HOW TO WORK IN A GROUP

WHAT'S THE USE OF A LEARNING GROUP?

- Whenever I explain certain issues to another person, I’m forced to go deeper into the subject and to understand it more thoroughly.
- Immediate feedback and the comparison with others help me to rate my state of knowledge.
- Working together on certain topics is more fun than working alone.

HOW CAN WE PROCEED IN A LEARNING GROUP?

- Ahead of every meeting, narrow down a part of the issue to learn. Every member of the group has to prepare this part in the same way (e.g. work through texts and lecture notes, prepare a catalogue of questions).
- Discuss ambiguities.

HINTS TO MAKE LEARNING IN A GROUP A SUCCESS

Learning together in a group and learning individually should be complementing.

There should be 3–5 people in a learning group.

First, everyone has to agree on aims, procedure and rules of the group. The expectations of single members should not differ too much from those of the others.

Define topics and aims for each meeting together. Agree as well upon how every member should prepare the meetings.

All members of the group should be well prepared for each meeting.

Problems and discontent with the way of working of other group members should be discussed.

Members of the group should support each other: e.g. exchange notes and material or clarify content-related misunderstandings.

Make up a balance after each meeting and look ahead: How productive was the meeting? What can be improved in the next meeting? What is the agreement for the next meeting?