

LET'S TALK (ONLINE)

AIM:

The aim of the method is to open up a discussion about how online communication intertwines with the offline world and what are the commonalities and differences between communication online and face to face. The method focuses on issues and problematic situations that might occur when young people meet online. The individual dialogs include aspects and specific situations described by young people in a questionnaire survey as annoying, unpleasant, and discouraging. The aim of presenting problematic dialogs verbally is to get a deeper insight into the fact that the written form evokes the same emotional reactions and other consequences as offline communication.

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

main activity / follow-up activity

TARGET GROUP:

group size: 5 to 25 participants
age: 15–25 years
gender: not relevant

DURATION:

- ▶ The recommended time to work with one dialog is 60–90 minutes.

ACCESSIBILITY:

- ▶ Two trainers act out a simple scene. The trainers do not need to have experience with acting.
- ▶ Participants will work in groups and present and discuss the results.

MATERIALS:

- ▶ printed dialogs for trainers and participants

PROCESS:

Trainers act out a scene using a selected dialog. They can read the dialog from printed materials. Next, they pose questions to the group that also has a copy of the dialog. They can ask for example the following questions:

How do people in the dialog feel? Why do they feel like that?

Has any problem arisen in the communication between them? What was it?

Participants will then have a chance to change the dialog so that people involved in it do not end up feeling bad.

Next, depending on the participants' and trainers' preferences, the groups may read the changes they suggest or the trainers reenact the "corrected" dialogs.

The group discusses why were certain changes made and what other changes could be made and why.

REFLECTION:

- ▶ How did you feel hearing the original and "corrected" dialogs?
- ▶ Do you think that a situation like that could actually happen?
- ▶ Do you think such situations happen often?
- ▶ Did something similar happen to you that you would like to / could share?