

What makes me, me?



Brief description of the activity

Stop motion was created from the need of telling a story. It can be used by different people, such as young or adult migrants, in need to be heard. They tell the story of their migration process by making an animation video with drawings and photos using the stop motion technique.

This activity is more effective if locals are also included among the participants in order to get an effective learning and exchange of experiences through the creative process of making a stop motion animation.

The focus is on a broader meaning of the word “migrant” – anyone who is an economic migrant, asylum seeker or has a migrant background.

The definition of migrant is available in: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-wedo/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/migrant_en

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Topics, objectives and methodology:

The goal of the activity is to create an animation video presenting the stories of young migrants, in order to raise awareness about their lives and what they have to face then arriving in a foreign country: to break stereotypes, to empower the youngsters originally from a different country, to promote youth work that facilitates the integration of young migrants.

The animation video is created from the need of telling a story. The goal is to transfer the experiences and the story of migrants to locals. This method is a great way to tell the story even when language barriers exist.

Through this activity, a safe environment to work as a team is created because everybody shares the same experience. Above all and most importantly, this activity can have youngsters from different cultural backgrounds involved, a creative atmosphere is created and it allows them to become more empowered and self-confident.

Duration:

This workshop lasts about 4 weeks, depending on the number of participants and the time available for editing. As for the story, it takes a week of preparation (writing the scenario, brainstorming and mind maps), one day for video shooting, and one to two days to put the video together (as a final product).

Location:

This activity can be implemented anywhere where there is the possibility to use the computer, to be creative and to work in group.

Materials:

- Paper sheets, pens (drawing materials);
- other objects that can be used to create a stop motion animation (e.g. legos);
- camera;
- computer.

Other materials that can facilitate the expression of the participants may also be provided such as second hand clothes, backpacks, plastic bags, tents, broken shoes, etc...

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

Someone that facilitates during the writing phase and someone else for the realization of the video. A coordinator who explains what the goal is and accompanies the narrator in telling his story. A good photographer (welcome but not necessary) to have high quality photos.

Participants involved:

Developing a storytelling activity requires the participants to be involved at several different levels: writing the story, preparing the scenario (with the help of the facilitator if necessary), creating drawings, making an animation. Depending on their skills, the person telling the story can carry out the work independently, or be supported by the facilitator.



Steps

Before

Participation: Involve people with a migratory background in the group of participants. It can either be an actual migrant or a local with a migratory background.

Set up the place where the activity will take place:

It can take place in a youth center, a school, or even in centers for asylum seekers. Most importantly, make sure that the person who is going to tell their story fully understands the scope and purpose of the activity and that they explicitly give their consent, as these are very sensitive topics.

Research the needs: Think about what you may need to make a quality animation video. Besides the participants and the material described above, you may need more assistants, to rent a room or maybe have an outside place available in case the video is to be done

outdoors (this depends on the storyteller).

Task subdivision: Once you have participants, facilitators, eventual assistants and a photographer, divide assign each one their tasks in order to create a quality and successful final product.

Presenting the method: Before proceeding with the work, it is advisable to have a meeting with the staff that you intend to involve, where a working method will be agreed and the objectives will be explained. It can also be an occasion to reiterate that, given the sensitivity of the topics, the utmost attention must be paid to the storyteller. The people involved must be aware of how deep they can go with the questions towards the storyteller, and that they must not go beyond the limits of respect for their sensitivity and privacy.

During

Writing: Write a story and whole scenario. This should take around 2 hours. In general, the story focus should

be on what makes the story teller what he is now. To do this, you can ask the storyteller the following questions:

- What was the main goal of your journey?
- What were the main moments of your journey?
- How did you deal with the different situations you had to face? (encourage the narrator to be precise and creative to increase the authenticity of the story, while respecting his decisions)
- What was your starting scenario and when did you start thinking you wanted to change that situation?
- What are your plans for the future? (It is important to empower the story teller so he feels confident. With his/her story, he might encourage other people who are living a similar situation)

Tip: It may be easier to start by writing a basic story/plot. In this way we get the main idea of the story. Sub-

sequently you can dedicate yourself to the details and enrichment of the story with personal details, perhaps following the questions written above.

Creation: The narrator tells the story according to the described guidelines. In the meantime, the photographer takes photos and videos that will be used later.

Tips for taking the photos: The frame there must not have empty spaces, so it is advisable to take photos very closely. Focus on the main movement. This step should take approximately 1 hour.

Editing and assembling: A digital animator will then assemble the images. If you do not have available a person that does it professionally, there are some applications you can use for free: Photoshop Lightroom, Stop Motion Studio, Stop Motion Maker, Stop Motion, Picpac Stop Motion + Timelapse, iMotion, I Can Animate. These applications can be used both on the computer and on the mobile phone. The final video

should have a maximum duration of 3 minutes. The participants also decide whether to insert subtitles or descriptions at the beginning of the videos to explain the content.

Here are links with instructions on how to use the Stop Motion Studio application:

- <https://www.cateater.com/>
- <https://www.cateater.com/support/en/stop-motion/stopmotion-main.html>

After

Presentation: It would be better if the final version of the video is uploaded on Youtube so it can have a bigger audience (be careful about GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and be sure to have the storyteller's permission to post it). You can also present it in youth centers or in other NGOs, post it on social media, etc...

Discussion and feedback: Discuss with the participants and users of the youth center and create an evaluation form with Google Form:

- <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/10-advanced-tips-tricks-for-google-forms/>
- <https://zapier.com/learn/google-sheets/how-to-use-google-forms/>

The evaluation can consist of the following questions:

- Was it difficult to talk about your personal experience?
- How did you feel when talking about it?
- How do you think about the final product?
- Do you think your story can change people's opinions?

Do's and don'ts

Be careful about GDPR and be sure to have the participant's approval. If necessary, faces may be blurred in the video.

This method awakens creativity and freedom of expression. It is a very simple activity and can be applied to almost all situations and for participants of all ages. It can also be used for many different educational purposes. Participants may open up better and better express their feelings as they draw and use technology. It is very important to keep in mind that, in making a stop-motion animation, participants must have some basic computer skills, or at least be comfortable with technology.

It is necessary to respect the sensitivity of the storyteller in all phases, respect personal barriers and not be too intrusive with questions.

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

This is a very creative activity with a wide range of action. It can include many personal stories that can be told in many different ways. People can talk about their culture and background using drawing, storytelling and imagination. Participants can present their cultural traditions, habits and customs, but also traditional clothes, folk dances, food, ways of life, and everything that adds value to their identity and personal wealth. Since ours is a visual era, animation could be used as a great tool to spread a message of tolerance, of interculture, and have an impact on the local community.

