

Getting-to-know exercise with personal profiles

Instructions for lecturers

Reference: Siebel (2021) Steckbriefe für Teilnehmende. *Wilde Workshop Spiele*.
<https://www.workshop-spiele.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Kennenlern-Profilka%CC%88rtchen-zwei-Beispiele.png>

Aim of the exercise

Participants get to know each other in their fixed working groups, discover commonalities, and appreciate the diversity within the team.

Time

10 to 20 Minutes

Preparation

- Prepare a space on a whiteboard (physical or digital) for each group.
- Ensure that the pre-filled personal profiles of all participants are visible on the respective group whiteboard.
- Set up the breakout rooms or physical spaces for the teams.
- Have a timer ready for 10 minutes.

Implementation

1. Introduction (2 minutes)

- Explain to the entire group:
 - The participants will now go to their fixed working groups.
 - They have 10 minutes for an icebreaker exercise.
 - Clearly explain the four steps (see below).

2. Instructions for participants

Communicate the following steps:

- **“Go to your team’s breakout session.”**
- **“Look at the profiles of all team members on the whiteboard together.”**
- **“Find something your team has in common.”**



- **“Discover an interesting difference between the team members.”**

3. During the exercise

- Briefly visit the breakout rooms to ensure that everyone understands what to do.
- Provide assistance if necessary.
- After 7 minutes, remind participants that there are 3 minutes remaining.

4. Transition to content questions (5-10 minutes)

- After returning to the plenary session:
- Have a few teams share their commonality or interesting difference.
- Use these as a bridge to transition to content-related questions
- Examples of transition questions:
 - “How can the different perspectives in your team enrich your joint work?”
 - “What are your expectations for working together during the Spring School?”
 - “Which topics are of particular interest to your team?”

Tips

- **Make the questions in the profile relevant to the content:** Relate the profile questions to the thematic work of the groups during the digital exchange (e.g., professional interests, previous experience, expectations of the topic, preferred working methods).
- Keep the atmosphere relaxed and positive.
- For groups that are struggling: Encourage them to think more broadly.
- The exercise works as an icebreaker and at the same time creates a basis for substantive collaboration.