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Intercultural competence

"Only dialogue allows us to live in unity and diversity"

(European Council 2008: 20)

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What is "cultural"?

Values

Language

How and why we act in a particular situation

Preferences

Religion

and much more.

This baggage is nothing more than the experiences we have had and the education we have received in the different groups we are part of.

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Intercultural learning and current realities

The online world

The threat of terrorism

People fleeing war and persecution

The rise of populism

Globalisation

Human rights and democratic citizenship

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How have migrants been welcomed and treated over the last decades?

European governments' attitudes toward migrants :

Until 1945 - Assimilation: back then, migrants were expected to give up their cultural values and adopt the values and customs of the majority in their new country.

After 1954 - Political recognition of difference: understanding that migrants might have different values and beliefs than the majority.

2003 - Intercultural perspective: sees cultural diversity as a benefit for everyone. Find common ground and have a respectful dialogue based on equal dignity and shared values. There is no "majority" and "minority" in opposition.

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Glossary of interculturality

The concept of intercultural competence is linked with other principles within the human rights and equality fields

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Stereotypes

Stereotypes are generalised, simplified or exaggerated beliefs about the characteristics of people who belong to a particular group, perceived as different from our own.

A stereotype acts as a filter and assigns a pattern of behaviour to all members of a given group, triggering judgments and blocking the possibility of real dialogue between members of cultural groups who see themselves as different.

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Prejudice

Prejudice means having fixed opinions about a group or its members without real evidence, and it's usually unfair.

These biases are often tied to how someone feels about belonging to certain groups, and they can affect how people see themselves in those groups.

Prejudices stop us from seeing people as unique and understanding the differences within groups.

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Watch the video

Do you recognize stereotypes?

What does this video actually say about Italians and Germans?

Source: GERMANY vs ITALY Bruno Bozzetto

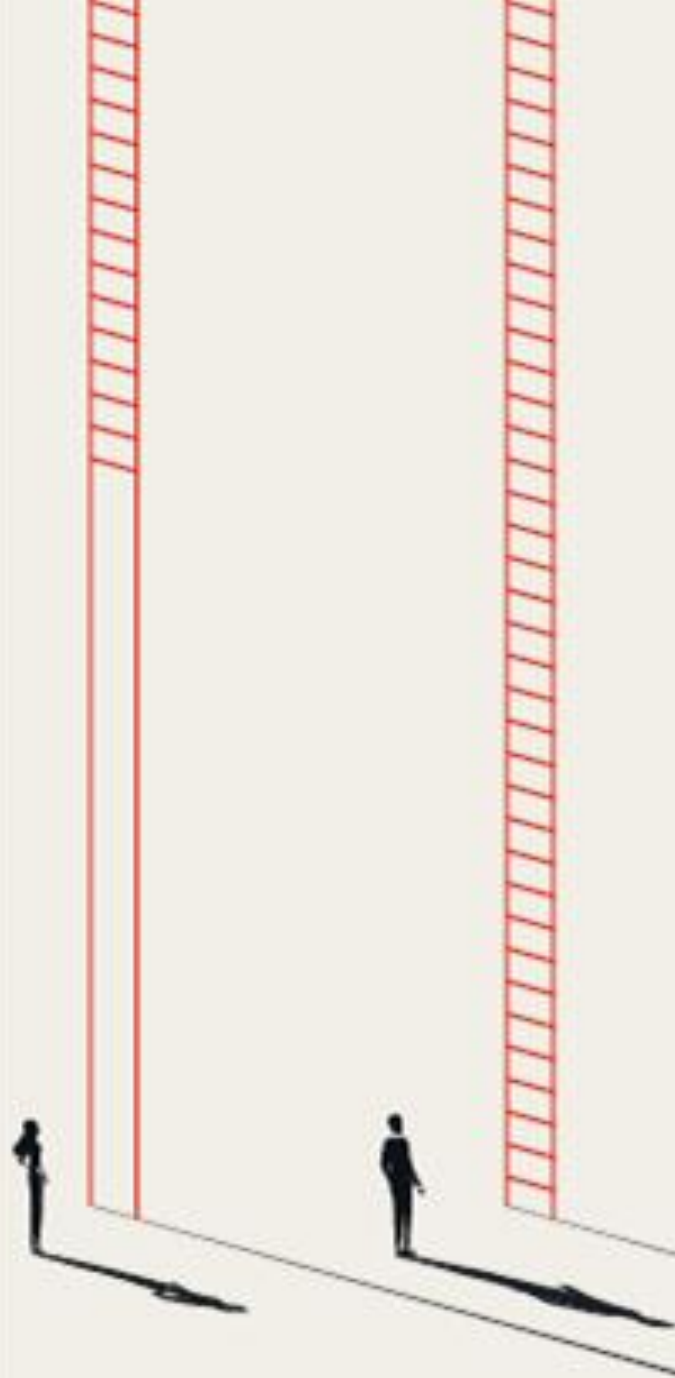https://youtu.be/RSIzWe33kpw?si=IGYmZZQqgN2PUHOs

