

# TEACHING MINI-SESSIONS

The teaching mini-sessions were designed as a final activity in the Zero Waste Trainers training event, in order to practice all the competences needed for being a Zero Waste Trainer. This gives the learners a life-like, yet safe environment for testing the level of their skills and understanding. These are the main elements of the sessions:

- Design a teaching session using the principles taught in the training,
- Test and experiment new ways of teaching,
- Practice supporting the three basic psychological needs of learners,
- Learn from own and others' mistakes, analyse them in safe environment,
- Share teaching ideas and methods with each other through practice,
- Practice analysing own and others' teaching.

For better time management but also to make it easier for learners, the sessions are recommended to be conducted in pairs. In this way, the pair can exchange thoughts and ideas gained from the whole training course, which also supports their further learning. It is recommended that the learners can choose their own partner as it's important that the pair works well together. The whole group including the trainers will assume the role of learners in these sessions.

Each pair can choose their own zero waste topic they want to use in their session and they can also assign roles to the learners depending on their choice of teaching sessions (municipality workers, event organisers, new volunteers of local zero waste group, etc).

## Main timeframe for teaching sessions:

Time	Activity
At least half a day (4h)	Find your teaching partner and prepare the session – trainers are available during this time for mentoring and consultation
30-40 min	Per teaching session
15 min	Feedback and analysis for each pair from the trainers and the whole group

If the training schedule allows, the teaching sessions could last longer, in order to give a better real life feel, but with a bigger group of people that can be difficult. If the group is large and there is enough room, then one option is also to have parallel teaching sessions and trainers are divided between them, so that all sessions are observed by 1-2 trainers. The sessions shouldn't be shorter than 30 min, in order to give some time to try out more things.

Up to two days could be dedicated to these sessions, so that every learner can have a practical experience. Although the session set up is the same for all the pairs, experience shows that everyone will approach the task differently, even if the specific topic is the same, and therefore there is no fear that having a full day of these teaching sessions will get monotonous.

