

# Europe in Perspective

Transnational Training on  
Diversity in Cultural Learning

## Training Programme

### Arrival Day – Here we are!

Day (0)

#### 4 Are you a stereotype?

**Activity**

45 min

**Useful for:**

Icebreaker, some insight into the world of stereotypes, revealing the mechanisms of making stereotypes

**Resources needed:**

As many A6 or A5 size cardboard cards as there are participants. Marker pens.

**Room layout:**

Chairs in a circle. One chair for each participant and facilitator.

**What Happens**

Each participant is issued with a card and pen. Participants are then asked to write the name of the country they come from on the card and place it on the floor in the middle of the room (the name of the country facing up). Then, they are asked to pick another card, which does not have the name of their country written on it. On the back of the card they should write five statements which they think, know or feel are true about the **people** of that country. The cards are then collected, and each country group is given the cards which describe their countries. They have a few minutes to consider the statements. They then should read out the statements and comment on them. Every participant should have the opportunity to comment.

In doing so they should reflect on whether they feel that the statements are accurate and/or true, how reflective they are of the most important characteristics of the people from their country, what they feel was omitted, and

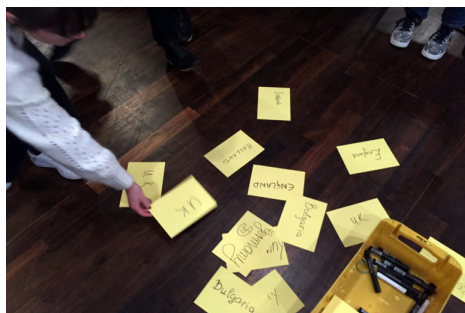
what they would like to add. They should also describe how they feel about being described in that way.

### **Note for facilitators:**

In the reflection at the end of the activity, the facilitator should try to highlight the complexity of stereotypes. Many are largely true, many are flattering (participants on the first evening will tend to say nice things about each other!). Many people believe they confirm to the stereotypes. The exercise will also tend to reveal how little we know about people in other European countries. Facilitators should also beware that some people might get upset by what they hear about their countries, but this is an opportunity to explore how we know what we know.

»This exercise has many layers and that´s what makes it such an interesting thing to do. What do you know about the other, what are your stereotypes or even prejudices? What about other people's ideas about your country? What is true, half true or not true at all? Or maybe hard to acknowledge or even see about yourself. How is it to write something negative about another country? How does it make you feel to hear negative things about your country? Does it make you angry, defensive?«

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