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Discrimination

Discrimination is unjustifiably different behaviour towards, and/or treatment of, certain persons or groups, based on the traits of the person or on particular characteristics of the group.

Discrimination is generally understood as differentiation that causes harm and is distinguished from prejudice and stereotyping by being an **action or outcome** of those attitudes.
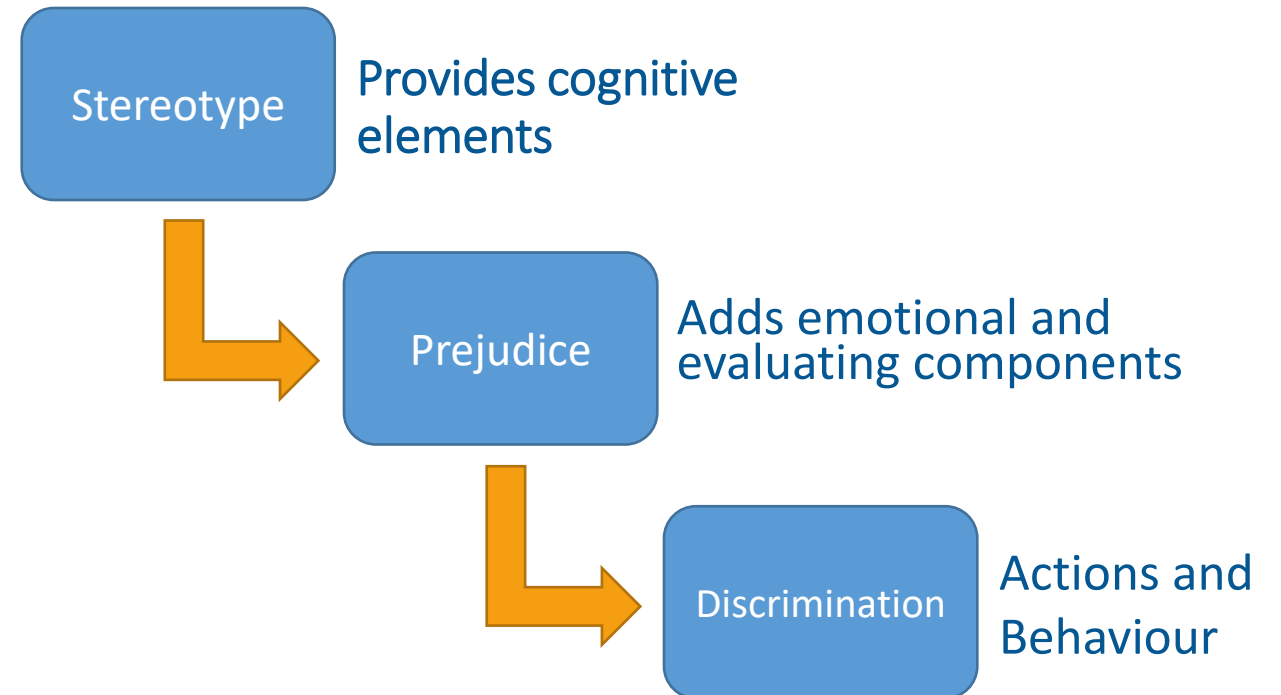
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How would you explain discrimination through this image?

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From perception to discrimination

Stereotype — Provides cognitive elements

Prejudice — Adds emotional and evaluating components

Discrimination — Actions and Behaviour

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Intercultural communication

Intercultural and inclusive communication is open, honest, easy to understand, and engaging.

It acknowledges a society's diversity.

It encourages a welcoming environment for interactions between people from different cultures and creates a shared sense of belonging.

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Intercultural competence is related to:

Open-mindedness → **Individualistic Level**   **Person's attitudes** → **Social Level**

Willing to engage in constructive dialogues and allowing others to express their views.

Ability to peacefully resolve conflicts and recognise the validity of someone else's arguments.

