

## Activity 2

# Public debt - Why should I care?

### Value barometer



20 minutes



8-50 people



easy

No materials needed

#### What it's about

- Based on predetermined statements on the debt of private individuals and states, participants can take a stand and reflect on it.
- The participants tackle popular arguments about debt.

#### How to play

You explain to the participants that this activity is about taking a stand on some of the statements that are raised time and

again in discussions about debt. It is possible to completely agree with the individual statements or to completely reject them, but also to take any possible stand in between.

To clarify their position, the participants line up along an imaginary line (the value barometer) that runs through the entire room: Those who fully agree with the statement stand left of the line, those who reject it on the right. All others position themselves between the two poles according to how much they agree with the statement.

First, read out the first statement and wait until the participants have arranged themselves accordingly. Now let several people who take differ-

ent positions defend their statements. You may allow short questions and or comments from the other participants. In principle, it is important to regard the answers as personal statements. Therefore, the contributions are not evaluated or commented on in an instructive manner. This method serves as an introduction, in-depth thematic information will follow in later modules.

After each justification, participants can change their stand if the person being interviewed has convinced them to do so. Then go to the next statement.

#### Note

The room in which the activity is carried out should be large enough to accommodate all the participants. Long aisles are well suited for this purpose.

#### Aussagen:

1. You shouldn't live beyond your means and buy something you can't afford.
2. Debts must always be repaid!
3. But the debts of Burundi, Bolivia or Greece have nothing to do with me!
4. Everyone in the world has a shared responsibility to ensure the welfare of everyone else.
5. Politicians in rich countries are the ones who decide how to deal with poor and overindebted countries. I can't influence that in any way.