LEARNING BOX OF UNPLUGGED ACTIVITIES

Planning a Summer Trip on a Budget

This unplugged activity engages learners in planning an affordable summer trip to the Greek islands using realistic constraints. Participants work in groups with printed materials representing transport options (ferries), accommodation types, food budgets, and activities. They analyze options, compare prices, and make decisions to stay within a fixed budget. The activity promotes financial planning, decision-making, and computational thinking without requiring digital tools.

Target Group

- ☐ Low-skilled adults with low digital competences
- ☑ Low-skilled adults with limited formal education or qualifications
- ☐ Low-skilled adults with low participation in lifelong learning / training opportunities

Learning Objectives

- Understand the key components of travel planning (transport, accommodation, food, activities)
- Develop budgeting skills in a realistic travel scenario
- Compare options and identify cost-saving opportunities
- Recognize pricing patterns (seasonality, location differences)
- Apply computational thinking to structured decision-making

Competence Areas

a) Innovation Competences

- ☐ Creativity
- ☐ Critical thinking
- ☐ Problem solving
- ☐ Communication

Co-funded by the European Union

This project has been co-financed with support from the European Commission's ERASMUS+ programme. This publication reflects only the views of its authors, and neither the European Commission nor SEPIE can be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

Theme

Travel planning and financial decision-making

Duration

75 minutes

Level

Beginner

Computational Thinking Steps Used

- ☑ Decomposition
- ☑ Pattern recognition
- ☑ Abstraction
- ☑ Algorithmic thinking

Methodological Approach

☑ Gamification
☑ Challenge-Based Learning
☑ Collaborative learning
☑ Experiential learning

☐ Collaboration

b) Information Literacy Competences

☑ Ability to access, understand, and critically analyse information
☑ Interpretation of digital and visual content
☑ Awareness of media influence and biases

c) Life and Career Competences

☐ Flexibility and adaptability
☐ Initiative and autonomy
☐ Sociability and intercultural competence
☐ Productivity
☐ Leadership and responsibility

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the activity, participants will be able to:

- Break down a travel plan into manageable components
- Identify price variations based on destination and timing
- Focus on essential travel needs while managing limited resources
- Create a step-by-step plan for selecting the best travel options
- Make informed decisions to stay within a defined budget

Notes

- Use printed cards showing ferry schedules, accommodation options, and activity prices
- Include different island options with varying costs to encourage comparison
- Encourage group discussion and justification of choices

Facilitators can adjust difficulty by changing budget limits or adding constraints

COMPUTATIONAL SENIORS

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Step 1: Decomposition of the Travel Plan

Participants are given a fixed budget and a travel scenario (e.g., 3–5 days on a Greek island). They receive printed reference cards with ready-made options for transport (ferries), accommodation, food, and activities — including all the prices and details they need to plan their trip. No internet access is required.

They are asked to:

- Break down the trip into key categories: transportation, accommodation, food, activities
- Explore available options in each category (e.g., different ferry prices, hotel vs. room rental, low-cost vs. expensive activities)
- Estimate or calculate the cost of each option and begin allocating their budget

Participants use the given cards to fill in their budget worksheet, exploring all options in each category before making decisions.

Facilitator support:

- Ask guiding questions like: “What is necessary for the trip?” or “Where do you spend the most money?”
- Encourage participants to think about priorities (e.g., comfort vs. cost)

This step helps participants organize a complex planning task into clear, manageable parts.

Step 2: Pattern Recognition

Participants compare different scenarios and options, such as:

- Travelling in peak season vs. off-season
- Choosing popular vs. less touristy islands
- Booking early vs. last-minute

They are asked to:

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- Identify price patterns, such as higher costs during summer peak months or weekends
- Recognize trends like cheaper accommodation further from the center or lower prices for flexible travel dates
- Discuss how choices influence the overall budget

Facilitator support:

- Prompt reflection: “When are prices highest?”, “What makes one option cheaper than another?”
- Highlight trade-offs (e.g., lower cost vs. convenience or comfort)

This step helps participants identify patterns and make informed comparisons.

Step 3: Abstraction – Focusing on Key Travel Decisions

Participants simplify the planning process by focusing only on the most important elements.

