



29. GROUP MANAGEMENT

How to increase group cohesion in conjunction with awareness on local heritage

CONTEXT

The familiar places and paths that we regularly use and share with other local people form a common base. These places often constitute the local and regional heritage, but there are few opportunities for people to articulate their own experience of the place and understand the trajectories and sensitivities of others.

THEORETICAL BASIS

To increase motivation and thereby group cohesion, the recommendation is to invite people to participate in engaging activities which are familiar or close to their own interests. Environmental themes, such as permaculture, can also be a source of inspiration. The principle is to generate motivation to solicit group passion and thereby engagement.

ACTIVITY IN A NUTSHELL

There are places that we explore very regularly without really paying attention. This activity offers a simple way to put words to our sensations and learn to experience our environment in a more conscious way.

Activity/Solutions

CONTACT TYPE

Online

TIME NEEDED

15-20 minutes

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

6-15

ACTIVITY TYPE

Group work

Goal

- To increase clarity and avoid misunderstanding during distance communication when there is a lack of non-verbal signs.

How to prepare

- Choose a virtual platform: shared Whiteboard via Zoom, online interactive wall (e.g. Flinga) or similar.

TARGET GROUP

- All target groups

VARIATION OF THE ACTIVITY

In a second step, the small groups can agree on a place/building/etc. that everyone knows and can repeat the second point of the instruction, namely the association of sensations. They can then compare them and to see how their experiences are similar or dissimilar.

Activity step by step

1. Without revealing to the others, ask each participant to think of a place, location, or building in their area that the other participants are supposed to know about.
2. Urge them to find three colours, three sounds, three textures, and three smells that seem most characteristic or defining of that place.
3. Ask the participants to share the characteristics one by one, with the whole group – either by chatting on zoom or by writing them on the shared whiteboard – and the others try to guess or at least locate this place.
4. In turn, each person presents their list of features; the participants can do this sensory guessing in small groups of three to four people.