



Activity N°2 : No gender

Awareness-raising
Italy

Key words: *Gender / Sport / Language*



Target groups:

- Journalism students
- Professional journalists
- Other media professionals
- Media literacy trainers

Duration: 2 hours

Context : Whether we are journalists, students, instructors, media literacy trainers or sportspersons, we all harbour stereotypes and often subconsciously use them in our conversations and in our world view. This activity aims to raise people's awareness of this through a short production exercise relating to a sports event in a category (men's/women's sport) not revealed..

Objectives:

- **To become aware of the stereotypes we use**
- **To raise awareness of gender and non-discrimination issues**
- **To analyse the role of language**

Equipment: Pens and paper

Media resources: An article about a sports event (volleyball, athletics, football, etc) involving women from which are extracted a number of general features of the event, any references to gender being removed: the women concerned must be identified in terms of their role (forward, defender, winger, etc) and not by name. The gender-neutral words used cannot therefore provide any information or indication about the task ahead.

Observations: The facts to be presented to the students must be carefully prepared and highly detailed. The objectives should not be divulged at the beginning of the activity.

Organisation:

Class configuration	Time in minutes	Sequence of activities
GR	10'	Introduce the activity, focusing on the main task of writing an article about the sports event on the basis of the information provided. Specify that participants may not ask questions during the exercise (in order to avoid providing information about values or gender).
GR	5'	Provide a list of general information about the event (cf. media resources).
IND	30'	Ask the participants to write their reports on the event individually.
GR	10'	Reveal the nature of the assignment and explain to participants that the event involved women's teams. Count the number of articles which refer to men's sporting event. Hand out the original article.
PRS	20'	In sub-groups, analyse language choices and roles by drawing a comparison between the articles written and the original one.
GR	30'	Discuss the results together and consider the issue of gender discrimination in sports news. Also debrief on whether the participants have become more aware of their own stereotypes.

Variant: Other news fields may be subjected to the same kind of exercise.

Suggested follow-up activities:

- **Stereotypes and representations** Unit: Activity n°1. It's your turn!
- **Language and words** Unit: Activity n°3. Guess who?
- **Sport** Unit: Activity n°3. Guess who?
- **Gender** Unit: Activity n°4. Fitting the frame