



Project Actors Community in Europe

Title: Ice Breakers

Topic: Manage People

Subtopic/requirement: Opening the kick off meeting

Keywords (Tags): Kick off meeting, Teambuilding

Short text (max. 400 characters):

The Kick off meeting is a crucial moment for the success of the project. Project partners will commit to the project and understand what is expected from them. It should not only be about tasks and rules, but also the moment when the team is being created. It is important then to break the ice and let people meeting each other in a relaxed and effective way. Of course ice breakers can be useful also to open a workshop, a course and why not a BarCamp!

Long Text (max. 1300 characters)

Description/Rationale:

The first meeting of a transnational project, is of extreme importance, as during the meeting the contents and administrative aspects are discussed, but also because it is an occasion to establish the basis for the future effective group work.

If the partner representatives do not know each other yet and there is the risk that people find it difficult to interact and communicate, it is useful to start the meeting with an “ice breaking” exercise.

The same can apply to the starting of a training course, or of a seminar, to the beginning of a Workshop or a Conference.

It is important to choose your “ice breaking” activity according to the group characteristics, to the time you have and want to invest in it, the location/premises where the event is organised, the number of people that are involved, the type of formal/informal connection incurring among the participants.

The exercise should be quick enough as people rapidly loose motivation, it should promote communication and mutual knowledge without being too personal, it should be simple and effective in order not to require too long and complicated explanations and ask people to perform too much in a short time, it should consider if the context can be informal or should at the contrary take into account important formal rules that people expect to be respected, finally it should consider intercultural differences, expectations and habits.

In a few words you have to select the most appropriate Ice breaker according to the situation in which you want to use it.

Importance/Relevance

The commented list of ice-breakers and the presentation outlining three examples of the most used ice-breaker can help you to choose the most appropriate exercise to be used in the opening of your meeting/course/ event.

Links to PACE:

Do you have experiences you want to share on this topic? Please use the [PACE Discussion forum](#) to exchange them with your project management colleagues!

Do you need hints and tips on how to organise a kick off meeting, or on how to manage your team in a European project? You can find more [Learning objects](#) on the PACE platform.

How can I apply Ice Breakers in my own project?

The two resources part of this Learning Object provide you with a set of ice breakers that you can use according to your needs.

Additional resources:

Ice breakers' list

Ice-breaking techniques: a few practical examples