

Survey on migrant communities needs



Brief description of the activity

The activity is aimed at recording the needs of migrant communities to design and orient the socio-cultural activities of the youth centre.

The activity consists in elaborating and handing out a survey, created together with the representatives of the migrant communities, aimed at analysing the needs of the communities themselves.

Survey on migrant communities needs

Topic, objective and methodology:

The objective of this activity is to promote the active participation of the members of the migrant community in order to analyse together their needs, creating a survey to hand out by themselves inside their communities, and using the data to design and orient the socio-cultural activities of the youth centre. The activity is in the frame of active participation (chap 5) because participants, cooperating with each other, become promoters of the requests of their communities, by taking action for their recognition and by engaging in the design of services that meet these requirements.

The first activity, based on the non-formal methodology of the “Problem tree analysis” belongs to the family of participatory planning techniques, in which all parties involved identify and analyse the needs together, creating ownership and commitment among the involved parties.

The methodology used implies combination of these three activities in order to reach the objective of the exercise:

- Preparation of the survey (Using the “Problem tree analysis” methodology)
- Administration of the survey
- Participatory planning

Preparation of the survey: This first part is crucial to achieve the objective of the activity, because it allows participants to analyse and identify the expressed and/or unspoken needs of their community by mapping out the relation of cause and effect around an issue. Participants will be engaged in a non-formal analysing process, in which they are able not only to identify possible problems, but also to make causal connections, in order to try to find possible solutions. With this visual approach, it will be easier for them to design a survey which responds to their needs.

Administration of the survey: In this part the group organizes for the administration of the survey within its community of origin, activating a process of active participation. Participants will be involved in learning approach and educational street techniques to be able to hand out their surveys in their community. Participants will acquire the soft skills necessary for a non-formal approach, the ability to speak with others independently, to create relationships, to fulfil a task.

Participatory planning: Participatory planning is about involving people in the community to get the maximum bene-

fit for the whole society. It is about gathering different views from whoever wants to participate and making people in the city feel welcome to voice their opinions. This part of the activity is as crucial for the participants as for the youth centre, in the process to become an intercultural centre.

Starting from the data emerged by the surveys, which represents the opinion and thoughts of the migrant communities, the youth centre, together with the participants, can start a participatory planning process to set the activities of the centre in an intercultural sense.

Duration:

Each activity has its own specific timing.

The first part, preparation of the survey (using the “problem tree analysis” methodology), should last 4 hours, so that all participants can have the opportunity to express themselves freely and to fully analyse problems and therefore the expressed and unexpressed needs of the community, and design together the survey.

The second part, administration of the survey, should last 1 week. The participants should have time to hand out the survey to their community, asking questions that they decided together during the first part.

The third part, the participatory planning, should last 4 hours, in order to collect and organize the survey’s data, and to decide together the future activities of the youth center, starting from the survey's results.

Location:

The location for activities 1 and 3 can be the youth centre. Make sure to have a room with tables, chair and all the required material. These activities can be organized indoor or outdoor as long as it is possible to grant an environment in which participant can feel comfortable to express themselves and to share their ideas.

The choice of the location for the activity 2 is up to participants. As the activity consists in handing out a survey within their community, they can feel free to choose where to start. (i.e. their families, typical gathering places, neighbourhood ...)

Materials:

- Tables (according to the expected number of participants)
- Chairs (according to the expected number of participants)
- Flipchart
- Paper
- Markers

- Tablet/pc (optional)
- Internet connection (optional)

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

No particular skills are required.

Participants involved:

This activity is not suitable for a group composed entirely of locals or a monocultural group of participants (it is advisable to have at least two different nationalities representing the local migrant communities).

Since the survey is used to analyse the needs of migrant communities, it is advisable that participants belong to different age groups, or that the survey is addressed in a way that ensures differences in age and gender.



Steps:

Before

The preparation of the activity

Before starting the activity, it is necessary to create a welcoming environment, with chairs and tables, papers and a flipchart, in order to set the work room for the first part of the exercise.

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Make sure to explain to the participants what they will do during the activity, emphasizing the participatory process of which they will be protagonists. Mention that every opinion is important, and facilitate the group so that everyone, even those who feel more embarrassed or in difficulty, can express their own ideas in a friendly and non-judgmental environment.

