

Expert Workshop

**“Crossing Borders. Migration and
Citizenship Education in Europe”**

Structured Brainstorming

NECE-2016 Expert Workshop
Ljubljana, 8–10 July 2016

What is Brainstorming?

- Brainstorming is an unconstrained group process designed to generate new ideas and concepts

When to use Brainstorming?

- At the beginning of a paper or project, use it to generate a full range of hypotheses or to ensure that all aspects of a problem are considered
- In mid-analysis, it can help break a team out of an analytic rut

Brainstorming Value added

- Spark new ideas, generate fresh perspectives and solutions as you “empty the barrel of the obvious”
- Stimulate thinking
- Ensure all aspects of a problem have been considered
- Discover “unknown unknowns” by addressing new themes

Mitigating Cognitive Biases and Intuitive Traps

Brainstorming can help you mitigate the impact of the following:

Cognitive Biases

- Groupthink
- Evidence Acceptance Bias
- Premature Closure

Intuitive Traps

- Rejecting Evidence
- Lacking Sufficient Bins
- Expecting Marginal Change

Rules of Engagement

- Carefully define your topic or issue
- Never criticize an idea
- Allow only one conversation
- Allocate enough time
- Involve “outsiders” (different functional area /geographic location)
- Write down ideas
- Use silent brainstorming techniques
- Generate a final product

Structured Brainstorming

The Process:

1. Do not talk
2. Write down your idea on a sticky note (several words or a phrase, not whole sentences)
3. Only one idea per sticky note
4. Stick your note at the edge of the table for the instructor to collect
5. The instructor read out the ideas to trigger “out-of-the-box-thinking” and sticks the notes on the whiteboard
6. Students cluster the sticky notes according to affinity groups to identify key drivers which will later drive the scenarios

Structured Brainstorming Exercise

STEMPLED-Plus framework

Social

Technological

Economic

Military / Security

Political

Legal

Ecological

Digital

Plus: Cultural, Religious, Values

...

The Question:

“What are all the trends, events, forces, and actors that will influence the British population’s perception on how migration will change their society until 2025?”



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