

Workshop: “Team? Of course we are a team!” – but how when living far apart from each other?

Trainer: Peter HOFMANN

Workshop content/theme

Working together in teams when living far apart from each other

Aims

- Experiencing creating a common product when direct communication is very limited
- Identifying the essence of team work
- Understanding which attitudes and behaviour support teamwork in such circumstances

Method(s)/Approach

Step-by-step approach:

- Brainstorming on “Good teamwork is when.....”
- Problem-solving exercise “The Bridge” – In this exercise you have two small teams who together have to build a paper-bridge crossing a gap of 90cm. Each team has to construct half of the bridge which at the end have to fit together to be one. Each team works in a different room. Three times for 2min each one representative of each group can meet to agree on the common plan.
- Debriefing of the exercise

Further tips, sources, resource material or links

For the details of the “Bridge-exercise” and other similar methods see:

www.salto-youth.net/toolbox/

→ **Buidling Bridges:** http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-tool/?search=bridge&type_id%5B%5D=2&date_from=2003-10-01&date_to=2008-10-31

Impressions, Outcomes

The exercise created strong emotions in some participants because they could not manage to construct one bridge. The reflection on the process brought very good conclusions and hence learning outcomes:

- Teamwork means listening to and respecting everybody’s opinion.
- Plan your communication and project well before starting.
- Especially when speaking in a foreign language to each other – make sure you have really understood what was agreed. Better checking twice!