

TO-GATHER 2

‘MULTIPLE CHOICE IDENTITY’ (2020-2021)

Let's come to gather as European citizens

A follow-up of the Community in Art project ‘Build your own future’ in Drachten, the Netherlands (July-November 2019) about citizenship. It's a grassroots-project, featuring 5 minority groups who want to create and improve their own living environment through music, film, clips, paintings, images, poetry, design, dance and action..

This project ‘Multiple Choice Identity’ is also inspired by the educational and innovative European project To-Gather (2006-2011) in 9 European countries, Lebanon and Syria. Our experiences and performances during festivals as well as To-Gather products (clips, songs and images) that were developed during this period will be revitalized, built upon and connected to new developments in education.

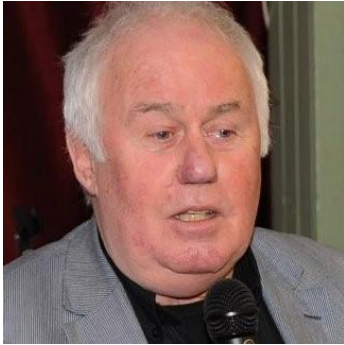
‘In the year 2025, To-Gather is still alive’.

Groups

1. Children
2. Young people
3. Old people
4. Newcomers
5. Disabled people

Partners

1. To-Gather (Wim Kratsborn (project leader), Bouke Mekel, Dirk Geerdink (rapper) and Jan Doddema (producer).
In cooperation with Maja Zuiderveld (coaching and practice, CEDIN), Piet van der Ploeg (research, RUG), Vanderlinde (band) and Margarita Kamjaka (dancer)



Project leader Wim Kratsborn

2. Drachten (De Lawei (theater), secondary school (young people), primary schools (children), Liante (old people) and Talant (handicapped people) and newcomers (AZC).
3. VIVES, Kortrijk (Hugo Verkest)
4. Inclusive Education Support Center / State Gymnasium 1, Jurmala (Sandra Rone)
5. Università degli Studi Roma Tre (Sandra Chistolini)

‘MCI, I’ll tell you why’

The central aim of the project ‘MCI’ is about the development of a diverse European citizen in the ‘Multiple Society’ (‘Liquid society’, Zygmunt Bauman) with an active, creative, dynamic and multifaceted ‘Multiple Choice Identity’ to:

- learn to make the right choices in order to determine the own citizenship, to solve and apply social problems, conflicts and controversial issues in everyday life.
- reach vulnerable minority groups such as children, problem youngsters, elder and disabled people and newcomers by improving conditions for civic and democratic participation in a creative interactive and flexible way (‘grassroots’)
- use and create art such as music, film and design (Bauhaus and ‘Community in Art project’) and apply it in the own living environment. ‘Music makes sense’ as a way to understand and feel the self, the other and reality. ‘Music teaches us that everything is connected’ (Daniel Barenboim)
- develop understanding of the Union policy, promoting societal and intercultural engagement while linking the local and the European dimension
- come to gather with people who are different in a ‘deliberative democracy’ (Chantal Mouffe) and pay attention to more antagonistic perspectives on citizenship. It’s essential to disagree about climate change, inequality, terrorism and populism. *‘Democracy is saying no’* (Albert Camus)
- know and feel more about European history from different perspectives (*‘a past that’s no history’*)
- gather diverse knowledge and insight through multiple sources as a book, a film, a novel, design, dance, landscapes and music as well as cooperative, interactive, creative, informal, digital and emotional learning styles (‘decoding disciplines’). *‘Feel and therefore you learn’*
- involve volunteers and the community
- innovate curricula to be implemented, disseminated and valorized in education and reality. In essence education is citizenship education (Piet van der Ploeg)

‘Practice what your preach’

Multiple sources of inspiration in the learning landscape

In the learning landscape multiple sources and tools are linked in different, interactive and creative ways, Sometimes music is the entry point and connected to a design or a scene from the novel or the film. Another time a turning point is visualized by a painting, an image or audiolized by the lyrics of a song.

