

# Europe in Perspective

Transnational Training on  
Diversity in Cultural Learning

## Training Programme

### Getting to know Europe and each other better

Day **1**

#### 6 Exploring Europe 2

**Activity**

75 min

**Useful for:**

Beginning to explore the relationship between culture and identity

**Resources needed:**

Magazines and newspapers with images (ideally in different languages- ask the participant to each bring one magazine to the course), large sheets of paper, coloured pens, sticky tape, glue, scissors

**Room layout:**

Tables with 4-5 chairs around each, resources on the tables

**What happens?**

The facilitator divides the participants into groups of around four people. When the groups have found a table and sat down, he or she asks the participants to close their eyes. He or she asks them to think about Europe – what sounds come to their minds? How does Europe make them feel? What images come to their mind? He or she asks them to open their eyes again and to begin to look through all the magazines and newspapers to find and cut out images which make them think of Europe.

Then in their groups they should start discussing how they imagine European culture. What is it? What does it look like? As their ideas begin to form they should collaboratively start to create a collage representing European Culture made up of images they can find in the newspapers and magazines. Together their collage should represent Europe's culture, its people and cultural values,

cultural images, and symbols. They can use any images they find in newspapers and magazines. They can stick these images onto the large sheets of paper, and add to it by drawing images or use other objects as they find them.

After 45 mins each collage is held up or pinned to the wall so that the group can presents their collage to all the other participants pointing out the most important aspects of their (art) work. This could be done like a guided tour

In the reflection, participants should consider:

- Was this an easy or hard activity?
- How were the multiple cultures and sub-cultures reflected in the collage?
- What assumptions about Europe lie beneath the collages?
- How male or female is Europe? How individualist or collective?
- Is Europe predominantly forward looking or backward looking?
- How important is family and is this reflected in the collages?
- Are there religious elements reflected in the cultural values and norms?
- What kind of people could fit well into these visions of Europe?
- What changes might some people have to make to be part of Europe?
- When does it become difficult to accommodate others?
- How do people adapt to a changing cultural landscape?

»It was interesting how we tend to stick to stereotypical images of certain countries and their cultures. Besides, it was not easy to find images in the magazines which represented people in not stereotypical ways.«

Gerda Maiwald, Bundesakademie für Kulturelle Bildung Wolfenbüttel, Germany

»It is always fascinating to see the different collages: rich, colourful, creative.«

Regula Nyffeler, PHBern, Switzerland





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