

EXERCISE: Communication and Coordination

Communication and the coordination of communication is crucial in a team. With the following exercise you can train yourself and your team in how to coordinate in a group, how to coordinate with others despite obstacles, and generally improve your communication skills and leadership. It will teach your team how to collaborate in a group, how to pursue a common goal as a target, and to cooperate independently from language skills.

For this exercise, you should schedule about 15 minutes. Preferably, you have at least 10 people for this exercise, and you should have a big enough space so everyone can move around easily. You should prepare pieces of paper that have the numbers 1 to the number of participants, and put them in a bag. You should have a watch or a phone to take the time, and every participant should have something to cover their eyes with, e.g. a scarf.

STEP 1- Divide the participants into two equal teams.

STEP 2 – Have each participant draw a piece of paper with a number from the bag without showing each other which number they get.

STEP 3 – All participants cover their eyes.

STEP 4 – Start the timer: In 2 minutes, the teams have to figure out without speaking how to stand in the correct sequence of numbers e.g. 1-10. Which team manages to do this better?

STEP 5 – After checking the lines, have the participants discuss their experience: How did they feel? How did they manage to communicate with each other?

STEP 6 – Second round: Re-jumble the numbers and have everyone draw again. Everyone covers their eyes again. This time, in 1 minute the participants have to communicate and find the correct sequence without using English (for international groups) or their native language (for national groups).

STEP 7 – After checking the lines, have the participants discuss their experience: How did they feel? How did they manage to communicate with each other? What was easy, what was hard? Which version of the exercise was easier?