

## Grundtvig II Project

This game has been the final product of the *Spaceship Earth* Project, from Grundtvig II programme (a Socrates programme from European Union), developing from 2005 to 2007. Project partners were:

- Europahaus Burgenland (Eisenstad -Austria-). Coordinator.
- Vihreä Sivistysliitto ry (Helsinki -Finland-)
- Edaforum (Florence -Italy-)
- IEPSA (Zaragoza -Spain-)
- Gölbasi Halk Egitim Merkezi Müdürlüğü (Ankara -Turkey-)

The main purpose of the game is to make easier intercultural conversation about global problems through dialog and using only the best argument strength. We hope this game strengthens word worth against random violence.

We show the game below in its board version to be played with cards.

## The purpose of the play is to

- teach the players to understand different viewpoints through opposing or defending statements (that might not represent ones actual opinion) and to give reasons for the represented viewpoint
- teach the players to negotiate compromises between different interests and opinions
- be a tool for learning languages (if played in other than first language of the players)
- be a tool for learning about the global problems (issues can be explained and information provided during the role play)
- evoke conversation

## The framework of the play

The players are a crew of Spaceship Earth. The crew is in space and they are being reported about problems and conflicts faced on Earth. The crew is asked to give suggestions how to deal with the problems. The crew members have different opinions about the problems and their possible solutions. Each one takes turns to justify their point of view. The crew should try to form a common opinion or solution to each problem. The common opinion should be a **compromise** that takes into consideration as many interests as possible. The opinion is formed as a result of a discussion and negotiation. The compromises formed by the crew members are written down into an agreement that will be sent back to Earth.

## The rules of the game

The number of players can vary from 2 to 9 who play either as individuals or as teams. The rules of the play can and should be modified according to the context of the use.

### Opinion cards

- **red** card: you are **against** the statement (regardless of your own opinion)
- **green** card: you are **for** the opinion (regardless of your own opinion)
- **yellow** card: you are in between the opinions, understanding the viewpoints of both defenders and opponents. This card can also be used for the naming of a “Captain” for the discussion (see rule number 7 below).

### Statement cards

There are 100 statement cards with negative and positive statements about different issues and problems faced on Earth. You are supposed to give reasons for or against the statement **REGARDLESS OF** your own opinion of the issue. You are for, against, or in between the opinions depending on the opinion card given to you. There are statements about nine different subjects.

### How to play?

1. The players have to decide whether they prefer to play individually or in teams and whether they like to use two or three opinion cards according to the number of participants. The yellow opinion card can be left out. (E.g. if there are two or four players, optionally leave out the yellow opinion card and play individually/in pairs. If there are five players, play in teams of two and three using only green and red card **OR** play in teams of two, two and one player using also yellow opinion card.) It is also possible to play as one team forming all the two/three opinions together through conversation.
2. Mix the opinion cards and give each player/team a card at random. The opinion card can be shown to other players.
3. Put the statement cards into piles according to subjects. Pick a card from the first pile.
4. The statement is read aloud and left open on the table.
5. Players/teams consider what kind of reasons they could give to defend or oppose the statement according to their opinion card.
6. Players/teams take turns to give their reasons for or against the statement very briefly while other players/teams listen not commenting.
7. After all the players/teams have given their reasons all participants discuss and negotiate aiming to form a compromise or solution that would take into consideration as many interests as possible.

NOTE: In the discussion, it should be remembered that the *goal for all the players* is to reach a compromise – nobody can “win” the debate by vigorously defending their opinion (given by the opinion card). If the discussion leads to an astray and the compromise seems too difficult to reach, the holders of the yellow card can take on the role of a Captain and mediate the negotiation between opinions.

8. The compromise or solution is written down briefly.
9. Now all the participants may take turns to briefly express their very own opinions about the statement.
10. The players go through a decided number of subjects one after another in the same way. No more than 10 – 15 minutes should be used for each round.

## Statements of the game

Total 100

### A. Conflicts (15)

1. If agreements don't work the army must guarantee peace.
2. The power of an army demonstrates the might of a state.
3. It is possible for a nation to exist without army.
4. It is possible to bring peace to the world without weapons or armies.
5. The supremacy of the USA can effectively prevent global terrorism.
6. A strong army of a nation makes its citizens feel safe.
7. Starvation could be wiped out from the world with the money invested in armament.
8. EU should intervene in conflicts between non- EU states.
9. Security of other countries also contributes to the security of your own country.
10. It is possible to control the spread of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.
11. NATO is a necessary organisation to secure a stable world order.
12. One of the reasons why people go to war is the desire to control rich natural resources.
13. Military service should be a duty for both men and women.
14. Only volunteers should do voluntary service.
15. The need for armies can be decreased by education, because terrorism and wars exist only because of lack of education.

### B. Climate change (13)

1. The best way to deal with climate change is to be ready for its consequences.
2. The climate change will destroy us if we continue our way of living without any change.
3. Climate change can be managed with the help of science.
4. We can view climate change in a positive way, as an opportunity for social and technical innovations.
5. Democracy is a suitable procedure to stop climate change.
6. Climate change can be avoided if every country fulfils the Kyoto protocol.
7. Imposing substantial fine on those countries which are the biggest polluters could stop the climate change.
8. Mass media can raise the awareness of citizens for the climate change.