During

Preparation of the survey (The problem tree analysis)

This first activity is crucial because it allows to know and analyse the expressed or unexpressed needs of the migrant communities.

The problem analysis is the phase in which the negative aspects of a given situation are identified, establishing the cause and effect relationship between the observed problems. The problem analysis is of prime importance with regard to participatory planning, since it strongly influences the design of all possible interventions. The problem analysis includes:

- Definition of the framework and the subject of analysis.
- Identification of problems faced by target groups and beneficiaries.

- Visualisation of the problems in form of a diagram, called “problem tree” to help analyse and clarify cause-effect relationships.

Provide the participants with markers, papers and pens. Then draw a big tree on the flipchart.

Like any other tree, the problem tree has three parts: a trunk, roots, and branches.

Ask the participants to write on the trunk the main problems they found in their communities.

Then, ask them to write on the roots the causes of these core problems.

Finally, ask them to write on the branches the effects related to the problems.

All problems are sorted in the same way (using the guiding question “what causes that?”. Once all the problems are in place, these should be connected with cause-effect

arrows, clearly showing key links. After this process, the problem tree should be reviewed and validated by the participants, in order to design, starting from the suggestions of the tree, the questions for the survey.

When it is possible, the survey can be designed via Google Forms, a tool that provides a fast way to create an online survey, with responses collected in an online spreadsheet. This way, it would be much easier and faster to collect and analyse the data. In alternative, another useful tool for online surveys is www.jotform.com

However, the survey can also be designed on paper, with open or multiple choice test questions.

Administration of the survey

After preparing the survey, participants will have to hand it out to their communities.

This part of the activity is very important, because at this stage the participants themselves will activate processes of personal initiative to activate the community

and detect their needs.

Participants will be not only beneficiaries of the activities of the youth centre, but they will be engaged in participatory planning processes, in which they will be able to understand and analyse the needs of their communities and actually do something to start a change. Participants will be able to interview their communities in the context they prefer. They will be able to submit the questionnaire in their families, in gathering places, in the neighborhood etc...

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Make sure you agree with them some engagement strategies to not make them feel uncomfortable talking to people they do not know.

The participants will carry out this part of the activity in autonomy. Let them know that they will always be able to reach you, in case they need support.

Participatory planning

This phase of the activity consists in collecting and ana-

lysing data from the surveys, and to plan, together with participants, future intercultural activities.

This is the phase in which the activation process that involves both participants and the youth center is carried out.

In fact, the data from the surveys, which was collected by their own representatives, in addition to demonstrating the real needs of the people in migrant communities, is a useful tool to set the line of programming of activities in a context that not only recognizes the presence and value of other cultures, but that integrates them in their planning, moving the axis of the youth center in an intercultural sense.

After

Debriefing:

After the activity, start a discussion with the whole group in which participants can share their experiences in each phase of the activity.

If the discussion takes place spontaneously, the facilitator must make sure that everyone respects their turn and that everyone is listened to.

Is it possible to conduct the debriefing discussion through a series of targeted questions. Choose the ones you think are more appropriate.

1. Overall experience

- How did the experience go?
- Was it easy for you to recognize a problem?
- Do you think that the experience was useful in order to fulfil the needs of your community?
- Did you find many differences between your community's needs and others?
- What about similarities?

2. The surveys

- Was it easy for you to hand out the survey?

- How many people did you interview?
- Have you learnt something different from what you expected?
- Which people did you choose for your survey?

3. The participants

- How did you behave with the other participants?
- What did you think during the activity?
- What were your fears towards this experience?
- And what were your hopes instead?

4. Future

- What have you learnt from this experience?
- How is your connection with your community now?
- What kind of activity do you wish to organize?

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

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This is an innovative activity when looking at the target group, since participants, from mere recipients of services and activities, become actors of change in the microcosm of the youth centre. It is also innovative when considering the context because it promotes the idea of horizontal governance of the youth centre, with regard to its socio-cultural programming. Finally, it is also innovative in its methodology as it combines the tools of action, research, and participatory planning to produce a change in the context of the youth centre, encouraging a transition in the intercultural sense that goes beyond education and intercultural aggregation, but makes cultural diversity the added value of the commitment to the local community and the youth centre.

