## Bills paradox

## Topic/Learning objectives of exhibit:

Geometry, strategy, solving problems skills, communication.

## List of Materials Required:

- Thick paper ( $>150 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$ ) DINA4
- A regular Printer
- Pencil
- scissors
- A ruler
- Glue


## Step-by-step Construction



## Estimated Time: 45’

FIRST PARADOX

| Step 1 <br> Print the bills. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Get the file and print the } 2 \\ & \text { bills (100€ \& } 50 €) \text { in the } \\ & \text { same DINA4 sheet. } \\ & \text { File: } \\ & \text { https://drive.google.com/file/ } \\ & \text { d/1HIse055uQYuttbHhHHcB } \\ & \text { SQroNaFwJcHN/view?usp=s } \\ & \text { hare link } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Step 2 <br> Draw the lines. | For Bill Dimensions: $15 \mathrm{~cm} \times 8,5 \mathrm{~cm}$ <br> Take $\begin{aligned} & a=1,1 \mathrm{~cm} \\ & b=c=3,7 \mathrm{~cm} \\ & d=7 \mathrm{~cm} \\ & e=8,1 \mathrm{~cm} \end{aligned}$ <br> With the help of the ruler and a pencil, draw the lines on the $100 €$ bill. |  |
| Step 3 <br> Cut the pieces. | With the scissors, cut along the red lines to get 5 pieces: |  |


| Step 4 <br> Make the pieces <br> for the $50 €$ bill | Now, flip the pieces back and assemble them correctly on the $€ 50$ bill in order to draw the lines of the pieces, i.e, use the pieces of the $100 €$ bill to draw the lines for the $50 €$ bill. <br> TIP: start from the left part of the bill. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Step 5 <br> Cut the pieces of the $50 €$ Bill | With scissors, cut the $50 €$ bill and then cut along the lines to get 4 pieces. |  |


| Step 6 <br> Glue the pieces together | Now, you have 5 pieces from $100 €$ and 4 pieces from $50 €$. <br> Glue the pieces in couples with the same form, from the back side, to get 4 pieces: each piece should have one side with a part of the $100 €$ and the other of the $50 €$. There's one piece from the $100 €$ without "partner" (the small square) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Step 7 <br> Cut the excess paper off | In the biggest piece, there should be a small rectangle of paper that "exits" from the $100 €$ piece side: you have to cut it off. This area is exactly the same area of the disappeared square. <br> The rest of the pieces should match perfectly |  |


| Step 8 <br> Done it. | Now you have the first bill <br> paradox made. |
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## SECOND PARADOX:

| Step 1 <br> Print the bills. | Get the file and print the 2 bills ( $50 € \& 20 €$ ) in the same DINA4 sheet. File: <br> https://drive.google.com/file/ d/123 jvvmAl6fRQn0gapST b2zDEX8bfbJq/view?usp=sh are link |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Step 2 <br> Draw the lines. | For Bill Dimensions: <br> $15 \mathrm{~cm} \times 8,5 \mathrm{~cm}$ <br> Take $\begin{aligned} & a=b=4,5 \mathrm{~cm} \\ & c=1 \mathrm{~cm} \end{aligned}$ <br> With the help of the ruler and a pencil, draw the lines on the $50 €$ bill. |  |



| Step 6 <br> Glue the pieces <br> together | Now, you have 4 pieces from <br> $50 €$ and 3 pieces from $20 €$. <br> Glue the pieces in couples <br> with the same form, from the <br> back side, to get 3 pieces: <br> each piece should have one <br> side with a part of the $50 €$ <br> and the other of the 20€. <br> There's one piece from the <br> $50 €$ without "partner" (the <br> small square) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Step 7 <br> Cut the excess <br> paper off | There should be some paper <br> that "exits" from the 20€ <br> pieces side: you have to cut <br> them off. This area is exactly <br> the same area of the <br> disappeared square. |
| The pieces should match |  |
| perfectly. |  |

## Observations

It is extremely important to take the measures perfectly and be very precise in drawing the lines and cutting the pieces.

If the bills have a different size, the measures of the pieces have to be changed, but you must keep this relationship between the sides:

For the $100 €-50 €$
$\mathrm{b}=\mathrm{c}$
$a+d=e$
For the $20 €-50 €$
a=b
(the rest of the sides can be as desired)

