

LET'S GET A VISA!

This session will give an input about how hard it is to get a visa for many people and to show which questions they are asking at an embassy. This session would be extra funny, if you have some people who can speak a language most of the participants can't speak.

MATERIALS

- Post-its
- Sheet of questions (Annex 2)
- Embassy role cards (Annex 1)

OBJECTIVES

- Realise the difficulty of getting a visa via a role play
- See the challenges of getting a visa

PREPARATION

- Prepare some table or spaces to be the embassies
- If you want to add more embassies, prepare the role cards.

STEP-BY-STEP

1. Ask some participants, at least 4, to be the embassy staff and give them the question sheet (Annex 2) and the embassy role card (Annex 1). It would be good if one of them is able to speak a different language that no one else understands.
2. Tell the participants that they are going on a trip through a lot of different countries and that for that they need some visas.
3. Ask them to think a little bit about their character, name, age, gender, story, why are they traveling, what is their occupation, etc.
4. Put a post-it on their forehead that they cannot see with some labels that might affect the outcome of the visa application, they cannot see their own.
5. Explain to them that the four tables in front of them are the Embassies and the participants behind the tables are the embassy staff.
6. They should try to get as many visas as possible.
7. After 15-20 minutes come together and share how many visas they got.

DEBRIEFING

- How did you feel participating in this activity?
- For the applicants, how did each embassy work? Did they all have the same rules?
- For the embassy staff, how did you feel saying yes or not? How did it feel to do what was in their role card?
- Do you think all the question were appropriate or pertinent?
- Do you think that this activity somehow reflects the way embassies operate? How?
- Does it remind you of your personal or organisation's visa experiences?

Age	All ages
Duration	50 min
Group Size	8+
Space	Any

TIPS

- Give invented names to the fictional countries, instead of table 1-4
- You can create new tables with different ways of approving or denying visas (every other applicant is a yes, those who wear glasses, the name has to have a 'i', one table can be further away, etc.)
- You can add new questions or they can be different in each table.

ANNEX 1: EMBASSY ROLE CARDS

TABLE 1

Participants going to this embassy will be interviewed in languages other than the ones they understand. So the embassy staff at table 1 will interview participants in Portuguese for instance despite the fact that none of the applicants understands the language. Applicants will be denied the visa because they failed to answer the questions correctly as they don't understand the language. (You can maybe "invent" the language)

TABLE 2

Participants will be interviewed in English (or the language of communication between the participants) and they will respond to all the questions "correctly" but their visa application will be refused.

TABLE 3

All participants who visited embassy table three will be granted their visa application no matter how well or not they performed in their interview process.

TABLE

All participants visiting this table will be denied their visa application because of the tags (post its) on their foreheads (Poor, homosexual, terrorist, migrant, rich, businessman/-woman). It would be easier for the ambassador, when they get a list of groups which they are not allowed to give a visa.



ANNEX 2: EMBASSY QUESTIONS

- What is your name?
- What are you applying for?
- Why do you need it?
- What is your job?
- How much money do you have for this trip?
- What is your sexual orientation?
- Are you single?
- Do you know any people in the country you want to visit?