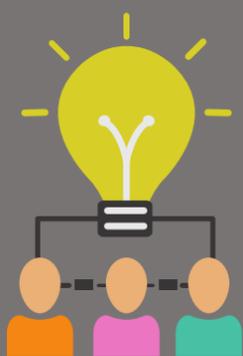


DIALOGUE LOCAL WITH COMMUNITIES



WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW DIALOGUE APPROACHES TO HELP LOCAL COMMUNITIES FACE CURRENT CHALLENGES?



3 participative on-line workshops

Organised by Forum Synergies, Cultivate: The Sustainable Ireland Cooperative, Resilience Earth, Spain and Geysier/Ecole de dialogue territorial, France.

AIMS

- Hear from leading dialogue practitioners & community facilitators
- Meet colleagues from across Europe and compare experiences
- Push our collective learning edge forward
- Test and experiment dynamics

WS1: THE POWER OF DIALOGUE, PRESENTATION OF EXAMPLES

Key-note : the power of dialogue

Case studies on:

- territorial dialogue
- bioregional
- neighbourhood
- local community

WS2: CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS ON NEW DIALOGUE APPROACHES

Conversation:

- What is changing - is new and fresh - in your work?
- How to combine emotions and energy to all come together?

Participants advices to people seeking to develop dialogue

WS-3: COLLECTIVE DIALOGUE EXPERIMENT WITH PRACTITIONERS & PARTICIPANTS

Experts short intervention on their main challenges related to dialogue

On-line fishbowl session with all participants to seek for solutions



REMARKS ON PROCESSES OF DIALOGUE

Acknowledge that people are at **different stages**

Make efforts to involve everybody and **diversity of people**, especially younger people



Be aware that tensions deal with between **going deeper and going wider** during our participative processes

Work with **skilled facilitator** (flexible to adapt methods to the objectives of the process & able to acknowledge his/her inner state)

Address people **needs**

Link better **awareness and action**



NEW LEARNINGS AND TRENDS IN EXPERTS' PRACTICE

We go **beyond agreeing or disagreeing** with the other: the aim is to be able to understand the other in his or her difference.

Inspired by **reconciliation processes in indigenous communities** from armed conflict regions, that are going beyond conflict mediation

Growing aspiration among youngest generations to take into account the **different dimensions of our humankind** (not only mind but perceptions, feelings and needs)



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ADVICES TO PEOPLE SEEKING TO DEVELOP DIALOGUE IN OUR LOCAL AREAS/TERRITORIES

SUPPORT PROCESSES OF DIALOGUE

- Push officials to be more personal
- Ensure resourced facilitation on the ground for broader effective dialogue
- Strengthen the role of local activists
- Maintain the growth in community participation

APPLY PRINCIPLES OF DIALOGUE

- Involve body and emotions in processes of dialogue
- Work with conflict as a nourishing force
- Go through tensions before starting to co-construct
- Practice mindfulness



PRACTICE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE IN COMMUNITIES

- Meet regularly in a welcoming place to build a forum on the matters that exists within the community (share food, cultural events, music, arts)
- Make dialogue a fixed element of the community, not only when there is a problem to solve



BE CREATIVE ; SHARE NEW APPROACHES & LEARNINGS

- Share new processes across borders and boundaries
- Integrate arts and creative resources
- Apply the principles of age-friendly and inclusive volunteering to help people rediscover their confidence



CHALLENGES

- How to train more community catalysts & facilitators?
- How to overcome the fear of dialogue on the part of decision-makers (elected officials, State, etc.)?
- Generational gap: how to reach, communicate, involve YOUTH?
- How to acquire stable resources needed to sustain community-led processes?



Train people to dialogue:

- **CITIZENS** : (short basic training on NVC, listening, knowing how to be in a collective)
- **PROFESSIONALS** (associations, communities, companies): problem solving through dialogue; need to add the design of dialogue processes
- **FACILITATORS AND MEDIATORS**: they must also learn to manage crisis and conflict situations.

Find enablers among the generation you want to reach, as they will be easier in touch with their generation.

Work with different generations (younger, medium, older) in each group: What would you like other people to understand?

Make every event attractive to families to have diversity of age and engage with the mainstream.

Empower people and transfer knowledge to ensure local governance so that people are able to follow their own process, beyond the "process accompanied by facilitation"



Define a strategy that respects the dominant character of representative democracy but gradually opens up, increasingly powerful spaces for participatory democracy.

In practice, CLARIFY THE LINK BETWEEN DIALOGUE AND DECISION at a very early stage in the process.

