

## **INTERCULTURAL TEST "LET'S TALK ABOUT ...YOUR INTERCULTURAL PROFILE" (DRIES DELISSEN JACOBS)**

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### **OBJECTIVE:**

Mutual understanding of participants in each inter-cultural background, both personal and nation-bound

**Type of method:** group discussion

**Group size:** 4-20

**Time planning:** 30min – 2hrs, depending on depth of discussion

**Materials available:** Powerpoint, beamer

**Preparation:** Set room to facilitate group discussion

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME:**

#### ***Introduction:***

Create atmosphere where participants feel comfortable to express their experiences and triggered to challenge each others points of view

Emphasize the purpose of the exercise and ask everyone explicitly to agree on rules to be handled during the discussion:

- The mere purpose of the exercise is to get to know each others point of view, not to judge or condemn personal convictions.
- Everyone should be allowed to express his/her experiences or thoughts, in a human and respectful way.
- Racist talk is not allowed.

!Do not start when participants don't agree on these guidelines. Consensus is necessary to ensure the chance of success of the exercise. !

#### ***Discussion:***

10 multiple-choice questions on intercultural situations have to be answered.

Each answer is linked with a certain score which in the end results in 4 possible intercultural profiles (20 pt scale)

In the end each participant gets to know his/her own profile, however the main goal of the exercise should be discussion and experience exchange among participants. For this reason the trainers main role is to challenge participants to contextualize their answers and stimulate debate.

**Reflection:**

When the profiles are assigned, ask how participants evaluate the exercise. What did they learn? Do this spontaneously, by way of ending the debate.

Nadat de profielen zijn vastgesteld, bevraag de deelnemers over hun ervaring met de oefening. Wat hebben ze geleerd? Gebeurde dit spontaan, tijdens of na de discussie?

**NOTE FOR THE TRAINER:**

Train yourself on guiding group discussion.

Make sure that everyone is given the chance to contribute to the process.

Prepare some back-up questions by which participants are triggered to explore each of the 10 topics further during the group discussion.

Bereidt een aantal extra vragen waardoor deelnemers geprikkeld worden om de 10 thema's verder te verkennen tijdens de discussie.

**NOTE FOR THE PARTICIPANTS:**

See step 1: consensus on guidelines.

Use pen and paper to write down the 10 answers and calculate score.

**DEBRIEFING AND EVALUATION:**

When the profiles are assigned, ask how participants evaluate the exercise. What did they learn? Do this spontaneously, by way of ending the debate.

**EXTRA INFO:**

Exercise based on the test 'Typisch Vlaams! Ik en de gekleurde samenleving' by Kerkwerk Multicultureel Samenleven, Brussel [[www.kms.be](http://www.kms.be)]

**ADDITIONAL:**

- The Test

## **ADDITIONAL 1 : THE TEST**

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- 1 - *Your organization is organizing a dinner for its members. The menu consists of pork and a variety of dark beers. Many guests are vegetarian, some Muslim or Jew. What do you do?*

- A. I personally suggest to put the pig on the spit and insist on flaming the meat with brandy.*
- B. I really would not know what the problem is.*
- C. I address the organizer and remind him/her about the diversity of the guests.*
- D. I make a pamphlet in which I ask everyone to boycott the dinner.*

- 2 - *Do you look surprised if someone has troubles to express himself in your national language?*

- A. Yes, but only if it is someone who speaks a local, regional dialect!*
- B. I can't stand the fact that people do not speak our national language perfectly after living in our country for a few years. I am a linguistic genius who manages to speak foreign languages perfectly within a couple of months.*
- C. No, I am glad that people try to speak our language. Nothing comes naturally.*
- D. No problem, I love strange accents.*

- 3 - *I think all people with white skin...*

- A. ...are all folk-music addicts.*
- B. ... aren't really different from people of colour.*
- C. ... live in Europe.*
- D. ... stood on the first row when God handed out intellect, beauty, constancy, reliability and integrity.*

- 4 - *One day your son/daughter comes home with his/her new South American lover...How do you react?*