9. Hysteria about the climate change is more dangerous than climate change itself.
10. Airplane- ticket prices should be doubled to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
11. Congestion charges, which have been introduced in some European capitals, help to reduce the harmful effects of pollution.
12. Public transportation in cities should be free.
13. Intensive use of nuclear power can stop climate change.

### **C. Unemployment (12)**

1. Immigration causes world-wide unemployment.
2. Technological development produces employment.
3. Unemployment is created by governments so that people easily accept market conditions.
4. Unemployment is equally serious problem for the middle aged and the young.
5. Global mobility creates new jobs.
6. Flexible working conditions favour job insecurity.
7. The unemployed are not fit enough for the competition.
8. Outsourcing is a major threat to jobs in your country.
9. It is not good to pay social security money to the unemployed.
10. Unemployment discourages students to continue with their studies.
11. People should be forced to retire as early as possible to avoid unemployment.
12. Investments in sustainable development fight unemployment.

### **D. Terrorism (12)**

1. Fundamentalism is the root cause for terrorism.
2. National governments underestimate the terrorist threat in your country.
3. Negotiations for politicians in your country get difficult when religion is mixed with political issues.
4. On the whole, governments are succeeding in protecting their citizens against terrorism.
5. Solutions against terrorism can only be found by moderate political leaders.
6. September 11<sup>th</sup> changed the way you look at immigrants in your country.
7. Acts of terrorism and contra terrorism lead to uncontrollable spiral of violence.
8. The goal of modern terrorism is to stop the Western domination.

9. Terrorists are aiming at becoming the world elite.
10. States with rapid modernization are especially sensitive to extremist ideologies.
11. I expect terrorist attack in my country within the next years.
12. Democracy prevents states from terrorism.

### **E. Epidemics (11)**

1. Genetic manipulation can produce uncontrollable epidemics.
2. Epidemics are the natural way of controlling the world population growth.
3. Welfare society generates new diseases.
4. Media should stop presenting apocalyptic scenarios about some epidemics (e.g. bird flu).
5. Stopping epidemics all over the world is a mere utopia.
6. Lack of respect for the environment is actually increasing the risk for new epidemics to develop.
7. International legislation should stop pharmaceutical multinationals from protecting their trademarks.
8. Immigrants should be tested for AIDS before entering your country.
9. Epidemics can be stopped with drugs.
10. Tourism should be restricted to avoid the spread of epidemics.
11. I would continue eating meat even if animal diseases were found in my country.

### **F. Natural catastrophes (8)**

1. Natural disasters are more harmful to developing countries.
2. Famine is not a consequence of natural catastrophes - it is made by political decisions.
3. Deforestation is the main cause of floods and cyclones.
4. There have always been natural catastrophes but today mass media is exaggerating their severity.
5. Global warming will be profitable for some sectors and companies.
6. Natural catastrophes can not be fought by technological innovations.
7. Human activity can decrease the frequency of different kinds of natural catastrophes.
8. A global authority is needed to handle global climate policies.

## **G. Exhaustion of natural resources (9)**

1. The depletion of natural resources can destroy life on Earth.
2. Reducing the use of natural resources would decrease the turnovers of businesses.
3. Cutting rainforests is not a major problem but forgetting to plant new trees is.
4. Supermarkets/shops should stop giving disposable plastic bags and instead offer paper bags for their customers.
5. Recycling is not worth the effort because the waste might get mixed up again in the big landfills.
6. Investing in new ways of energy production is the only way to reduce the consumption of natural resources.
7. A nation may fish as extensively as it wants within its own costal area.
8. Sweet water will be as valuable in the future as oil is now.
9. Saving energy in my daily life can help to avoid the exhaustion of natural resources.

## **H. Poverty (11)**

1. Best way to fight poverty is solidarity between the rich and the poor countries.
2. Poverty depends on governmental politics, while the actions of NGOs do not have much impact.
3. Less armament expenses and more investment in sanitation, education, and culture is the best way to fight poverty.
4. Unequal distribution of wealth by governments is one of the biggest barriers of poverty reduction.
5. There are enough resources to eradicate hunger and poverty.
6. It is possible to get rid of poverty in the world.
7. Gender inequality is a cause of poverty.
8. Your choices in everyday life can have an impact on global poverty.
9. We should rather improve the lives of the poor in our own countries than worry about the poor in other countries.
10. Poverty and social inequality cause terrorism.
11. My country should openly welcome refugees and asylum seekers.

## I. Economic crises (9)

1. Economic crises are the result of social injustices.
2. Privatisation of state-run companies could help to keep the prices for consumers down.
3. Mass tourism is an important source of income for many countries and should be promoted.
4. The debt of Third World countries should be forgiven without conditions.
5. Collection of very high taxes discourages people to work.
6. People should be encouraged to buy local products to support the economy of their own country.
7. Immigrants in my country inevitably cause conflicts within the society.
8. Immigrants in my country should have the same socio-economical rights that I have.
9. Everybody should have a right to express their beliefs and religion in professional life regardless the field of work.