

# UNESCO/APC MULTIMEDIA TRAINING KIT

## *Trainers' notes: Cooperative Problem Solving Generating Options*

Developed by: Search for Common Ground

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<b>Introduction</b>	Unit message: once we have discovered the interests of the parties to a conflict, it is often useful to generate options before developing an agreement.
<b>Timing/Duration</b>	35 minutes
<b>Content outline and main topics covered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Exercise to practice creative problem solving.</li><li>o Guided discussion to clarify the process of generating options.</li><li>o Exercise to generate options for resolving a problem previously identified by the participants (if the module is being presented in its entirety).</li></ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	General
<b>Prerequisite skills/Knowledge</b>	-
<b>Unit objectives/Expected outcomes</b>	Upon completion, participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Understand the benefits of generating options during cooperative problem solving.</li><li>o Understand several methods for generating options.</li></ul>
<b>Pre-workshop activities</b>	-
<b>Notes on using exercises</b>	See expanded outline below.
<b>Resources included with unit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Trainers' notes</li><li>o Overheads</li><li>o Exercises</li><li>o Copyright statement</li></ul> <p>Use the general CPS Guide with this unit.</p>
<b>Additional trainer resources</b>	Read Chapter 8 of the CPS Guide.
<b>Equipment needed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Blackboard/whiteboard and chalk/dry erase markers or flipchart, markers, and tape</li><li>o Arrange for breakout rooms, if possible</li><li>o "Definitions" poster (made from overhead included with this unit)</li><li>o "Map" poster (made from overhead included with this unit)</li><li>o Coffee stirrers, toothpicks, or other small sticks.</li></ul>
<b>Comments</b>	-

**Expanded outline**

1. **Introduction (5 minutes):** In this unit, we focus on the creative process of generating options during CPS. Once we have discovered the interests of the parties to a conflict, it is often useful to generate options before developing an agreement. [Refer to "Map" on the wall and CPS Guide p. 21; overheads included with this unit]. By "options" we mean possible, often creative agreements or pieces of an agreement. Options are not commitments. [Refer to "Definitions" on the wall, the glossary; overheads included with this unit.] There are often several possible solutions to even the thorniest problem. Recognizing that, and knowing how to generate options, is essential in CPS.
2. **Coffee stirrer exercise (5 minutes):**
3. **Guided Discussion (10 minutes):** Points to cover:
  - o What is important about generating options? [You are more likely to find a solution when there are several possibilities.]
  - o Old saying: "There are at least seven solutions to every problem"
  - o Requires a shift from left (analytical) side of brain to right (creative).
  - o How do you generate options? Brainstorming. Review and discuss the rules for brainstorming (CPS Guide p. 21; overhead included with this unit).
  - o Methods for generating options in groups: Review and discuss (CPS Guide p. 22; overhead included with this unit).
4. **Application (15 minutes):**
  - o Use the "Idea Gallery" method (CPS Guide p.22) to generate options for different conflict scenarios (one from each table).
  - o Or, if the entire module is being presented, one participant per table asks for help with a back-home scenario and all participants at that table brainstorm possible solutions for it.
  - o Or, people can work in pairs to identify options for their back-home scenarios.
  - o Ask participants to report back, and debrief in the whole group.

	<p>5. <b>Evaluation:</b> If you are presenting this unit separately (not as part of the whole Cooperative Problem Solving workshop), please refer to Unit 14, "Workshop Evaluation," for guidance on how to conduct an evaluation of an individual unit.</p> <p>6. <b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>Review the major points covered in this unit.</p> <p>If the entire module is being taught, introduce the next unit, "Using Standards and Developing Agreements"</p>
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