

Organization and country: INPRO, Czech Republic

Name of the activity: Save Your Items

Overview (What I am going to learn?): You are going to learn to come to an agreement with your co-workers and if you will be in the leading role, you are going to learn to take responsibility for your decisions that are made under pressure.

Objective (What am I going to learn it for?): The benefit of this game is that colleagues will be able to communicate and express their priorities and agree on their list with other members of their team. They will collectively take responsibility for their decision as well as the team leader will learn to take responsibility for others. During this activity you will practice the planning skills that are necessary for everyone who would like to lead a project or does it already.

Materials: Paper, pencils

Time: Time depends on the number of participants; however, you can set a time limit to make this activity more challenging (with time limit, one game is about 10 minutes).

Target group: Anyone can take part in this activity; however, it would be better if daily life colleagues are in the same team. Maximum people recommended: 10.

Instructions for facilitators

The aim of this game is to both, for leaders to learn how to take responsibility for decisions made in the group and for the rest of the group to learn how to let one person – leader – to make decisions.

One of the participants will be the leader (s/he can be chosen by the group or this role can be assigned) and s/he will be deciding what will remain on a list of items that will be taken by the team to an island.

TIP!: To make this activity more challenging, you can set timer so that there is only limited time for the decisions to be made. When individuals are brainstorming their lists, you can give them 1 minute. When they will be creating a common list together from their individual lists, you can give them 5 minutes (but you can also consider time based on the number of participants). As the leader is

approving the list of items that will be taken by the whole team, the time is set to 1 minute only so s/he will have to act quickly.

Groups should not be too big, maximum of 10 participants is recommended.

Tasks and procedure:

Imagine that there is an emergency situation and you and your co-workers must escape to a safe place – an island. Decide what items you would take with.

Firstly, each member of the group should make his/her own list of 5 items that they would take with them, and it can be anything. Once they are finished, the whole group will create one common list of items based on the individual lists. The number of items on the list should be lower by one than the number of participants (e.g., in case of 10 players, the common list will include 9 items). During the process on creating the common lists, they should come to an agreement on what items they will take.

Once this common list is made, 1 member of the team, who appointed a leader, will lower the number of items by one (for increase difficulty lower the items by two) and decide whether s/he will approve the final list. This way they will take responsibility for the whole group that is escaping to the safe place.

TIP!: Measure the time during the whole process to create more pressure on the participants. If the group does not come to a conclusion during the set time, they did not get it through the emergency situation.

Conclusion and evaluation:

With this activity one will learn to come to an agreement with colleagues, to take responsibility for the decisions as a group (deciding what is necessary to take with) and also to take responsibility for the whole group.

After the activity is finished, you should talk to the participants and asked them if they really agreed to everything what was done or if they disagree and can point out things with which they do not agree with. Ask them specifically how they felt about their leader when s/he was taking the final decision. Also, the leader should state how s/he felt about being responsible for the whole group.