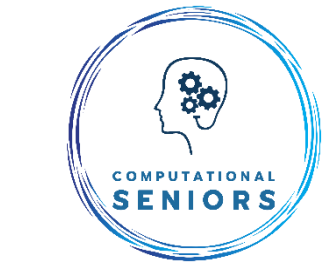
They are asked to:

- Identify essential travel needs (transport, accommodation, basic food)
- Distinguish between necessary and optional expenses (e.g., luxury accommodation, extra activities)
- Ignore less important details (e.g., minor preferences) to focus on staying within budget
- Decide where compromises can be made (e.g., cheaper accommodation to allow for activities)

Facilitator support:

- Ask questions like: “What do you really need for the trip?”, “What can you reduce or skip?”
- Emphasize prioritization and decision-making under constraints

This step helps participants reduce complexity and focus on what matters most for achieving their goal.





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Step 4: Budget Planning Strategy (Algorithmic Thinking)

Participants develop a step-by-step strategy to plan their trip within the budget.

They should:

- Create simple decision rules, such as:
  - “Choose transport first within budget limits”
  - “Prioritize affordable accommodation”
  - “Adjust activities based on remaining budget”
- Organize their planning into a sequence, for example:
  1. Select destination
  2. Choose transportation
  3. Book accommodation
  4. Allocate daily food budget
  5. Add optional activities if the budget allows

Finally, participants:

- Present their travel plan to the group
- Explain how they made decisions and stayed within budget
- Compare strategies and discuss different approaches

Facilitator support:

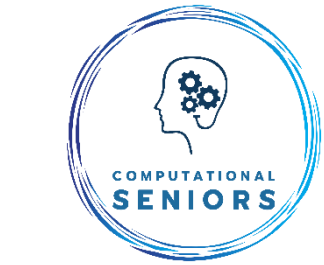
- Encourage realism: “Would this plan work in real life?”
- Highlight flexibility and adaptation when constraints change

This step helps develop structured, repeatable planning strategies.

Facilitator Guidance

Before the activity

Start by asking participants how they usually plan a holiday and what factors influence their decisions. Encourage them to mention transportation, accommodation, food, activities, and available budget. Explain that the objective is not to find the "perfect" holiday, but to make informed





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decisions while working within realistic constraints. Introduce the computational thinking concepts that will guide the activity.

During the activity

Encourage participants to compare several travel options before making decisions. Ask questions such as: "Which option offers the best value?", "What could you change to stay within budget?", or "Are all these activities necessary?" If groups finish quickly, introduce an unexpected scenario, such as higher ferry prices or reduced available budget, and ask them to adapt their travel plan. Encourage participants to justify every decision they make.

After the activity

Invite each group to present its travel plan and explain how it balanced costs and priorities. Compare different strategies and discuss how the same budget can produce different solutions depending on individual preferences. Highlight that planning is an iterative process that often requires adapting decisions when circumstances change.

ACTIVITY CARDS

Planning a Summer Trip on a Budget

Card Categories

Transport | **Accommodation** | **Food** | **Activities**

Priority Levels

Essential
Must be done – the trip cannot work without it

High
Important – directly affects comfort or budget

Medium
Helpful – can be adjusted when budget is tight

Print and cut the cards on the following slides to use in the activity.

Slow Ferry to Mykonos

TRANSPORT *When: Outbound journey*

Athens (Piraeus) to Mykonos. Journey time: 5 hours. Cost: 35€ per person. Departs 07:30. Comfortable seating, on-board café.

Priority: Essential

High-Speed Ferry to Mykonos

TRANSPORT *When: Outbound journey*

Athens (Piraeus) to Mykonos. Journey time: 2.5 hours. Cost: 65€ per person. Departs 08:00. Fast but pricier – saves half a day.

Priority: Essential

Slow Ferry to Naxos

TRANSPORT *When: Outbound journey*

Athens (Piraeus) to Naxos. Journey time: 5.5 hours. Cost: 28€ per person. Departs 07:00. Most affordable island option.

Priority: Essential

High-Speed Ferry to Naxos

TRANSPORT *When: Outbound journey*

Athens (Piraeus) to Naxos. Journey time: 3 hours. Cost: 50€ per person. Departs 09:00. Good balance of speed and price.

