

**Pedagogical Manual :** MFL Department

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| **Section** | **Maintaining Momentum** |
| **Resource** | MM2: Finding Common Ground |
| **Objective** | *To use a discussion tool to create common ground in diverse teams with differing needs, backgrounds and responsibilities* |
| **Outcomes** | * To brainstorm what differs between opposing points of view * To create a Venn Diagram that shows the opposing points of view * To brainstorm where you can find common ground in this issue |
| **Resources** | Large A3 Venn Diagram template. |
| **Time** | 20-40 minutes (depending on the number of issues) |





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| ***Part 1: Nominate discussion lead*** | Pre-  Session | If you are a group of 3 or more, nominate one of the language teachers to lead the discussion. You could ask for volunteers or pick a name out of a hat. The purpose of this is to ensure that the discussion is well-managed and that the activity can be completed within the required time limit. The nominated person should prepare the Venn Diagram template before the meeting. |

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| Part 2: Challenges | 10 mins | Discuss the following questions:   1. *What are the challenges we face as a team?* 2. *What are the opposing arguments to this challenge? I.e. its positives and negatives.*   Place a strict time limit on your discussion (10 mins at most) and use a stopwatch to keep to it. This is important otherwise you run the risk of having a negative discussion.  On the left- and right-hand sides of the Venn Diagram, write down as briefly as possible the challenges facing the team. These challenges can be internal within the team or pressures from outside affecting the performance of the team.  e.g. Digital Junior Cycle Portfolios No ICT infrastructure |
| Part 3: Common Ground | 15 mins | In the centre part of the Venn Diagram, brainstorm the common ground.  What solutions can we find to these challenges? Try to adopt the thinking of each side of the challenge and find a way in which the two sides can be negotiated. If finding the common ground is not possible, then ask a question of the challenge. |
| Part 4: Actions | 5 mins | What actions do you need to create in order to find the common ground?  Where you have written a question, where might you find the answer?  Where you have found common ground, what commitments can you make as a team to ensure that this take place?  Divide the actions between the members of the team and agree to complete them by a specific date |

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| ***Part 5: Follow-up*** | Post-  Session | Find some time during a future meeting or a time when you are together t giveo feedback to colleagues on the actions and establish any further ones that might need to take place. |

