

MY HOUSE – OUR CITY:

WHERE AND HOW WE WANT TO LIVE

In this workshop we first try to reflect on personal values, needs and expectations about our private space and on a second level, through discussion, dialogue and partnership, basic principles of citizenship, to imagine and co-create our common space. During the process, it is interesting to have as a first stimulus photographs from the press and magazines in order to open a discussion about the change of consumer values. Critical reflection is important in all stages of the process.

Objectives

- To reflect on our personal values, needs and expectations in our lives.
- To reflect on the model of city and society we want in common.
- To express and communicate in a non-verbal corporal way and with visual arts.
- To familiarize with, to promote the acceptance of and the respect for cultural diversity.
- To empower people to reclaim, preserve and promote their cultural heritage.

Activities

1. Pantomime in a circle:

We ask from the participants to stand on a circle. We pass imaginary objects from one to another, taking into consideration size and weight.

2. One at a time pantomime:

We ask each participant to open a package/ a box with a gift. Each one has to describe through pantomime what gift he/she wants to find and reacts on that.

3. We display many magazines with colour images in the space. We ask each child to select and cut out the ones that answer the following questions:

"What do I like?"

"What interests me?"

"What do I want to have?"

If the participants wish to share they can focus as well on their expectations of the host country (new country) before they arrive.

I
introductory
sessions

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Working

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in-depth
sessions

4. Participants are invited to make their own little house on a piece of cardboard as a collage (answering the above questions). Houses can be drawn in plan or elevation, single-family houses or flats. The important thing is to portray what each one of the participants wants inside his/her house. (See Appendix "My house – Our city").

5. All the creations are presented. Each participant presents his/her house while he/she might express himself/herself in his/her own mother language.

6. In the next stage, participants are asked to 'build' / to create altogether the common city they wish to live according to their expectations.

They are asked to put all the previous houses on a large piece of kraft paper and then to design common spaces.

Before drawing the common spaces of the city, participants become the citizens' assembly and discuss/ propose/ decide about:

"What do we want our city to have?"

"Which are our needs?"

During the creative process, it is interesting for the group to discuss, reflect and promote critical thinking.

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