Knowing about others and yourself, understanding and interacting with others, respecting values and beliefs. Realising that linguistic skills are important.
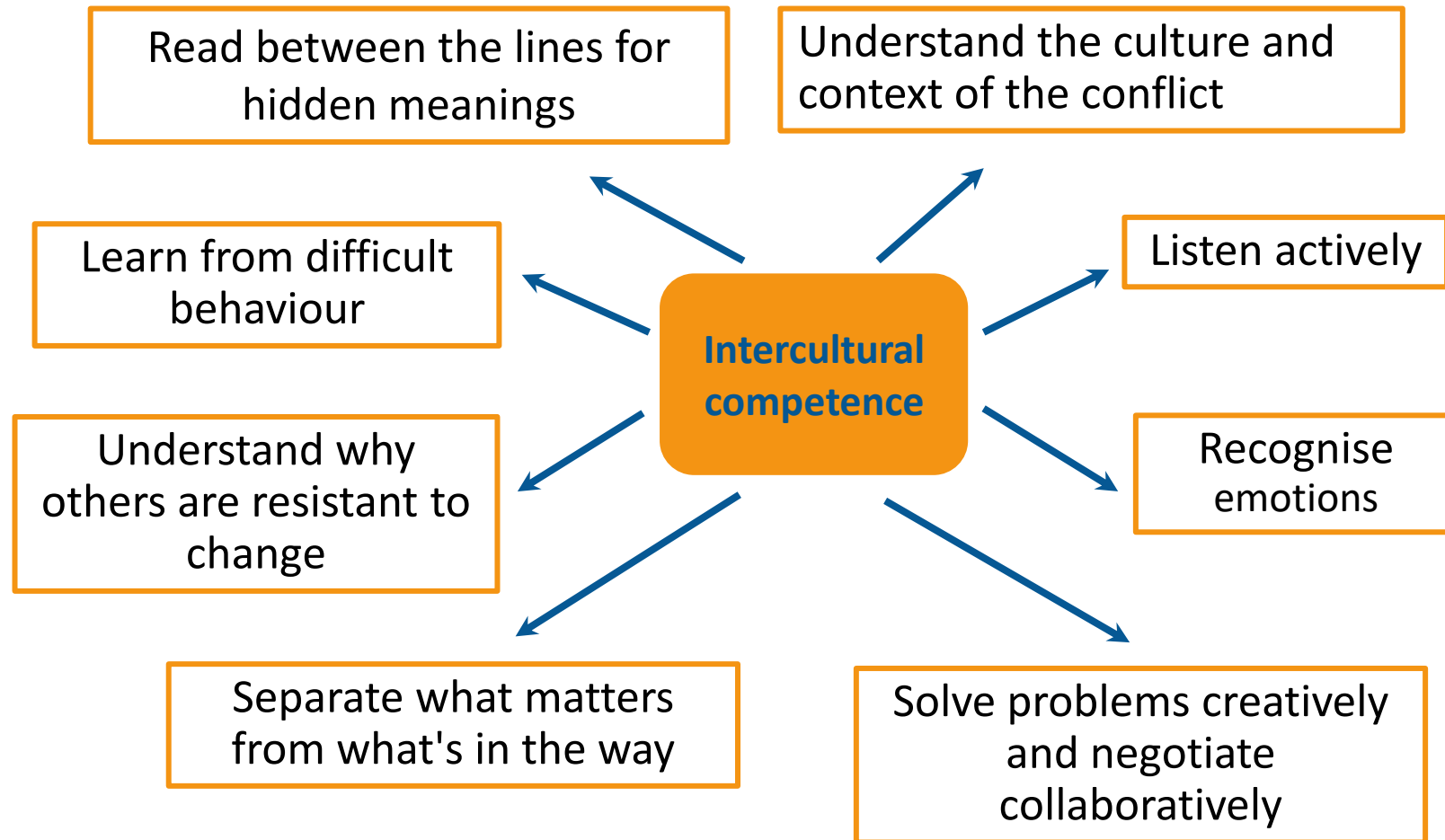
Interacting with individuals from other cultures. Understanding others' values and beliefs, not thinking yours are the only right ones. Being able to see things from other points of view.

Communicating effectively in intercultural situations based on your knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

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How do we break stereotypes?

1. Be mindful of the language we use

2. Engage critically with texts and discourses

3. Become aware of our own stereotypes

4. Focus on similarities, not just differences

5. Encourage self-affirmation

6. Engage in dialogue

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