Priority: Essential

Early June Travel (Off-Peak)

TRANSPORT

When: June – off-peak season

Ferry to Mykonos: Slow 35€ / Fast 55€. Less crowded ferries, easier tickets. Book 30 days ahead to save 10€ per ticket.

Priority: High

July Travel (Peak Season)

TRANSPORT

When: July – peak season

Ferry to Mykonos: Slow 50€ / Fast 80€. Higher demand and prices. Book well in advance – last-minute tickets may be unavailable.

Priority: High

Return Ferry Ticket

TRANSPORT

When: Return journey

Remember to budget for the return trip. Price is the same as the outbound. Confirm your departure date and book before arriving.

Priority: Essential

Local Bus on the Island

TRANSPORT

When: During the stay

Public bus service between port, town, and beaches. Cost: 1.80€ per journey. Runs every 30–60 min. Free for short walks along the coast.

Priority: Medium

Budget Hostel – Shared Dorm

ACCOMMODATION

When: Before launching / book ahead

Shared room with 6 beds. Cost: 18€ per person per night. Includes Wi-Fi and shared bathroom. Best value – ideal for solo travellers.

Priority: Essential

Private Room – Near Port

ACCOMMODATION

When: Before launching / book ahead

Private room for 2 people near the ferry port. Cost: 55€ per room per night (27.50€ per person). Basic facilities, quiet area.

Priority: Essential

Private Room – Near Beach

ACCOMMODATION

When: Before launching / book ahead

Private room for 2 people, 5-minute walk to beach. Cost: 80€ per room per night (40€ per person). Popular – book early in peak season.

Priority: High

3-Star Hotel

ACCOMMODATION

When: Before launching / book ahead

Comfortable hotel room for 2, breakfast included. Cost: 120€ per room per night (60€ per person). Air conditioning, pool access.

Priority: High

Budget Food Plan

FOOD

When: Daily – throughout stay

Meals from the supermarket, bakery, and picnic spots. Cost: approx. 15€ per person per day. Includes breakfast, lunch, and a light dinner.

Priority: Essential

Mid-Range Food Plan

FOOD

When: Daily – throughout stay

Taverna lunch and simple cooked dinner each day. Cost: approx. 30€ per person per day. Good balance of local food and savings.

Priority: High

Comfort Food Plan

FOOD

When: Daily – throughout stay

Full restaurant meals, snacks, and drinks included. Cost: approx. 50€ per person per day. Great experience but uses most of the daily budget.

Priority: Medium

Adjust Food Budget

FOOD

When: When other costs are high

If transport or accommodation costs more than planned, reduce food spending. Switch from mid-range to budget plan to stay within limits.

Priority: Medium

Visit a Public Beach

ACTIVITIES *When: Any day of the stay*

Access to public beaches is free. Bring your own towel, sunscreen, and snacks to keep costs low. Some beaches have free showers.

Priority: Essential

Guided Village Walk

ACTIVITIES *When: First or second day*

Explore the main village on foot with a local guide. Cost: 10€ per person. Approx. 90 minutes. Learn about island history and culture.

Priority: High

Archaeological Site or Museum

ACTIVITIES *When: Any day of the stay*

Visit a local ancient site or island museum. Cost: 12€ per person. Excellent value – adds cultural depth to the trip experience.

Priority: High

Boat Trip Around the Island

ACTIVITIES *When: One day during the stay*

Half-day group boat trip visiting coves and swimming spots. Cost: 35€ per person. Highly recommended but optional – skip if over budget.

Priority: Medium

Scooter Rental

ACTIVITIES

When: One day during the stay

Rent a scooter to explore the island independently. Cost: 25€ per scooter per day. Ideal for 2 people sharing – great freedom and flexibility.

Priority: Medium

Sunset Cruise with Dinner

ACTIVITIES

When: One evening during the stay

Evening boat trip with dinner included. Cost: 75€ per person. A luxury option – only add to the plan if the total budget allows it.

Priority: Medium

Spot Price Patterns

ACTIVITIES

When: Planning stage

Compare activity costs: free beach vs. 10€ walk vs. 35€ boat trip vs. 75€ cruise. Identify what matters most and allocate budget accordingly.

Priority: High

Adjust Activities to Budget

ACTIVITIES

When: When total exceeds budget

If total spend is over budget, remove the most expensive optional activity first. Always keep at least one free activity (beach) in the plan.

Priority: High