strategy of communication with the other groups while respecting the behavioral given role.</p>

	15 min	The first meeting starts where all three delegations are gathered in big room, and the facilitator welcomes them. As defined in handout 1, among the 3 groups they should choose 5 board members that will direct the Citizens Forum for the next 5 years. Simulation can last about 15 min (depends of process, can be little bit shorter or longer). The facilitator stops the “meeting” before the groups reach the final agreement.
	10 min	Participants return to their subgroups and fill in the questionnaires
	15 min	All sub-groups are called back in plenary to present their answers to the completed questionnaires. No comments are allowed at this stage (only questions for clarification if needed).  Facilitator can write the main points of the presentation in a table with the 3 colour-cultures.
	15 min	After listening to the other cultures, they go back to sub-groups and discuss new strategy to reach agreement (if there is one), concerning agreement and behavior.
	15 min	All sub-groups are called back in plenary for the final meeting where the agreement has to be finally reached. Leave some time to conclude with a solution, and close the simulation.
	60 min	After closing the simulation start by a de-roling exercise. Participants get out of their roles by taking out their colour identifications and saying their real names. Start the debriefing with everybody in circle. You can find potential debriefing guiding questions in Facilitation tips.
<b>Facilitation tips</b>		<p>For the final debriefing of the exercise you can adapt the following guiding questions to the group. Reporting and Reflection on the Experience:</p> <p>In circle, ask participants to express what are their feelings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened? (if you had to explain to somebody that was not in the room)</li> <li>• Was it easy/difficult to follow your given role?</li> <li>• What surprised you the most from others’ roles? At this moment every group can read their specific role.</li> <li>• What did you think when you heard how the other groups perceived you?</li> </ul> <p>Questions for conceptualization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you think of any similar cases?</li> <li>• How would you react if this case arose in your town / place of residence?</li> <li>• Did the activity alter your attitude at all? Did it bring elements/arguments that you have never considered before?</li> </ul>

<b>Ideas for follow-up</b>	<p>Ask participants to look for cultural, religious, linguistic, minorities in their cities. It would be interesting to consider repeating the questionnaires considering how are these groups perceived by majority and how they feel they are perceived. Consider organizing a meeting/encounter with one of these minority groups in the local reality.</p>
<b>Appendices</b>	<p>With this activity we propose three Handouts that can be adapted according to the groups addressed.</p> <p>Handout 1: the first handout includes the letter addressed to all delegates attending the first Euro-Mediterranean Citizens Forum</p> <p>Handout 2: the second Handout includes the description of the roles of each community attending the meeting (blue, green and red). Each sub-group should only receive the corresponding description.</p> <p>Handout 3: the third handout includes the questionnaire to be completed by each group during the break after the first meeting "intercultural encounter". There is a different questionnaire for each color culture (blue, green and red). Each sub-group should only receive the corresponding questionnaire.</p>
<b>Source</b>	<p>Unknown. Used by Trajectory MTÜ</p>

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HAND-OUT

1

## SITUATION

Dear delegates to the First Euro-Mediterranean Citizens Forum,

On the occasion of this very important historical encounter delegates from the Blue, Green and Red communities came to participate to this First Euro-Mediterranean Citizens Forum. Its main purpose is to choose among the delegates the 5 members of the board that will stay in office for the next 5 years .

The Forum is organized in a plenary setting and will consist on two meetings with a break in between. In the first meeting you will have fifteen minutes to personally meet the delegates from the other communities with whom you are supposed to closely cooperate during the conference.

A coffee break will follow, allowing each delegation to gather to re-analyse the situation and re-design their strategy in the Forum.

After the break, a second meeting with the three delegations will take place again with the concrete task to finally decide on the names of the 5 delegates to be the Citizens Forum board.

You now have thirty minutes to prepare, as a delegation and decide at your strategies before the first meeting starts, after which the Forum technical staff will welcome you for the starting of the event.

Good luck preparing!

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## CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

### GREEN CULTURE

#### Values, beliefs, attitudes

The majority in your community is deeply religious.

All decisions are made by consensus, preceded by serious discussion.

#### Nonverbal characteristic of your communication style

When you talk to strangers, you do not make direct eye contact because you think it can upset them.

When you talk to somebody, you like to keep a slight distance between you (1 m).

#### Verbal characteristic of your communication style

When you discuss something with someone, you avoid direct confrontation.

Silence in conversation reflects a positive and constructive discourse.

#### Norms and customs of business behavior

Men are more intelligent and analytical than women, and you behave accordingly.

In business situations, it is customary for men and women to sit in two separate groups.

#### Greeting and style of addressing people

You address others with "Brothers or Sisters".

Your greeting is "Respect" and "Peace among people".

Your greeting style is soft bow.

## **BLUE CULTURE**

### **Values, beliefs, attitudes**

You believe that main events in life area matter of destiny or fortune.

You never doubt your own instinct: reasoning can be false sometimes, but feelings never make mistakes.

Final decision are most binding when made by people of highest authority.

### **Nonverbal characteristic of your communication style**

You are very flexible about time, because for you "lost time" does not exist.

When you talk to somebody, you make direct eye contact and stand very close to the person.

While you talk to somebody, you often touch them, or hold their hand or shoulder.

### **Verbal characteristic of your communication style**

You very often show your gratitude and very openly express your feelings.

It is normal to interrupt someone when they are talking and it is normal for others to interrupt you in the middle of the speaking.

### **Norms and customs of business behavior**

Women are wiser than men, and behave accordingly.

You avoid conflicts, direct confrontation and unnecessary disagreements.

Greeting and style of addressing people

When you greet someone, you give him a warm hug.

Your greeting words are: "Hello dear".

You address other people only by name and you repeat the name of the person many times in conversation.

## **RED CULTURE**

### **Values, beliefs, attitudes**

You believe that every man is the master of his own destiny and happiness.

Good argument is valued above sentiment or emotions.

It is very important to make all decisions in democratic atmosphere.

### **Nonverbal characteristic of your communication style**

You are very strict with your time and you don't like it being wasted.

You are open in expressing feelings like anger, dissatisfaction and joy.

While talking to someone, you like to have some distance (2 m).

### **Verbal characteristic of your communication style**

You express your ideas and thoughts about something directly and without hesitation.

You ask many questions: good question is more important than any facts.

It is not common to say thank you: people only do what they are happy with anyway.

### **Norms and customs of business behavior**

You welcome conflicts are see them as useful opportunity to come to better decisions and solutions.

Man and woman are equal in your society.

### **Greeting and style of addressing people**

Your typical greeting is strong handshake.

You address others with "Good afternoon".

You address other by surname and it is obligatory to say title (professor, doctor, colleague, student etc).

**GREEN CULTURE**

1. What do you think about your own culture?
2. What do you think about Blue culture?
3. What do you think about Red culture?
4. What do you think Blue culture thinks about your culture?
5. What do you think Red culture thinks about your culture?
6. What do you think Blue culture thinks about themselves?
7. What do you think Red culture thinks about themselves?

**BLUE CULTURE**

1. What do you think about your own culture?
2. What do you think about Green culture?
3. What do you think about Red culture?
4. What do you think Green culture thinks about your culture?
5. What do you think Red culture thinks about your culture?
6. What do you think Green culture thinks about themselves?
7. What do you think Red culture thinks about themselves?

**RED CULTURE**

1. What do you think about your own culture?
2. What do you think about Blue culture?
3. What do you think about Green culture?
4. What do you think Blue culture thinks about your culture?
5. What do you think Green culture thinks about your culture?
6. What do you think Blue culture thinks about themselves?
7. What do you think Green culture thinks about themselves?