Solution By Inclusion

An Educator's Manual to 7 Solutions By Inclusion

Seventh Solution - Soft skills

Developed by NLP Aalborg/ Center for Unges Livsmestring in co-creation with students, parents and educators from GEM16+ (Malta), IAL FVG (Italy), Tradium (Denmark) and project partners under the Erasmus+ co-funded Solution By Inclusion Project, 2020-2023

This is part of Solution By Inclusion developed Methods & Tools to be tested at GEM16+, IAL FVG and Tradium as part of Intellectual Output 02, WP. 4

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Foreword

This Educator's Manual contains methods and tools based on the project results generated from the Erasmus+ project, Solution By Inclusion (WP. 4).

Project partners NLP Aalborg/ CFUL (responsible for Work Package 4. in the project) have been making an extensive screening before analyzing and selecting existing methods and tools from the EU system; from Erasmus+ VET projects (KA202) to Erasmus+ School projects (KA201) and EUs European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP). Furthermore, we have integrated the existing methods and tools developed or put in use by the partnering organisations in Solution By Inclusion.

Giving the nature of the methods stemming from diverse projects and backgrounds the methods and tools will be adapted to fit the Solution By Inclusion project description. Therefore, the methods and tools put forward in this project have been reshaped into new innovative solutions of inclusion to be implemented at upper secondary educational level VETs/ SCLs in Europe. The solutions to be implemented were fitted into new innovative forms and shapes in co-creation with Peer Advisory Boards of VET and SCL (Second Chance Learning) students, educators/ staff and parents at Tradium (Denmark), GEM16+ (Malta) and IAL FVG (Italy).

Chapter 1 - Solution 7 - Soft skills (Team building, team working, communications)

7 Solutions By Inclusion: *Social inclusion and Lifecoping methods and tools developed for students, parents and educators at VETs/ SCLs.*

Purpose
The purpose of using soft skills (team building, team working, communications) is to provide new innovative tools that will strengthen the students competencies and one of the key skills - social skills (interpersonal and social competencies). On a social and personal level the students will gain competencies as teamworking, problem solving, coordination, leadership skills and team building - all competencies that many companies look for when selecting candidates (see objectives of competencies and social learning/inclusion).

Content: Solution 1 - Soft skills (team building, team working, communications)

Part takers and/or User Group(s):

- Students 16-20 years at VETs/ SCL

- Educators/other staff

Place: Meeting room/ Room of subject/ Outdoor

Time: Depending on your choice of suggestion.

Potential Applications: artistic subjects

Preparations: Preparations (between educators/ staff/ + educators/ students).

Chapter 2 - Soft skills (team building, team working, communications)

Welcome Ritual

Start by playing a song (suggestion "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars - [Bruno Mars - Count on Me (Official Lyric Video)](#) - that fit the competencies of team working, team building and communications). The overall use of music at the beginning is to create a framework and mark that this is something quite different to the formal, well-known learning context at school. Moreover, the music generates a feeling and ambience of inclusion and positive vibe in the classroom and in the body and mind of each student. And music is a great tool for immediately touching us deep inside without any filters or having to process it first

Sharing good experiences

The participants (students and educators) share a recent good experience. It functions as an icebreaker and "cohesion booster" in the classroom (and even works virtually). To make an analogy, it seems to work like getting "likes" on social media. It makes you glad and positive. It is personal, touching, recognizable and low key. You can identify with the other students and educator in the class because of their stories and experiences. You may see them in a different light – as "a whole person" – doing "normal" things like walking and meeting up with a friend. It gets emotional in a good way, further the participants empathy and creates the perfect setting for the next part.

Introducing Today's Topic

Introducing the topic "Soft Skills" and what the students will be working on – it can be the suggestion: Soft skills (team building, team working, communications)

Suggestions: All the suggestions of topics to each methods/solution: preparation, setting up and creating a restaurant menu, hospitality management, team building outdoor (hiking, biking sports outdoor), digital storytelling, LINK Rituals: Friendship, Loneliness and Feelings, coordinators of an online meeting, video role play and role-play. All solutions and suggestions can be used to improve students´soft skills like:

- Leadership Skills. Companies look for employees who can supervise and direct other workers
- Teamwork
- Communication Skills
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Work Ethic
- Flexibility/ Adaptability
- Interpersonal Skills

Talk about Today´s Topic

Let the students talk about how they can work with soft skills (team building, team working, communications):

- *What will it bring to the students?*
- *Previous experiences with soft skills (team building, team working, communications)?*

Work on Topic (Peer Learning)

Suggestions: All the suggestions of topics to each methods/solution: preparation, setting up and creating a restaurant menu, hospitality management, team building outdoor (hiking, biking sports outdoor), digital storytelling, LINK Rituals (friendship, loneliness and feelings), coordinators of an online meeting, video role play and role-play. All solutions can be used to improve students´soft skills.

Just for fun

An important part of the Rituals is to have fun. You can play song like "Happy" by Pharrell Williams - Pharrell Williams - Happy (Video) - but it could also be e.g. to dance or play with balloons.

Summary and End of Lesson

The ending ritual is "Curl and Throw" where the students individually had to answer one or more of the following questions:

- *What do you find important in soft skills (team building, team working, communications)?*
- *How was your experience of soft skills?*
- *What is the difference between "soft skills" and a "normal class subject"?*

The students write the answers down on a piece of paper, then toss the paper and throw it at the teacher. This is a thing that you will not normally do at school, but the idea is to keep an informal atmosphere, and something contrasting the more formal part of school. Also, the Curl and Throw part is created to deliver anonymous answers, when thrown at random. One of students will read one (or more) of the answers in front of class. Yet again, this can make each student reflect and become aware of one self and classmates and gain knowledge to strengthen mental health, wellbeing and inclusion.