

## Become an Expert in the Activities of the Alternative Ways Project

In the project Alternative Ways a toolbox with a variety of activities was developed that can support the civic integration as well as the language learning of newcomers. The access to all activities is free of charge on the project's website: [www.alternativeways.eu](http://www.alternativeways.eu). The toolbox can be seen as a source of inspiration and new ideas for people active in the field of civic integration and language learning. The activities provide detailed information on how to use them. At the same time, the activities are open to be adapted and modified according to the target group, resources and circumstances of each trainer. A special feature of the activities is their flexible use, as they are free from curricular requirements and can be used outside the classroom. The aim of the activities is also to make learning a fun experience.

### What are the objectives of the blueprint?

The blueprint train-the-trainer presented here was developed to train teachers and facilitators in the field of integration and language learning in how to use the toolbox. Facilitators in regular courses or from other subject areas are also invited to take part in the training. Participation in the training can be enriching and inspiring for everyone, as it offers the opportunity to broaden one's own horizon as a teacher. The training helps trainers to get to know a selected number of activities and primarily aims to give them a feel for the activities and to initiate a transfer into their own teaching context. We warmly invite you to use this blueprint to enable interested trainers to get access to the toolbox and to promote its use!

### What is the basis for the blueprint?

The blueprint train-the-trainer is based on experiences gained in several training sessions conducted during the project period. In a first step, four trainings were carried out in the partner countries Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium with teachers and volunteers in the field of language learning. The experiences gained in these national contexts were used in a next step to develop an international training concept. An actual international training took place in Düsseldorf (Germany). The reflection on all these trainings forms the basis of the blueprint.

We came to the conclusion that a train-the-trainer in the methods of the Alternative Ways activities is ideally based on four phases. These four phases are explained below and should be taken into account when conducting a train-the-trainer course in the context of the Alternative Ways' toolbox. The time for each phase can be determined individually according to your own needs.



## **Phase 1: The trainer steps inside the role of a learner**

In phase 1, the trainers actively experience the activities from the toolbox. For this purpose, the facilitators of the training should select activities from the toolbox that illustrate the diversity of the toolbox and at the same time meet the needs and background of the teachers. At this point, participants can also gain an insight into the (self-)assessment tool by trying it out for themselves.

In this phase, the teachers themselves become learners. This helps them to experience the toolbox from a learner's perspective.

The following exercises were selected and carried out in the international training:

- Making Plans for the Future
- Learning to stand up for someone
- Your Tree of Life
- City Guides
- Museum Visits

## **Phase 2: The trainer steps back and reflects**

In phase 2, the trainers reflect on the activities they got to know during the first phase of the training. The trainers consider which adaptations and changes of the activities are needed with regard to their own group of learners. They should also think about what teaching and didactical skills they need to work effectively with these activities. This step also initiates the creation of their own lesson plans. In this phase, they make the transition from learner to trainer with the help of the training facilitators.

## **Phase 3 (optional): The trainer experiences teaching with the toolbox**

In phase 3, the trainers begin to teach the activities that they have learned about and reflected on in phases 1 and 2. They can be accompanied by the training facilitators. The website [www.alternativeways.eu](http://www.alternativeways.eu) can be used to integrate further activities from the toolbox into their teaching.

## **Phase 4: The trainer steps back again and reflects**

In phase 4, the trainers reflect on their use of the 'Alternative Ways' toolbox. Intervention is a very important part of this phase and should continue to be part of the trainers' work. It can be very helpful for the trainers to reflect their experience within the same group as in Phase 1.

