

## Meeting With a Stranger

### Aim

To develop the abilities of the participants to deal with culture shock, as well as to reflect on the process of entering a new culture and the challenges connected with it.

### Preparation and materials

This activity can be used as a starting step for a discussion about culture shock and entering other cultures. A presentation of the reasons and phases of cultural shock can be prepared and shared after or before the writing activity.

### Time

60 minutes.

### Instruction

Ask the participants to share their experiences from situations where they encountered a new environment for the first time. If they don't have experience of visiting or living in a different country, they can also share experiences connected with entering a new class or working collective. After a brief sharing session, give participants 30 minutes to write a short story about one of their encounters with strangers. When done, invite them to share some of the stories.

### Questions for reflection

1. How does moving to a new country differ from entering new collective (class, training group, working place, etc.) in your own country?
2. Do you think that we can prepare ourselves for culture shock? If yes, what do you think this preparation could look like?
3. What are some of the problems that might occur in multi-cultural communication? What are the benefits of communication and collaboration with people from cultures different to yours?
4. What is the responsibility of each person for sending accurate messages when they communicate with someone from another culture?
5. What is the responsibility of the listener or receiver when they communicate with someone from another culture?