

# Communication Skills for Managers

## Assertiveness

#### TASK FOR INDIVIDUALS

#### **Assertiveness Questionnaire**



## 4 types of acting

- passive
- aggressive
- passive-aggressive
- assertive

#### **Passive behavior**

- concessions
- trying to avoid problems
- trying to comply with everyone's request
- loss of our own value
- I lose, you win

## **Aggressive behavior**

- attack
- sarcasm
- promoting only our own opinions
- evokes either counter-attacks or passivity of others
- one is aware of his/her own rights, uses them, but does not respect the rights of the other person
- I win, you lose

## Passive-aggressive behavior

- feelings of powerless, stuck, and resentful
- people appear passive on the surface but are really acting out anger in a subtle, indirect, or behind-thescenes way
- sabotage
- disrupt
- I let you think you win, but in fact I win, you lose

#### **Assertive behavior**

- to stand up for your own rights without the need to "defeat the opponent"
- by enforcing your own feelings and opinions
  appropriately with a certain amount of
  understanding, the other person can feel that he/she
  is also entitled to have his/her own opinion
- I win, you win

#### TASK FOR THE GROUP

### Specify the type of behavior



#### **Assertiveness**

Assertiveness is a technique that allows us to handle the manipulative behaviour of other people towards us, and at the same time, it is a technique that allows us to handle our own inner manipulative experience and thinking.

## How to behave assertively?

- Stand up for what you want and state your needs clearly.
- Choose a behavior conciously and be willing to live with that choise and the consequences.
- Value yourself and your thoughts. Treat yourself and others with equal respect.

## How to behave assertively?

Say, what you mean, mean what you say, but don't say it mean.

#### Assertiveness vs. aggressiveness



## **Assertive rights**

- 1. I have the right to judge my behavior, thoughts, and feelings and to be **responsible** for them and their consequences.
- I have the right to offer no excuses, explanations or apologies regarding my behavior.
- 3. I have the right to judge **whether** and to what extent I am responsible for solving **other people's problems**.
- 4. I have the right to change my mind.
- 5. I have the right to make mistakes and be responsible for them.

## **Assertive rights**

- 6. I have the right to say "I do not know".
- 7. I have the right to be independent on the goodwill of others.
- 8. I have the right to make illogical decisions.
- 9. I have the right to say "I do not understand you".
- 10. I have the right to say "I do not care".
- 11. I have the right to **decide** whether to **act assertively or not** and to take responsibility for the consequences of this decision.

#### ASSERTIVE RIGHTS

I have the right to be responsible for my own actions.

I have the right to make mistakes.

I have the right to be myself.

I have the right to be treated with respect.

I have the right to have and express my feelings, thoughts & opinions.

I have the right to say no and not feel guilty.

I have the right to change my mind.

I have the right to say I don't know.

I have the right to feel and express my anger.

I have the right to have my needs be as important as the needs of others.

I have the right to do things other people do not approve of.

I have the right to ask why or why not.

I have the right to ask for help.

I have the right to say I don't understand.

I am not responsible for the actions of others.

Other people have the right to make mistakes

Other people have the right to be themselves.

Other people have the right to be treated with respect.

Other people have the right to have and express their feelings, thoughts & opinions.

Other people have the right to say no and not feel guilty.

Other people have the right to change their mind.

Other people have the right to say they don't know.

Other people have the right to feel and express their anger.

Other people have the right to have Their needs be as important as my needs.

Other people have the right to do things I do not approve of.

Other people have the right to ask why or why not.

Other people have the right to ask for help.

Other people have the right to say they don't understand.

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## **Assertive techniques**

- Broken LP (record): Calm repetition of what I want, ignoring manipulative techniques (complaining about sth, rejecting sth)
- Open door: Criticism is accepted calmly, without anxiety (unjustified criticism)
- Negative inquiry: Requesting further, more specific criticism. We ask questions about how to rectify it (justified criticism)
- I-statement: Criticizing, pointing out failings without provoking defense (blaming others)

#### TASK FOR INDIVIDUALS

#### Formulation of I-statement sentences



## **Summary**



#### **TASK FOR PAIRS**

### Playing scenes

