



# Activity: World café

*This activity is originally from the training pack Living with Controversy - Teaching Controversial Issues Through Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights (EDC/HRE), (Council of Europe, 2016, p. 57-58).*

*For the Thorvald Stoltenberg Seminar 2020, the exercise was adapted for use online and for the target group of the seminar.*

## Aims:

- To see how collective problem-solving can be constructive to improve one's understanding of controversial issues, and see an issue from different angles
- To reflect upon the digital meeting place, and how it can be made as safe and inclusive as possible

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Number of participants:** 15 – 30

## Tools and materials:

- Use a platform that allows you to share your screen, and that allows participants to discuss in breakout rooms/smaller groups, for example Zoom.

## Preparations:

- Allocate participants into groups, for example 5 groups with 4—6 participants.
- Collect images illustrating different controversial issues. The number of images should be the same as the number of groups, for example 5.
- Prepare 1 Google Doc for each image, containing the image and instructions for the exercise. Prepare 1 Google Doc with links to all the Google Docs with images.

## Image 2 - World Café

### Instructions:

- Each round will last 5 minutes (20 minutes in total to visit each of the 4 images). The facilitators will notify you when it is time to move to the next Google Doc.
- In round 1, the groups will note down all the questions the given image raises for them regarding that image/issue. A potentially useful technique is to formulate at least one question each beginning with **What? When? Where? Who? How? Why?**
- In subsequent rounds the groups will try to answer the questions from the previous groups, but are free to add their own questions to each image.
- The last group to work with each of the 4 Google Docs is asked to also prepare to present to the whole group the main points raised. Presentations of max 2 minutes. We share on the screen each Google Doc after turn.

### The rounds:

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Image 1	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2
Image 2	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3
Image 3	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4
Image 4	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1



Screenshot showing 1 of the Google Docs prepared for the Thorvald Stoltenberg Seminar 2020

## *Through collective problem-solving controversial issues can be discussed in a safe way*

### **Instructions:**

1. Explain the participants that you will now work with a concrete method that they can readily adapt and use in their own work context, both online and offline. It is particularly useful when you are dealing with current issues or something comes up unexpectedly.
2. Explain that participants will be split 5 into groups. Each group will be meeting in a Zoom Breakout Room, all the while working – after turn – in separate Google Docs. The group work ends when all the groups have worked in all the Google Docs.
3. Share a Google doc with link to all the Google Docs with images in the Chat. This needs to be done before sending participants to Breakout Rooms, as they will not have access to the Main Room's Chat from that point on. Make sure everyone clicks the link before sending them to their groups.
4. Each Google Doc contains an image of a controversial issue and instructions for the exercise. As follows:
  - Each round will last 4 minutes (20 minutes in total to visit each of the 5 images)
  - In round 1, the groups will note down all the questions the given image raises for them regarding that image/issue. A potentially useful technique is to formulate at least one question each beginning with **What? When? Where? Who? How? Why?**
- In subsequent rounds the groups will try to answer the questions from the previous groups, but are free to add their own questions to each image.
- The last group to work with each of the 5 Google Docs is asked to also prepare to present to the whole group the main points raised. Presentations of max 2 minutes. We share on the screen each Google Doc after turn.
5. Debriefing is conducted in plenary. Proposed questions:
  - What have you learned during this exercise?
  - Has the exercise given you an increased understanding of controversial issues and their significance?
  - Which advantages or disadvantages do you see with this exercise?
  - How could you use this exercise in activities you are involved in?