ENGAGE.EU Winter School "Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability"

Workshop title:
Successful collaboration across cultures for sustainable value creation

Lecturer + Status & affiliation:
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Workshop description:

Successful collaboration across cultures is essential for sustainable value creation in today's globalised world. Students will increasingly work in diverse teams where differences in communication styles, expectations, and working practices can both enrich and challenge collaboration. Developing intercultural competence enables students to navigate these differences constructively, turning potential misunderstandings into opportunities for learning and innovation. Equally important is fostering inclusive collaboration practices where all voices are heard and valued. This is a core dimension of social sustainability, as it ensures fair participation, enhances team performance, and supports more responsible and resilient decision-making.

Learning objectives:
The workshop aims to help students:

- Identify and critically reflect on cultural differences in teamwork beyond national stereotypes
- Analyse how cultural differences influence communication, feedback, and decision-making
- Apply the Map–Bridge–Integrate (MBI) framework to improve collaboration in multicultural teams
- Develop strategies for inclusive participation and social sustainability in group work
- Reflect on their own role in fostering effective and inclusive teamwork

Content:
Interactive digital workshop, with small group discussions, exercises/cases and guided reflection.
Participants are expected to participate actively in the workshop. In line with the Code of Conduct of the Winter School, students are expected to engage with others in a collaborative and professional way. Intercultural exchange and respect being core values of this workshop, participants are expected to approach cultural, social and linguistic differences with curiosity and respect.

Input/examples:

Example of activities: Case-based group exercise (based on real-life multicultural team challenges)
- Role-play scenarios: managing misunderstandings, giving feedback, decision- making
- Plenary debrief: identifying effective bridging strategies

Duration/number of students:

90-minute workshop