



DARE

Depolarisation Activism for
Resilient Europe

DARE to Care: Entrepreneurship & Self-Employment

Author: Tanja Raič Tarčuki



Croatian Education and Development
Network for the Evolution of
Communication - HERMES
Croatia



Kreisau-Initiative
Kreisau Initiative e.V.
Germany



Open Communication
Serbia



TRANSFORM
Sweden



Western Balkans
Network
Bosnia-Herzegovina



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DARE to Care: Entrepreneurship & Self-Employment

Background (about the DARE project)

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

Lesson Themes

- DARE to Care theme - an insight into a young person's motivation for creating a job they love doing – self-employment example of a young girl (with a group of friends) starting her own business in the context of high youth unemployment and emigration.

Context

Unemployment is a contemporary challenge affecting youth globally. Regardless of the geographical location or developmental level of the country, many young people feel discouraged by perceiving a lack of meritocracy, corruption, and nepotism. Moreover, the norm today still is searching for a job in an existing company or market, rather than creating one for yourself, and perhaps even for others.

We have chosen to showcase an example of a young woman dealing with employment challenges in one of the most bureaucratically and developmentally complex countries in Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is an example of proactivity despite all odds and serves as an inspiration for youth to contemplate their own passions in life. Regardless of whether someone's character and affinity lean towards self-employment or traditional employment, this lesson will provide encouragement for youth to consider different career options and to approach their professional future with intentionality.

Goals

- To counteract apathy and the feeling of hopelessness when entering the job market and when dealing with unemployment in general;
- To incite curiosity and thinking outside of the box when it comes to career possibilities and diverse ways of creating opportunities for oneself;
- To understand the importance of getting clarity on what type of personality/career preference one has in order to create or design one's own life.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Discuss skills and competences a good worker should have or develop;
- Contrast lifestyle differences of someone who is self-employed with being an employee in a traditional job (discovering whether personal preference gravitates towards self-employment or a traditional job)

Material and Equipment Needed

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

Duration

45 minutes (one standard lesson)

Overview of Lesson Activities (Process)

Without prior introduction on the topic, the instructor should start the class by immediately showing the short video.

Short DARE to Care video clip viewing (5 minutes)

Play the video clip for the students: depolarisation.eu/selfemployment

A brief discussion about the video clip (10 minutes)

Useful exploratory and follow-up reflection questions:

- What are your impressions about the video we just watched?
- Do you know an example from your community or environment where someone decided to take things into their own hands and create a small business?
- Have you ever considered doing something similar?
- What are the main differences in the lifestyle of a person who is self-employed and one who works for someone in a job that they like doing? (eg. inconsistent income or stress levels may be higher with a self-employment lifestyle, while advantages may be freedom in managing your time, workplace, choosing people you want to collaborate with, etc.)

“My work preference” – Group Work Activity (30 minutes)

Randomly assign students into four groups. Each group should have one piece of flipchart paper and markers, to prepare their presentation. Each group receives a different assignment to explore - they need to do research and prepare a quick presentation. They have 10-15 minutes for this group work. The presentations should be 3 minutes long. (Posters they create should speak for themselves.)

Groups are tasked with researching on the internet and preparing a short presentation on:

- Group#1 should work on listing all the advantages of self-employment
- Group#2 should work on listing all disadvantages of self-employment
- Group#3 should work on a list of skills that self-employed professionals need to have in order to be successful
- Group#4 should work on a list of skills that traditionally employed professionals need to have in order to be considered 'good employees'

“My work preference” – Group Work Activity (continued)

It is expected that all groups will probably come up with similar lists along the lines of: communications skills, perseverance, motivation, negotiation, persuasion, creative thinking, interpersonal relationship skills, professionalism, strong work ethic, teamwork and collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, time management, self-awareness, etc.

Facilitate the presentation of each group's results (maximum 3 min per group) prompting self-reflection through questions such as, who feels like their personality and preferences are better suited for self-employment, or traditional career trajectory, etc.

Sources

- DARE project, documentation and videos can be found on the project website: www.depolarisation.eu or www.resilienteuropa.eu

Activity Adaption for Online Implementation

This lesson can be fully realized online (with group work conducted in breakout rooms).

Assessment and Evaluation Options

Homework assignments are one of the ways of assessing the students' understanding of the key topics discussed in this lesson.

Homework Ideas

- Write one of the following two assignments (ideally, students will eventually have the opportunity to present their business plans/cover letters to their peers receiving constructive feedback and encouragement):
 - Choose one idea (a problem you can offer a solution for) and plan for starting a business out of that idea, imagine what that process would look like and develop a small business plan;
 - Choose the ideal job you want to work in someday and write your cover letter applying for that job. Think about the skills and experiences you could pursue and build to bring you closer to getting that job, developing your competences so you are the best candidate for that specific job (x years from now).
- Individually or in small groups discuss/think about:
 - Is there something that you think you could make or provide that other people would pay for? Would you consider that service/product to be your job one day?
 - Would you recruit some of your classmates to partner up with you in starting that business? What do you think is most important in order to succeed professionally?