- A. I immediately look for my agenda to plan a date for their wedding.*
- B. Finally! My son/daughter found someone. I wish them all the best.*
- C. I warn my son/daughter for the difficulties of a mixed relationship and suspect that their love will not last very long.*
- D. While screaming I run to the doctor and ask for a sedative (= calming medicine).*

- 5 - *During the coffee break at work you notice that your company barely employs people of different cultural origin. What do you do?*

- A. I think: 'Strange, few migrants are working here.' Then I take a sip of my coffee and start to talk about the weather.*
- B. I think to myself that people from ethnic minorities do not speak our language good enough and therefore do not belong at my company.*

- C. *I refuse to continue working and look for someone of an ethnic minority group to take over my job.*
- D. *I find it remarkable and ask my boss if he/she is aware of this.*
- 6 - *With which statement do you most agree?*
- A. *The more cultures in my street, the better!*
- B. *In my street we all are neighbours of each other, no matter what colour or religion.*
- C. *As long as not too many immigrants come living in my street it's okay.*
- D. *Foreigners in my street? Never!*
- 7 - *The teacher of your children is wearing a headscarf (as a symbol of her Muslim identity).*
- A. *I think: "Time to search for those good old threatening letters!"*
- B. *Fantastic! I hope for a quick contact with this authentic Muslim woman.*
- C. *No problem for me, as long as she's a good teacher.*
- D. *I find it a strange decision by the school. Hopefully it won't cause any problems.*
- 8 - *Walking down the street you notice a person with an Asian appearance approaching. What do you do?*
- A. *I greet the person and give him/her a warm welcome in my country.*
- B. *I just walk by. There's nothing going on, right?*
- C. *I unconsciously hold my purse a little tighter to my body.*
- D. *I am very nervous and start to sweat heavily. I cross the street so that we do not have to cross.*
- 9 - *You're waiting for your children in front of their school with several North African mothers. What do you do?*
- A. *I say loud and very clear: "Hello! Nice weather today , everything all right?"*
- B. *I have a chat with the North African mothers on the latest school trip and the rigorous maths teacher.*
- C. *I think: "If they do not come to me, I won't approach them either."*
- D. *I think: "Why should I talk to them, they probably won't even understand me."*
- 10 - *You hear a racist remark in an organization from which you are a member. What do you do?*
- A. *I insist on publishing the remark in our monthly newsletter as 'quote of the month'.*
- B. *I curse at the person and force him/her into silence.*
- C. *I ask for the reason why he/she makes such a remark and try to find valuable arguments to counter his/her view.*
- D. *I say nothing and give no further attention to it.*

### **SCORE 13+**

'What comes from afar, tastes better' is your favourite saying. You have an excessive interest in people with a different ethnic-cultural background. **You tend to glorify everything that is 'culturally different'**. In your opinion, someone of a different origin can do little or nothing wrong. You have a weak spot for these people and always give them a warm welcome. In case of conflict you put the cause to yourself rather than the other. They have problems, we the solutions.

**Realize that all cultures consist of people with different views, which may not always correspond to yours.**

### **SCORE 8- 13**

**You consider our multicultural society as an ordinary everyday phenomenon.** You realize that this way of living together is the future. You never use terms as 'foreigner' or 'illegal' to refer to people with a different ethnic origin. You aren't passively waiting for changes to come but instead you try on your own way to contribute to the intercultural site: by building bridges instead of creating walls.

**You have a realistic view on the multicultural society.**

### **SCORE 3-7**

You think in a mainly black and white ways about our coloured society. In fact, you do not worry too much about your home-, work- or living environment. The most of your friends and contacts are people from the same ethnic origin as you. Investing in relationships with people of another religion, belief or culture, is not your thing. You prefer to remain within the safe boundaries of your own community. If you agree on going multicultural, at its best it will be in a culinary way.

**Try to have a look across the cultural wall and get in touch with people who have a different view on things than you do.**

### **SCORE -3**

**You have a very negative view on living together with people of other cultures.** You are convinced that this can only go wrong. Terms such as 'multiculturalism' and 'diversity' are unknown to you. You have a lot of prejudices which are only strengthened by rare contacts with people from other cultures or religions. Not only you are afraid of their presence, you would rather exclude them from your society.

**Keep in mind that people in all cultures share the same desires and feelings. Really, the differences aren't as big as you think!**