- **Bauhaus**

A special source of inspiration is the 100 years celebration of Bauhaus **(1919-2019)** by combining design, innovation, critical feedback and societal meaning. Bauhaus is a timeless way of reflection, expression and reaction.

- **The book ‘Multiple Choice Identity’ (Wim Kratsborn)**

It's a passion-driven journey through the past, the present and the future, focusing on turning points in the historical, economical, technological, ideological and philosophical field. Turning points are trigger points for developing of citizenship, making choices and solving problems, featuring Europe and youngsters as passengers in time. The aim is to learn youngsters to determine themselves what good citizenship is and what it means for their lifestyle, judgements, decisions and behavior (P. van der Ploeg)



hedonistische Monique



ict-freak Sandis



activist Hakan



jihadist Django:



moslima Iqbal



studente Kristin

The reader learns to know and understand the past, the present and the future through knowledge, images, stories and music from different perspectives ('deliberate democracy'). There's a playlist 'Multiple Choice Identity' of 300 songs on Spotify. The meaning of an event is audiolized by an authentic or a modern song. *'Music makes sense'* about World War One by using *'Your king and country needs you'* or *'One'* from Metallica. The Cold War is experienced deeply by *'Who'll stop the rain'* by Creedence Clearwater Revival or by *'Heroes'* from David Bowie. Music is a sense opener, a source of knowledge, a problem solver and/or a way of communication, creation, action or reflection. . .

The first chapter 'The future is not like it was before' is about the 'To-Gatherland Festival 2022', experiencing 5 turning points in 5 tents::

- 1.. 'A past that's no history'
2. 'Life after growth'
3. 'We are the robots'.
4. 'Promises of no man's land'
5. 'The Butterfly Touch'

Chapters 2,3 and 4 are about the past such as: .

World War One as 'The war that never ended

World War Two as 'The broken mirror'

The Cold War as 'Let's have a party'

The final chapter is about the present as 'Crisis what crisis/'

- **The metaphor**

As good practice a special idea is visualized in an interactive and creative drawing or design. .

Example 1:



The reader, viewer or listener may link general and individual 'headlines' and make himself a citizen. It's about the identification by 'The Multiple Choice identity' of an event such as a gas attack in a trench in 1917, Auschwitz, the revolt in Paris in 1968, 9/11 or the Crisis of 2008. It's giving meaning to 'l'Europe c'est moi'.

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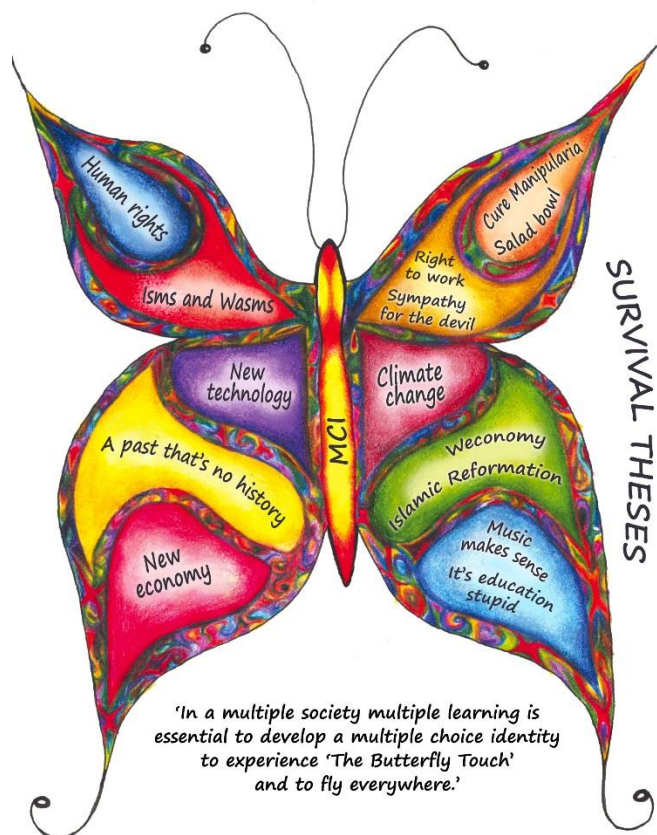
Example 2:

