



# Guide for Organizing the Socialization Activities

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In the EDUC8 program, the encounter between students plays a key role, which is explicitly implemented in the socialization activities. These activities take place outside the classroom setting and provide young people with opportunities to meet each other in a fun and easy way.

The socialization activities are envisioned to take place in the same weeks as the *deep modules* and the related in-class discussions. Try to organize 2-4 activities in this period. If necessary, the final activities can also take place in the two weeks following the last deep module and in-class discussion.

The socialization activities can be seen as an extension of the *deep modules* and in-class discussions. Through the encounters in the classroom or the regular meeting moments as well as outside this familiar context, students/participants can get to know each other in new ways and new relationships can grow or existing relationships can be deepened.

If the lessons are conducted in a school setting, the socialization activities can possibly be combined with existing extracurricular activities. The activities can also be organized together with one or a few students/participants. However, teachers or supervisors should remain in charge of the activities so that the purpose of the activities is not forgotten in the process.

Ideally, efforts should be made to facilitate continued contact between the students/participants after the project ends. While the aim is obviously not to force the students/participants to have continued interaction, possibly some barriers that prevent further interaction can be removed. This is certainly the case for implementations in prison, in interfaith meetings, etc.

It is important to think about how the groups of students/participants normally relate to each other. Students/participants who do not know one another (well) may be brought together through simple activities. However, if the participants already know each other very well and have a lot of interaction with each other, other activities should be selected to make this component useful.

Finally, it is essential to align the activities with the background and the level of the youth. Indeed, some activities may require intrinsic interest or certain skills. Furthermore, it is important to foster motivation to participate. Involving a student/participant in the preparation can ensure that the activities are well adapted to the motivation of the students.

## PRINCIPLES

- Activities should be deliberately chosen as a function of establishing or strengthening peer relationships. However, the activities should be sufficiently attractive to avoid being perceived as mandatory or burdensome.
- Activities should be enjoyable in nature; knowledge transfer is not the primary goal.
- Activities that lead to collaboration and/or lots of conversation are the best fit for the project.
- 'Out of class' means that the activities take place outside of normal lessons. In a school context, this means that they should be planned at times when students/participants do not normally have classes.
- Provide space for students/participants to just be themselves, but organize activities in such a manner that they challenge the students/participants to leave their comfort zone.
- Take into account the diversity of students/participants. Make sure that both extroverted and introverted students/participants can show their best side during the activities. This can be achieved by organizing different types of activities

## PLANNING THE ACTIVITIES

- It is important to carefully consider in advance which activities are possible within the context of the school or organization.
- You can also assess in advance which activities will be of interest to the students/participants.
- In order for activities to be accessible, ensure that they do not take too long. In a school setting, activities should ideally be limited to 30-45 minutes. Of course, it is also possible to organize activities that require more time, but these should then be very enjoyable and attractive.
- For each activity, give the students/participants the choice whether or not to participate. Thus, leave the option for students/participants not to participate, but do explicitly invite them.
- For small group activities, divide the students/participants in groups in advance to ensure diversity within each group.

## EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

- Let the students cook a meal together.
- Organize a sports event or a small sports tournament.
- Let the students/participants do some volunteer work in groups to help people in the neighborhood.
- Let the students/participants design and create a mural together.
- Let the students/participants take on the challenge of an (online) escape room in groups.
- Visit a museum.
- Organize a game afternoon/hour.
- Organize a pub quiz.
- Record a video together.
- Visit another city together

