

The knowledge forum



Brief description of the activity

Knowledge forum is a public event where people can share their knowledge or passion on a chosen (by themselves) topic, with people interested on the same topic, in a public, informal space. The added value is the mix of knowledges, both practical and theoretical, in different fields. For example, a lawyer sharing his professional knowledge side by side with a person sharing his gardening skills, a woman teaching how to make dreads side by side with actor teaching the basics of improvisation.

The knowledge forum

310

Topics, objectives and methodology:

Sharing of knowledge. The objective of this activity is to create a space where people with knowledge or competences on a specific topic or argument can meet in an informal way with other people and share their knowledge. The methodology applied is the horizontal transfer of knowledge between people with different cultures having in common similar interest or passions, in an informal environment (squares, streets, parks...).

Duration:

The activity is composed by a first phase of preparation and promotion, lasting 1 or 2 weeks, and the implementation of the activity itself, that lasts half a day.

Location:

The youth center to organize the activity
Public spaces as squares, streets, parks, pedestrian streets.
Choose a public space where the event will take place, preferable a place frequented by people of different ages and

nationalities. It is important, when you set the date and time, that you match them with the freetime of the participants you wish to have, so avoid working hours (or school time if you seek for students) and prefer weekends. Choose accurately the location, as the audience varies a lot depending on the place you choose to perform your Knowledge forum (the more people pass by there, the most likely you'll have participants who will join the activity).

Participants involved:

The ideal is to have a minimum of five participants who want to transfer their knowledge, but the more speakers you have the more attractive the activity will be, as a whole.

Steps:

Preparation: Prepare a call and spread it through your social networks, local media, with flyers, porters etc.. The call should contain an explanation of the Knowledge forum and its aims. It should contain details about the public place it will take place and its date and duration.

Aside the call prepare an application form containing the following:

Name and surname

A brief profile of you

Which topic would you like to talk about?

What is your connection/experience with this argument ? (try to be as much explicative you can)

Contacts(mail, mobile)

Look for participants beyond those who answered the call. Everyone is expert in something, everyone can transfer knowledge to others. Moving from this premise, look among friends, members of minorities living in the neighbourhood, relatives, users of the Youth Center, and have individual talks in informal situations with them. In this way you might find new, unexpected participants. Ask them about:

- Work experience
- Study or training experience
- Life and travel experience
- Passions, curiosities and practical skills

These conversations may bring up topics these people didn't know to be expert of. Ask them if they wish to join The Knowledge Forum and talk about these topics.

Ensure to start the call and its promotion at least a

couple of weeks before the date you set.

According to the number of “speakers” you have, prepare table and chairs (1 table, 3 chairs per speaker), prepare one paperboard for each speaker with his/her name and the argument he/she will talk about.

Check if you need authorization to occupy the public space you chose.

312

It is useful to have available one mobile/tablet with internet connection, as participants may need to check together some information on the web during the discussions.

During

Set tables, chairs and paper-board around the place so that the speaker can have comfortable talks with the people that will approach him/her. Then distribute the flyers of the event around the place, approaching people and inviting them to have a look at the arguments

that are being discussed and join the table that is of interest to them.

Do's and don'ts

Have with you some copies of the application form. Handle them to the people who sit at tables as they may be interested in joining the knowledge forum as speakers. If you have enough you may organize a second edition, or, even better, make it a regular event.

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

The Knowledge forum promotes interculture by easing the encounter and interaction of people with different cultural backgrounds (due to geographical, generational, socio-economic, religious differences); the two sides of this encounter are people who meet because of topics of which one is expert, passionate or just want

to share his knowledge, and another is interested in listening or discussing about.

This sharing of competences does not happen in formal contexts (school, universities, libraries...), nor in non formal ones (cultural centers, youth centers); it is preferable to organize this event in informal contexts such as streets, parks, squares, malls... that have the added value to be familiar and comfortable for diverse and various people, avoiding the possibility that certain groups could be excluded by more structured and culturally characterized venues. The innovativeness of this approach is also to give back to public spaces a role they ultimately lost: place of encounter and share of knowledge to prevent conflicts and create urban regeneration.

Possible follow up of the activity

In this activity the involvement of the local community

is crucial. Then it is advisable to hand out some application forms among participants, curious and passer-by, in order to set new editions of the activity and make it a recurring event.



