

TARGET GROUPS	12+
TITLE	STARTING POSITIONS
RUNNING TIME	45-60 min
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<p>Show different social starting positions and possibilities for individuals because of their belonging to different groups. Make people aware, that there are some factors, which can make it more difficult to be successful in life.</p> <p>The main objective is to make clear that people start from different positions into their lives without their own responsibility. Most of the starting position element cannot be changes on the free will of the respective person.</p>
MATERIALS	List of attributes
PREPARATION	Needs lots of space, preferably outside
IMPLEMENTATION	<p>Step 1</p> <p>Ask the participants to stand in one line, holding each others hands. Tell them that you will read different categories and that they have to make a step forward or backward, according to what you tell them to do. They should seek not to let go their neighbour's hands too easily.</p> <p>Important: Make clear that participants can use their right to stay where they are, if one of the categories is touching too deep emotions or things they don't want to come out. In some cases you even have to drop some of the attributes on the list, because they could be too</p>

	<p>critical for the group. For example to talk about sexual orientation can be a taboo in some societies or force people to out themselves, also if they wouldn't do it normally. Questions about violence or drug abuse in the family can upset people and be too emotionally touching.</p> <p>Step 2</p> <p>Then read the following attributes, saying whether they should step one step FORWARD or BACKWARD like this: "If you are a man, take one step forward!" etc.</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>you are man - forward</p> <p>you are woman - backward</p> <p>born in Slovenia*/Europe (*land in which the training is conducted) - forward</p> <p>parents were born in Slovenia*/ Europe - forward</p> <p>grandparents were born in Slovenia*/ Europe - forward</p> <p>first language is Slovenian*/European language - forward</p> <p>first language is no European language - backward</p> <p>your family consisted of more than three children - backward</p> <p>you had many books in your parents house - forward</p> <p>at least one of your parents finished high</p>
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Gefördert durch



Erasmus+
Schulbildung

	<p>school - forward</p> <p>at least one of your parents has an university degree - forward</p> <p>you are Christian - forward</p> <p>You are Jewish - backward</p> <p>you are Muslim - backward</p> <p>you are Buddhist - backward</p> <p>your parents are divorced - backward</p> <p>there is/was alcohol or drug abuse in the family- backward</p> <p>there was a suicide in the family - backward</p> <p>any kind of violence in the family - backward</p> <p>you are married - forward</p> <p>divorced - backward</p> <p>you have children - backward</p> <p>you are heterosexual - forward</p> <p>you are gay, lesbian - backward</p> <p>you have any kind of disability or illness - backward</p> <p>problems with alcohol or drugs - backward</p> <p>you are or have been at least once jobless - backward</p>
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	<p>you have high school degree - forward</p> <p>university degree - forward</p> <p>learned a profession - forward</p> <p>you know a second language - forward</p> <p>you know more than two languages - forward</p> <p>you were a class speaker, school speaker - forward</p> <p>Step 3</p> <p>In the end, you get very different positions of people and in some cases it becomes very difficult or impossible for some people to keep their hands still connected.</p> <p>Ask the participants to look around and see who is standing in the front positions or in the back positions.</p> <p>Step 4</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>You can tell the participants, that you will count until three and than they should start to run to the wall in front of them where a "prize" is waiting.</p>
<p>ROLE OF THE TEACHER</p>	<p>Facilitates the process.</p>
<p>POSSIBLE RISKS & HOW TO HANDLE THEM</p>	<p>! THIS IS A VERY STRONG ACTIVITY – not possible for all groups. It requires a big portion of mutual trust and discipline within the group.</p>

	<p>In some cases you even have to drop some of the attributes on the list, because they could be too critical for the group. For example to talk about sexual orientation can be a taboo in some societies or force people to out themselves, also if they wouldn't do it normally. Questions about violence or drug abuse in the family can upset people and be too emotionally touching.</p>
<p>FEEDBACK TOOL</p>	<p>Final discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How did you feel standing far in the front or in the back? -How did you feel, when it was not longer possible to keep hands? -Did somebody learn something new about her-/himself? -What was difficult about the activity? -What are the common characteristics of the attributes I read to you? -Was it really me who just invented these attributes or were they taken from a real system? -Do you think that you were always sent into the right direction (backward/forward) by me or not? <p>Running part:</p> <p>It becomes very clear, that it's easier from the front positions to reach the wall.</p> <p>But make also clear, that it's maybe more difficult to reach it from the back positions, but not impossible.</p> <p>Debrief:</p>

	<p>In the end, you can explain that the exercise is also a demonstration of the labour market, ie. access to the labour market. It show pretty well what are the positive measures and how they work; with them we actually achieve that we all have at least partially similar starting positions.</p> <p>You will often have a fairly homogeneous group in front of you, but in this exercise of Starting Positions it will turn out that they "travelled" different lengths - some have had to make more effort than others. Emphasize that those with good starting positions have a choice - they may even have chosen not to try and picked a worse social position; others did not even have this choice. Likewise, you can run for the "prize" and come first, even from the back positions, but it's much harder than someone who will just reach them from the foreground.</p> <p>To conclude, we can say that as a society we have to strive to change categories so that for example our daughters will take a step forward and not a step back in the same exercise in 20 years' time.</p>
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Source:

Schindlauer Dieter and others: Trainer Manual Discrimination Slovenia, 2006; adapted from Compass manual exercise, Take a step forward