A metaphor is 'the burger'. in order to make yourself a 'burger' or a citizen.. Fill in the basic values (bottom), the dreams (top) and the features (middle) of the burger.



Example 3

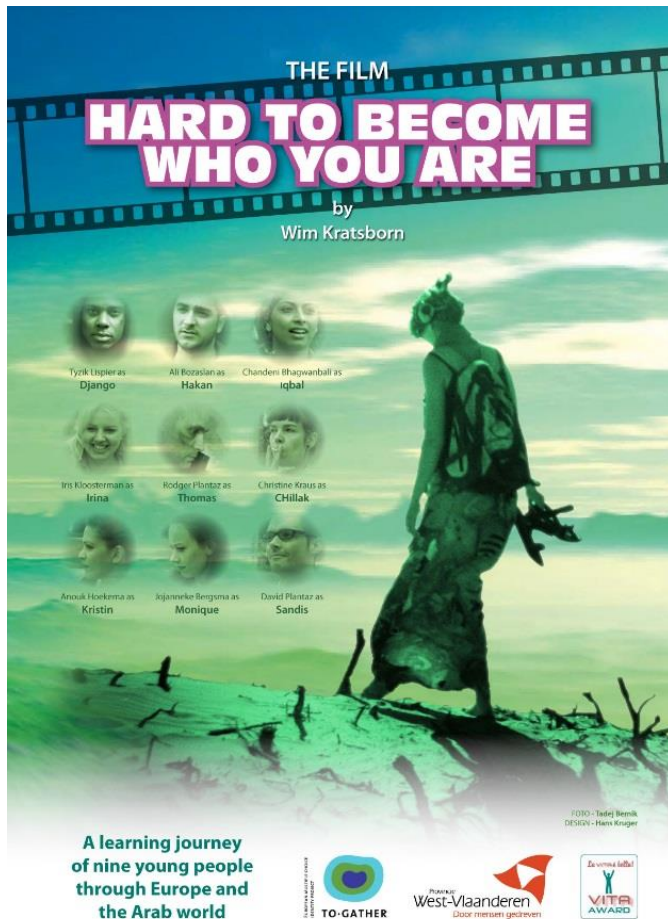
Balance the wings of the butterfly by solving the dilemmas on the turning points through 'survival theses'. When the wings are balanced, the learner is free to fly away. .



- The docu-film 'Hard to become who you are'

The film 'Hard to become who you are' (Wim Kratsborn) is a creative way to show, tell, feel and audiolize the story of Europe,

In the film 9 young people travel by train through Europe and experience several events such as a trench in World War One, Auschwitz, the Crisis of 2008 and a festival. The viewer empathizes with the youngsters by looking through their eyes during a conflict or debate. The film is a kind of roleplay of different youngsters from different places such as Riga, Berlin, Amsterdam, Ljubljana, Istanbul and Rome. Music is essential as sense opener, body of knowledge or way of reflection. For example 'Thunder without frequencies' about living in a trench in WWI or 'Credo' from Arvo Pärt about the liberation of Latvia from Russia.



For more info www.to-gather.org / film



- **The novel 'Smeulend vuur'** ('Smoldering fire'), Wim Kratsborn

During my travels for the project To-Gather I've met Europe at different places and learned to know her better from different perspectives. For example in Jurmala she had another identity then in Lisbon or Istanbul. She was always changing like a 'multiple choice identity'. For me she was a brilliant young dancer (inspired by the Latvian dancer Margarita Kamjaka) and at all places she told her life story to me. It was a mix of drama and humor, heaven and hell, ratio and emotion. In this way the story of the continent was personalized and she was like every European and that's why: *'l'Europe c'est moi'*.

