

Local Seminar Report

Partner Organization: SOCIUS gGmbH Berlin (Germany)

Date and Time: 9.11.2015, 17:30-21:00 and 11.11.2015, 16:00-20:00

Duration (days/hours): 2 days, 3 ½ + 4 hours

Venue (Municipality and place): Cologne (community centre “Alte Feuerwache”), Berlin (primary school “Heinrich-Zille-Grundschule Kreuzberg”)

Participants

Participants by Target Group (Number)					Total number of participants	
Distribution by age group			Disadvantaged participants	Women		Men
< 30	30 - 65	> 65				
7	24	2	0	17	16	33

Key participants

Invited Attending

0 Members of the European Parliament

4 Local Municipality Representatives = 12 % (name and position):

- Horst Thelen (member of town's parliament Cologne; Green Party)
- Frank Bertermann (member of district's parliament Berlin-Mitte; Green Party)
- Kirstin Jaath (member of district's parliament Berlin-Friedrichshain/Kreuzberg; Green Party)
- Manuel Warrlich (co-spokesman of the Young Greens, Bremen; chairman of the Union of Young European Federalists Bremen, Bremen)

0 Media

18 other public and private institutions = 55 % (name, description):

- Hanna Stanke (environmental organisation: Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Jugend Cologne)
 - Michele Maïno (integrative school: Michaeli-Schule Cologne)
 - Alex Vybiral (integrative school: Michaeli-Schule Cologne)
 - Hanna Göhler (anti-bias-organisation: Pan-o-Rama Cologne)
 - Ruben Greif (private university: Alanus-Hochschule Bonn)
 - Alexander Tschechowski (district's social environment coordination in Cologne-Kalk: Kinderschutzbund Cologne)
 - Werner Keil (coordinator of citizen's initiative: Köln Mitgestalten, Cologne)
 - Ansgar Drücker (managing director of the centre for anti-racism work: IDA e. V. Informations- und Dokumentationszentrum für Antirassismusbearbeitung Düsseldorf)
 - Rolf Hartmann (employees' union secretary: Vereinigte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft, Duisburg / Niederrhein)
 - Ingmar Steinecke (member of association for solidarity with migrant people: Solidaritätsbund der Migranten e.V. Cologne)
 - Peter Pütz (coaching and consulting organisation: Zielgenau Cologne)
 - Jana Oelkers (federal association for counselling disabled people: Lebenshilfe e. V. Cologne)
 - Katharina Bluhm (representative of youth media association; co-worker in the federal state bureau for youth participation Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Beteiligungswerkstatt Rostock.
 - Cornelia Arras-Hoch (bureau for communication and citizen's participation: Dialogwert Berlin)
 - Burçu Güvenc (volunteer worker: Hausaufgabenhilfe Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus Berlin-Kreuzberg)
 - Mir Moshref (coordinator of a committee to support refugees: KUFA Komitee zur Unterstützung der Flüchtlinge in Afghanistan und zum Wiederaufbau des zerstörten Landes e.V.)
 - Jutta Goldammer (managing director of a academy for visionary methodologies of participation: Akademie für Visionautik Berlin)
- Manuel Koesters ((coaching and consulting organisation: Kulturcoaching Berlin)

11 citizens representing no organisation = 33 %

Description of Activities

Please check all the core activities that apply to your Local Seminar:

- Brief presentation of the project ✓
- Deliver info to participants about mechanisms of participation ✓
- To collect views and suggestions for improvement about the mechanisms and participatory democracy in general ✓
- To use experiential learning to make participants experiment participation ✓
 - In Cologne we applied the “ZukunftCafé” (future coffee house) facilitation approach.
 - In Berlin we applied the “ProActionCafé” (produce action coffee house) facilitation approach.
- Present the beta version of the Action Kit, explore it with participants and collect feedback for improvement
- Invite public authorities to participate in the Seminar ✓
- Invite local organisations to participate in the Seminar ✓
- Other. Please specify :
 - Present reports, documentations and pictures from participation processes in other towns (Aachen, Dortmund, Hamburg, Luxembourg)
 - Present books and brochures which can be important resources to deepen into the issues of participation (“The Art of participation”, “Art connect people”, “Inclusion on-site”)
 - Used a real ladder to symbolize the model of the Ladder of Citizen Participation (by Sherry R. Arnstein)

Describe the program, activities and the methods used (be concise and clear and take into consideration the project general concept and objectives):

Cologne:

- As reaction to the actual situation where many refugees enter the European countries we set as central topic in Cologne **“Come and Stay – integrative participation”**.
- After an introduction to project's framework and intentions we started the seminar with systemic formation work. Some questions had been: “Where are your personal roots on this imaginary map on the floor?” “For how long are you personally committed to activities around support for migrant people, integration or participation?”
- The managing director of the centre for anti-racism work (IDA Düsseldorf) held a short lecture about basic needs of integration and participation. He shared with us his experiences in practice.
- This was followed by a collection of topics: Which questions are essential for the participants of this seminar? These topics were introduced:
 1. How to manage first contact with refugees?
 2. How to support children? How to get in dialog with children, to bring them to school, to share experiences between newly-arrived and long-established kids?
 3. Which alternative formats of participation processes are known?
 4. How to organise our common society in future?
 5. In search of permanent accomodation and employment opportunities – How to find a place to live for unaccompanied children?
- In a break self-made chili sin carne and bread was served.
- Then discussions began in groups of 3 to 5 participants at different tables, each table focussing on one of the topics above. A ringing bell gave a rhythm to periodically changes to other tables: We asked to discuss with changing focus in each of three sessions.
 1. Perceptions – understand questions and requests in a new way
 2. Inquiry – things we miss and visions we need
 3. The core concern – take steps from understanding to implementation
- The seminar finished with an analog feed-back: picture postcard symbolised the personal highlights.



