

Dialogue circle method (Time out method)

The method was used during the seminar ERASMUS + project “Forward Together” in Latvia (11., 12., 13. of October, 2023) “The art of joint conversation”: seminar for international library staff and partners. We learned to promote dialog and use storytelling.

Dialogue is a method of a democratic culture of conversation, during which a person can better understand the issue under consideration, other people thoughts and his own position. The goal of dialogue is not to prove one’s point of view is correct or to achieve unanimity, but a good dialogue is a way for people to come to new solutions and insights together and maintain a human connection with each other. Everyone is welcome – both- introverts and extroverts, young people and seniors, those who like to talk and those who know how to listen.

During the day we used storytelling to bond and strengthen project participants. Every culture has its own stories or narratives, which are shared as a means of education, cultural preservation or instilling moral values. Storytelling uses language, whether it be a spoken language or a manual language. There are many cultures on earth, each with rich traditions, customs and opportunities for storytelling. All these forms of storytelling are valuable. All are equal citizens in the diverse world of storytelling.

Dialogue gives an opportunity to hear and understand human experiences that have shaped their opinion, as well as to see the world more broadly. Because good conversation inspires, heals and ultimately builds a democratic nation.

Dialogue circles. In dialogue circles, everyone can learn and practice dialogue skills and thus become a better interlocutor.

Programm of the day:

- 11:00-12:30 Democracy and conversation: presentation and workshop
- 12:30- 13:00 Dialogue circle method (Time out method)
- 13:00-14:00 Break
- 14:00-15:30 Dialogue Circle: ‘is conversation always possible? Storytelling.’
- 15:30-16:00 Take-aways and closing

Dialogue circles are based on the TimeOut dialogue method developed in Finland:

www.timeoutdialogue.fi

in cooperation with the DOTS foundation <https://fondsdots.lv/>