As a young woman, she had to keep standing on fires and to survive in turbulent events like world War One and Two and during the Cold War. Fortunately she had a little help from young friends, while traveling from city to city like Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Liverpool, Gdansk, Riga and Istanbul. Everywhere music was her guiding light to find and solve problems.

- **Songs**

During my travels in Europe and the Arab world I wrote about 15 songs such as 'Free me', 'Refugee in me', 'Generation What!?', 'Youth of today' and 'Passengers in time'. Go to www.to-gather.org/music

Get out of my backyard with your bullet proof vest.

The Sword of Damocles points at my breast

This is World War III between fanatics and the rest

Passengers in time killed in a crowd.

Beirut, Paris, Brussels and please say it loud.

When we stay together, we can work it out

A refugee is something to be. A refugee needs to be free

Do you want to be like the refugee in me?

Do you want to be like the refugee in me?

(Fragment from 'Refugee in me' (2016), Music: John Lennon and lyrics Wim Kratsborn)

Passengers in time.

Searching the unknown

Passengers in space.

Over there is my home

My feet are on the ground.

Stand up to violence

Can't you hear the sound.

The sound of silence

(Fragment from 'Passenger in Time' (2006), Music and lyrics Wim Kratsborn)

Furthermore songs from many musicians are used in the book, the film and the novel.

- **Didactical tools**

As didactical tools, learning routes and workshops are designed for children, youngsters, adults and elder people to realize the aim of the MCI-project.

In the learning route the learner is following his learning process step by step related to a scene from the film or the novel or a chapter from the book. He's zigzagging between knowledge, activities and himself.

Best practice are the learning routes from To-Gather (2006-2012) about 'Identity', 'Family and friends', 'The other' and 'Good work'

A learning route starts with a sense opener such as song, an image or a story and furthermore knowledge is gathered. In step 3 the focus is on a problem, in step 4 on communication with others and from step 5 to 7 on creation, action in the living environment and reflection on the own identity.

A sense opener of a workshop:

A passenger in time is a long way from home

The land that lives inside is always my own

Free me and let me be a he, an it or a she

Like a 'Multiple Choice Identity'

The war is not yet over, many people are not free

Let's come to gather, you and me

Let me feel safe on a web, without fake

Give me respect, although my name is Ahmad and not Freek'

(Fragment of 'Free me'. Wim Kratsborn, 2018)

Workshops are designed about the own freedom and the building of the living environment.

COME TO GATHER and meet



BUILD YOUR OWN FUTURE

What's in it for you?

- Link 'the land that lives inside' and 'the land of arrival'
- Listen to music, share a film, a novel and a book and do a workshop
- Improve your own life environment as a citizen in a creative and active way
- Share your own ideas and wishes with young, old and handicapped people
- Design through music, dance, art and drama. 'Feel and therefore you learn'
- Get inspired by the art and design of BAUHAUS
- Feel free as a butterfly
- Present your design and results as the stars at the 'To-Gatherland Festival' in The Lawei (September 2019) and share it with others



Organized by the international, innovative and educational citizen-project To-Gather: Wim Kratsborn (projectleader) / Bouke Mekel (designer) / Jan Doddema (producer) and Dirk Geerding (rapper) and others.

