



# DARE

Depolarisation Activism for  
Resilient Europe

## **DARE to Care: Peace Building & Active Citizenship**

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# DARE to Care: Peace Building & Active Citizenship

## Background (about the DARE project)

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The 'DARE - Depolarization Activism for Resilient Europe' initiative was created to inspire a critical learning space and youth-led and action-oriented dialogue about various contemporary challenges such as polarisation, radicalisation, mental health, human rights violations. The DARE educational materials seek to strengthen active citizenship and European values and promote and amplify youth voices and civic engagement.

For more information, please visit the project website: [www.depolarisation.eu](http://www.depolarisation.eu)

## Lesson Themes

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- DARE to Care theme - an insight into a young person's motivation and commitment to volunteering for a particular cause and through doing so, serving one's community;
- Chocolate riots, the peacebuilding initiative initiated by a young person who was motivated to address the division in his hometown (Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

## Context

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The increasing complexity of today's society makes it vital to foster critical thinking, proactivity and active citizenship in youth. Active citizens engaging in community service and community building are the core prerequisite of healthy societies.

That is why we created a short video interview showcasing the impact that one young person's small gesture can make in his immediate community, spontaneously spreading a positive peacebuilding message across multiple countries in Europe. This particular case covers the topic of peacebuilding activity in a divided community (the city of Mostar). The aim of this lesson is to inspire everyone to take action in their own surroundings and make a positive impact on their community in any way they can.

## Goals

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- To raise awareness about the complexity of post-conflict legacy (case study: Mostar);
- To inspire and empower small acts of civic engagement and active citizenship;
- To promote community-building as a necessity in today's modern societies.

## Learning Outcomes

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It is expected that as a result of the class, the students will be able to:

- Explain the relevance of the Chocolate Riots initiative in the city of Mostar;
- Reflect on the role and the power of an individual within a community;
- Analyse and articulate what type of community- and peace-building action could be done in a similar situation of (post-conflict/inter-ethnic) division.

## Material and Equipment Needed

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Laptop  
Beamer/projector  
Speakers  
Internet/wi-fi  
Flip-chart papers and markers for group work activity

## Duration

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45 minutes (one standard lesson)

## Overview of Lesson Activities (Process)

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### Introduction (10 minutes)

The instructor should start the class by providing the students with a brief background on the topic covered in the DARE to Care video interview: the city of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) has functioned through both formal and informal division (between the East/Bosniak/Muslim and the West/Croat/Catholic parts) ever since the conclusion of the war in 1995. Mostar's pre-war ethnic diversity and exemplary coexistence were shattered by having gone through two wars in the 1992-1995 period. Even though significant improvement in mending relationships and moving toward an optimistic future together has been made since then, Mostar often surfaces in international media headlines whenever there is a football match that evokes fights between fans from the opposing sides of the city.

### Short DARE to Care video clip viewing (5 minutes)

Play the video clip for the students: [depolarisation.eu/activecitizenship](http://depolarisation.eu/activecitizenship)

### Discussion about the video clip (15 minutes)

Useful exploratory and follow-up reflection questions:

- What was the problem in the city that Ivan is living in?
- What was Ivan's motivation to organize the Chocolate Riots initiative?
- What was the unifying factor that managed to bring people together from different (divided) parts of the city?
- Why do you think Ivan managed to get so many different (young) people to join his initiative? What was so popular about it?
- Can you name a similar example of divided groups of people coming together in any type of peacebuilding activity?

### "Community Building Action Hero" - Group Work Activity (15 minutes)

Randomly assign the students into five groups (ideally, 4 students per group though more or fewer also works). Each group should have one piece of flipchart paper and markers, to prepare their presentation.

## **"Community Building Action Hero" - Group Work Activity (continued)**

Present the assignment: each group needs to come up with one action or initiative that would bring a community together. The students can come up with their own example of two divided groups, or alternatively, present their idea on what kind of community- or peace-building initiative they would organize if they lived in a city that was similarly divided as Mostar.

Give the groups 5 minutes to discuss their ideas, and come up with solutions on how they would deal with the problem of divided groups/communities.

Facilitate the presentation of each group's results (2 min per group), allowing other groups to ask questions, and offer suggestions and feedback.

The instructor should close the lesson by inviting students to reflect on the power of individuals to affect and shape the environment and the communities they live in.

### **Sources**

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- DARE project, documentation and videos can be found on the project website: [www.depolarisation.eu](http://www.depolarisation.eu) or [www.resilienteurope.eu](http://www.resilienteurope.eu)

### **Activity Adaption for Online Implementation**

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This lesson easily fully transfers to online education as it relies on students reflection and discussion. The group activity can be done in breakout rooms, with class concluding in plenary discussion mode.

### **Assessment and Evaluation Options**

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The assessment for this lesson could be to assign students to research and identify concrete examples of small-scale community-building or civic engagement in their surroundings and to interview the organizer(s) or initiators of these actions, specifying all the ways in which that particular action impacts (or impacted) the community.

### **Homework Ideas**

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- Homework idea 1: see the assessment option above - it functions as a homework assignment.
- Homework idea 2: Come up with one action (e.g. a random act of kindness) that you can do next week to help someone in your community or to make a positive change in your environment. Implement your action, and write about your experience.