

Project Number: 2019-1-PT01-KA203-060772

## **LET'S WRITE OUR OWN STORY!**

Group size: 12 (minimum)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

## Objectives:

- Cultivate the imagination and creativity of the participants;
- Work collectively for a common goal;
- Foster youth engagement and social inclusion;
- Become familiar with the art of theatre;
- Promote critical thinking;
- Spend leisure time and have fun.

## Description:

- Engage a group of young persons both locals and third country nationals (refugees).
- The activity can be carried out either online or in-person.
- During the preparation phase, ask the refugees to indicate some information regarding possible difficulties and challenges they have faced during the journey from their homeland to the host country.
- Write down in different pieces of paper the personal information collected by the refugees. Categorise and put the pieces of paper in 3 different boxes following a practical categorization. The first box will include specific roles (e.g. family/unaccompanied minors/ brothers/ friends etc). The second box will include the various conditions faced in one's homeland (forced to leave one's country/ quit college or university/ be homeless/ left back all belongings etc). The third box will include events and occasions faced in the host country (racist attack/ rejection from school/ got admitted in college/ got a new job/ difficulties faced during the examination and the granting of refugee status etc).
- Split the participants into mixed groups of 4-5 persons, depending on the number of participants.
- Nominate one representative per participating group. Each representative should randomly choose one piece of paper from each one of the 3 different boxes.
- Each group should read carefully the information mentioned in the selected pieces of papers and develop a fictional story based on the information provided. Participants in each group are asked to put themselves in the situation described in order to produce a story based on personal narratives through experiential process.
- After finishing with their stories, the groups share their stories to the rest of the participants.



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## Debriefing - Evaluation:

- The created stories are a combination of real and fictional information. Refugees who participate in the activity are encouraged to take the floor and share their real stories, elaborating on the real events and expressing their feelings.
- Local participants are encouraged to reflect and comment how they felt when they tried to put themselves in the refugees' "shoes".
- The interaction among the participants fosters mutual understanding. It can improve understanding of a situation and encourage empathy towards the people who are portrayed. It can also draw out what participants think about other refugees through the chance they have to imitate them.