EUROPEAN MULTIPLE CHOICE
IDENTITY PROJECT



TO-GATHER

For more information go to www.to-gather.org
or contact Wim Kratsborn on w.kratsborn@planet.nl

- **Festivals**

The highlights of the To-Gather project and of the MCI-project are the festivals, consisting of lectures, workshops and performances. See for images, clips, performances of 'To-Gather Festivals':

Torhout (2011) www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEi-UnJQmNE

Coimbra (2011) www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r7mma7Hb1Q

Jurmala (2012) www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIPGZVzY394

Presov (2012) www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEt4WVklboU

featuring Margarita Kamjaka, Jeffrey Hoofs, Audiofeel and Vanderlinde



Margarita Kamjaka as 'The Butterfly'

- **Hiphop**

In the present hiphop is the most popular music for young people. That's why we are searching for ways to use it. For example the hiphop song 'Wassily' (lyrics by Wim Kratsborn, rap by Dirk Geerdink. and clip by Jan Doddema) about 'Komposition VII' from Kandinsky. Go to:

<https://youtu.be/4pE6HyYfWr4>



- **Audio**

-The poem "*Alleen vluchten kan nog*" / 'Only fleeing is possible':
<https://youtu.be/dUC5S3bQjMo>)

-Audio about the razzia of Jews in Leeuwarden.:
https://youtu.be/2qh_DbldYcs

- **'Curriculum.nu'**

In the Netherlands a new curriculum is designed with 10 guidelines or 'building blocks for citizenship' in Dutch primary and secondary education. I am involved to give feedback.

Themes are: freedom and equality, power and public participation, democratic culture, diversity, solidarity, digital living together, sustainability, globalization and technological citizenship.

- Walk of Life



For Leeuwarden as European Cultural Capital 2018 a walk was designed on smartphone in the old center. It consist of a roller coaster through the last 100 years, a scene in a trench in World War One and a razzia against Jews in Leeuwarden (1944), climate change and globalization. The aim is to make yourself a burger (see 'The metaphors'). This walk may easily be transferred to other cities.

New products and results in the European project 'Multiple Choice Identity' as energizers in people's own living environment

- **Clips**
 - images and music about the own living environment to send to the same group in the other city
 - about a controversial issue
- **Podcasts**
 - cross-over information
- **Lipdubs**
 - a dance and song about and by the youth of today
- **Films**
 - 'l'Europe c'est moi', inspired by the novel
- **Poems**
 - combined with a strip/comic, music or a drawing
- * **Photos**
 - objects
 - landscapes
 - collages
- **Designs**
 - examples of material
 - the making of photos/videos
 - objects from daily life

- **Songs**
 - the making of a song
 - collage of existing songs
- **Activities and events**
 - making food together
 - doing a demonstration
 - doing an interactive and creative walk in the city
- **Dances**
 - mix of different hiphop styles
 - breakdance and hiphop
- **‘Gesamtkunstwerk’**
 - mix of objects
- **Sculptures**
 - about climate change made of waste
 - about inequality
- **Performances**
 - mask roleplay
 - theatre performance (someone playing Europe and the youth of today etc.)
- **Maquettes**
 - district of the city. Changes can be designed on the maquette.
 - labyrinth of plastic objects
- **‘Storytelling’**
 - the own life story

THE ROUTE TO A 'MULTIPLE CHOICE IDENTITY'

Step 1: 'Sense opener'

-Workshop: *'MCI, I'll tell you why'*. What's in it for the learners and the teachers? Try to find out what kind of citizen you are and who you can and want to be. How can you make yourself 'a burger' or a citizen?!! Each participant as well as the volunteers design a profile of himself as a citizen.



- Workshop *'Music makes sense'* about the meaning of music as a sense opener, a source of knowledge, a problem solver and a way of communication, creation, action and reflection. Music is a common framework, an abstract language in harmony, a perfect balance between intellect, emotion and temperament (Daniel Barenboim).
- Workshop: *'Design the world'* (Bauhaus), linking the Style by the White Stripes (*'Seven Nation Army'*) and the exhibition *'Object Love'* (2018),

De Domeinen, Sittard. The painting 'Komposition VII' from Kandinsky including the hiphopsong 'Wassily' are the sense opener.

- Workshop 'Field of View' about 'turning points' in the field of economy, history, technology, ideology and philosophy.

