

Module 2: Fix this Partnership Activity

1. The Story

In this activity, you will look at a research partnership between a UK university and partners in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. In the story, the partnership is not fair. The UK team has made most decisions before inviting the Southeast Asian partners to join.

Your task is to work together and think about how to make this partnership more equal, more respectful, and more collaborative.

2. What Problems Can You See?

Here are some key problems from the story:

- The proposal is almost finished before local partners join.
- Local partners are told they can “add details later.”
- The UK leads all work packages.
- All authors are from the UK.
- The UK keeps most of the money.
- No money is included for translation, ethics approvals, local travel, or community meetings.
- The UK team controls decision-making and finances.
- Meetings happen only in UK time zones.
- The research tools are designed for a European context.
- The Cambodian partner has no clear role.

3. What Your Group Will Do

Your group will create a simple **3-Point Action Plan** with three actions:

1. One action about **Governance**
2. One action about **Roles and Leadership**
3. One action about the **Budget and Resources**

4. Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1 – Read the story

Talk about what feels unfair.

Step 2 – Choose the most important problems

Select 5–7 issues you think are the biggest concerns.

Step 3 – Think of solutions

Use short, simple sentences. Think about what could make the partnership fair.

Example ideas:

- Partners should help design the project from the beginning.
- Local partners should lead work packages relevant to their expertise.
- The budget should include translation, ethics, and local travel.
- Meetings should rotate between time zones.
- Authors should include people from all partner countries.

Step 4 – Write your 3-Point Action Plan

Write one clear action for each category: Governance, Roles & Leadership, and Budget.

Step 5 – Share your plan

Explain your actions and why they will help make the partnership fairer.

5. Helpful Sentence Starters (Optional)

- “We think this is unfair because...”
- “A better way is...”
- “Local partners should be involved in...”
- “To share leadership, we will...”
- “To make the budget fair, we will...”