



Beyond Borders: Building Together



Main topic & European value

- ◆ **Core topics:** Intercultural dialogue and integration: building cohesive communities across Europe.
- ◆ **European values:** Solidarity, equality, inclusion, cultural diversity and democratic participation.



Educational objectives

- ✓ Explain the importance of intercultural dialogue in strengthening social cohesion across Europe.
- ✓ Recognise how cultural diversity enriches communities and contributes to mutual understanding.
- ✓ Identify stereotypes, unconscious biases and communication barriers that may affect cooperation.
- ✓ Apply empathy, active listening and respectful communication when resolving intercultural challenges.
- ✓ Promote inclusion, equal participation and shared responsibility within diverse groups.
- ✓ Evaluate how individual decisions influence cooperation, trust and community cohesion.



Scenario overview

The player becomes the **Project Coordinator** of a newly funded **Erasmus+ Youth Exchange** bringing together young people from different European countries. Hosted in a multicultural town, the project promotes intercultural dialogue, inclusion and European citizenship.

Throughout the exchange, participants face communication barriers, cultural differences and practical challenges. The player organises activities, resolves conflicts, manages limited resources and cooperates with youth workers, local organisations and community members to create an inclusive environment.

Every decision influences trust, cooperation and group cohesion. Success depends on helping participants value diversity as a shared strength and build lasting intercultural understanding.



Core mechanics & tasks

- ◆ **Time progression:** The game follows the stages of an Erasmus+ Youth Exchange, introducing new challenges and opportunities for intercultural learning.
- ◆ **Activity planning:** The player organises workshops and community activities that strengthen trust and intercultural understanding.
- ◆ **Branching dialogue choices:** Conversations with participants and partners influence cooperation and conflict resolution.
- ◆ **Conflict mediation:** The player resolves misunderstandings by listening to different perspectives and choosing fair, inclusive solutions.
- ◆ **Resource management:** The player balances budget, time and accessibility while responding to unexpected challenges.
- ◆ **Dynamic event cards:** Unexpected events require flexible and inclusive decision-making.
- ◆ **Group cohesion dashboard:** The player monitors engagement, inclusion, teamwork and participant satisfaction.
- ◆ **Multiple endings:** The player's decisions shape the long-term impact of the Erasmus+ project.
 - **United in Diversity** – Participants build lasting friendships and remain engaged in European initiatives.

- **Stronger Together** – The exchange strengthens cooperation between participants and the local community.
- **Missed Opportunities** – Limited cooperation reduces the project's long-term impact.
- **Divided Voices** – Poor communication weakens trust and participation.



Player role

The player is the **Project Coordinator** of an Erasmus+ Youth Exchange, responsible for organising activities, supporting participants and creating an inclusive environment. By managing resources, facilitating dialogue and resolving conflicts, the player promotes intercultural understanding, cooperation and democratic participation.



NPC profiles

Name	Role in the story & function in the gameplay	Personality traits
Elena Petrović	Experienced youth worker and mentor who supports the player throughout the exchange.	Supportive, patient, open-minded
Lucas Meyer	Organised participant from Germany who values teamwork but struggles with different working styles.	Responsible, organised, pragmatic
Sofia Rossi	Creative participant who encourages group interaction through cultural activities.	Creative, outgoing, enthusiastic
Maja Kowalska	Local volunteer connecting participants with the community.	Friendly, empathetic, community-oriented
Ahmed Hassan	International participant facing language and cultural barriers.	Curious, respectful, resilient
Clara Dubois	Community organisation representative supporting local cooperation.	Cooperative, thoughtful, diplomatic
David Novak	Reserved participant who may become more open through the player's decisions.	Reserved, cautious, honest



Dialogue options, choices & consequences

Dialogue or dilemma	Available options (2-3)	Short-term & long-term consequences
During a group activity, several participants naturally form groups with people from their own countries, leaving others feeling excluded.	- Encourage mixed international teams. - Let participants choose their own groups. - Organise an icebreaker before continuing the activity.	Mixed teams strengthen cooperation, while familiar groups limit intercultural interaction.
A misunderstanding arises because participants interpret the same behaviour differently due to cultural differences.	- Facilitate an open group discussion. - Speak privately with each participant before suggesting a solution. - Ignore the situation, hoping it will resolve itself.	Open dialogue builds trust, while ignoring conflicts weakens group cohesion.
The project budget only allows one additional activity during the exchange.	- Organise an intercultural evening where participants share their traditions. - Arrange a community volunteering activity with local residents. - Let participants vote on how to use the remaining budget.	Different activities develop different competences, while shared decision-making increases engagement.
One participant rarely joins group discussions because they lack confidence communicating in English.	- Encourage alternative ways to participate, such as smaller group activities. - Ask more confident participants to support them. - Continue the programme without making any adjustments.	Inclusive support improves confidence, while lack of support may lead to exclusion.

A local community organisation invites the group to participate in a cultural event that conflicts with the original programme.	○ Adapt the schedule to include the community event. ○ Keep the original programme unchanged. ○ Ask participants to decide together which activity they prefer.	Shared decision-making and community involvement strengthen participation and project impact.
During the final evaluation, participants disagree about whether the project achieved its goals.	○ Organise a reflection session where everyone can share their experiences. ○ Collect anonymous feedback before discussing improvements. ○ End the project without further discussion.	Reflection supports learning and future improvement, while skipping it reduces participant satisfaction.



Summary, debriefing & reflection questions

- ◆ Which activities were the most effective in encouraging intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding?
- ◆ What challenges did you face when balancing the needs and expectations of participants from different backgrounds?
- ◆ Why are inclusion, empathy and respectful communication essential for building cohesive communities?
- ◆ How did democratic participation improve decision-making throughout the project?
- ◆ If you coordinated the project again, what would you do differently to create an even more inclusive and successful exchange?



References & additional resources

- ✦ European Commission. (2025). *Erasmus+ Programme Guide* 2025. <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide>



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- ✦ SALTO-YOUTH. (n.d.). *Intercultural Learning Resources*. <https://www.salto-youth.net>
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