Step 2: Body of knowledge from the book, the novel and songs

- The past, the present and the future (1900-2022) from city to city ('The roller coaster' and the novel 'Smeulend vuur' (Smoldering fire) and from chapter to chapter (the book 'Multiple Choice Identity').

- Discussion about the different perspectives of the youngsters in the film.



'Timespirit', Wim Kratsborn, 1992

- 'The present as the past of the future'



-The future at the 'To-Gatherland Festival 2022'

Step 3: 'What's the problem?'

- What and where are the fires?
- Designing social dilemmas or challenges per group
Urban culture including breakdance, graffiti and hip hop songs
- What's the solution?

Step 4: 'Come to gather'

- Communication with the same group at different places about dilemmas and solutions
- Sharing designs and ideas between the groups and their volunteers
- Doing a role-play or a mask-play like in the train

Step 5: 'Create the future'

- Festival(s). Exchange of ambassadors (i.e. one participant, volunteer or teacher per partner) between the festivals.
- Design a 'building' or a spot
- Make an exhibition
- Do a live cast
- Change and improve the living environment

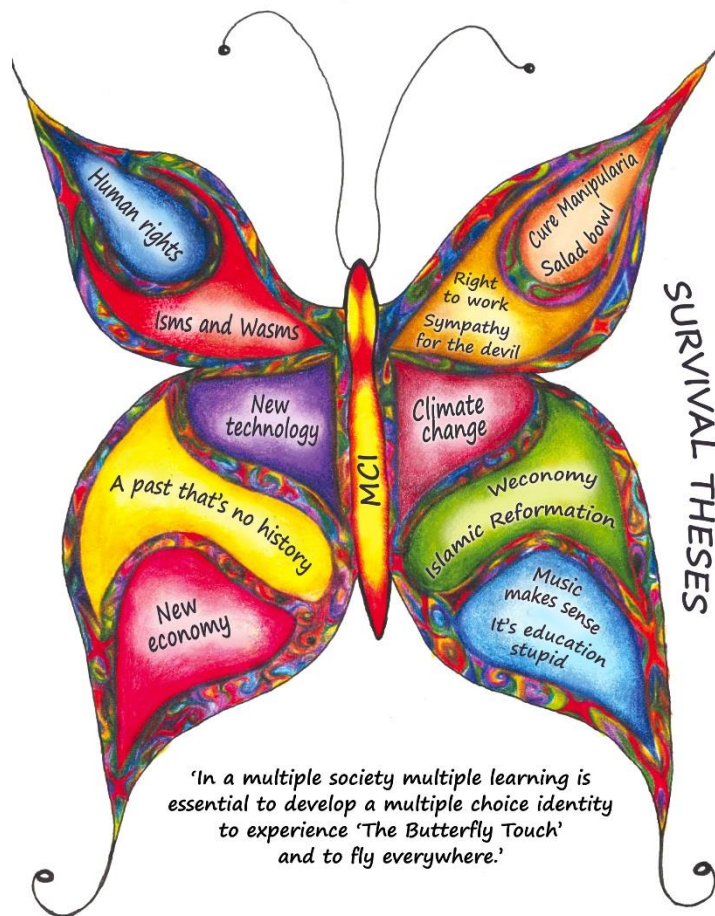
- Presentation of how to do a lipdub

Step 6: Apply in the living environment

- Design the living environment
- Struggling communities: the right to disagree and be different
- Organize an event or activity
- Organize a lipdub
- Do an exhibition
- Gather objects and stories

Step 7: Reflect and 'preflect'

- Implement the project in the curriculum
- Reflect on the learning process.
- What was the role of the volunteers?
- What did we make and/or improve?
- What's the impact on the EU-policy?
- What's in it for us?
- How did we create a 'multiple choice identity'
- Preflect on the future, that's not like it was before?
- Gathering of partners



More info about the To-Gather- products and workshops:

www.to-gather.org / w.kratsborn@planet.nl