Berlin:

- In Berlin we announced as as central topic: **“Tool kit for participation – Encouragement of citizens and qualification of administrates and politicians”**.
- The first announced date of the seminar (14th October) had to be cancelled in fact of very low registration status. On the second announced date (11th November) we held the seminar.
- After an introduction to project's framework and intentions we started the seminar with systemic formation work to involve everyone in the room.
- In twosome intervies the participants explored the three elemental key words of participation, their individual, good experiences and their recall to situations of discomfort.
- The model of the Ladder of Citizen Participation was presented and discussed: Where does it match with the key words above?

The participants kept sceptical because in reality it seems to them much more important to regard the quality of dialog. A good dialog should support new information and insights to everyone including administrations, politics and citizens from every social background. Participation is no one way street but a matter of learning together. A good participation process should support personal growth.

- After a coffee break with fruit loaf (Stollen) and soft pastry (Pannettone) the “theory U” (published by C. Otto Scharmer) was introduced as a complex model for effective and sustainable change and personal growth: Designing participation processes along this model initiates multilevel transition, introduces systems of collective responsibility, and forces empowerment to act.

“Presencing” (a made-up word from “presence” and “sensing”) is the aim of openly thinking, feeling and willing. In contraposition is “Absencing” (“absence”

and “sensing”) as a result of freezing the only truth, the only skin and the only autonomy.

- This was followed by a collection of topics: Which questions are important to discuss?
- As the group was not big and two of the municipality representatives were called by mobile phone to leave immediately because of more urgent responsibilities for refugees' needs, we had a very intensive discussion at one big table. The chosen key issue was:
 - How to bring all persons concerned at one table?
- The culmination in a “journaling” approach (taken from “Theory U”) leads to these key questions:
 1. What are individually my biggest challenges in relation to participation?
 2. What are my three longings I want to give closer attention in my social environment?
 3. What keeps you hesitating? Look at three typical situations.
 4. Looking back from the end of your life: What kind of person will you be in the memory of the people?
 5. Looking back from the end of your live: What is the advice you would give to yourself regarding participation?
 6. What would be the core elements of an new dealing with participation today?
- The seminar finished with a performance of a poem from Afghanistan which was spontaneously initiated by one of the participants.



Local Seminar results

Of the expected results below, check those that apply to your event. The extra box can be filled with other non expected results.

✓	Information, knowledge, opinions and levels of use of existing mechanisms for citizens' participation are shared, debated and collected
✓	Participants are informed about the existing mechanisms for participation at local, national and EU level
✓	Participants share their perspectives on how they would like to participate in local, national and EU level
✓	Participants give feedback on the information they consider necessary to have to participate and how to make it accessible to different groups of citizens who make up our societies
✓	Participants are encouraged to participate in local, national and EU level
?	The proximity between citizens and their representatives is increased
+ / -	The Action Kit to Participation with information on existing mechanisms for citizens' participation is distributed by the participants during the seminar; Participants are involved in the construction of the Action Kit to Participation, being given the opportunity to give feedback to the tool and to be engaged as multipliers
✓	Participants were provided with a moment of experiential learning, promoting reflection on mechanisms, forms, opportunities, limitations and conditions for participation
+ / -	Participants are involved in the construction of the Action Kit to Participation, being given the opportunity to give feedback to the tool and to be engaged as multipliers
✓	The motivations of citizens to participate, the benefits, impact, and personal and social value of participation are explored and understood
✓	Participants like to invite us as experienced partners to their area of participatory engagement

Provide detailed information about how you reached each result achieved.

- We did not share our knowledge in lectures but instead we facilitated a practical application of varied participation methodologies. This was accompanied by a sequence of rational-analytical tasks (presentation of models and hard facts) and emotional-intuitive tasks (stimulation to creativity and self-reflection). We kept needs of participants in the focus of the seminars. Most of the expected results arrived “en passant”, by trusting in the knowledge and wisdom of participants, that combines to more knowledge and wisdom in intensive cooperation on equal footing with others.

Visibility

Describe the different media used to promote or that covered the Local Seminar:

Media / TV / Newspapers / Radio / Websites	Content	Format	Website Address	Date of the publication and name of the media organization	Other details
"Himbeer" Urban event program magazine for families	Invitation to the seminar in the daily event schedule	Print and online	www.himbeer-magazin.de/veranstaltungen/termine/?bis=2015-10-14	1 st October 2015 HIMBEER Verlag UG (haftungsbeschränkt)	
"ZWnetz" social media forum, discussing methodologies of participation	Essay with the headline "Citizens' participation – is it a human right or a thorn in my side?"	Online	www.xing.com/communities/groups/zwnetz-zukunftswerkstaetten-vernetzung-ab-2013-1c35-1065916	21 st October 2015 XING AG Hamburg	2 comments on 9 th and 12 th November 2015
"Zukunft findet Sta(d)tt – Perspektiven für Kommunen" social media forum, discussing future trends for administrations	Invitation to the seminar in an thread for discussion, topic "Modern administration"	Online	www.xing.com/communities/posts/eine-moderne-verwaltung-ermoeglicht-ihren-buergerinnen-und-buergern-partizipation-1010363551	22 nd October 2015 XING AG Hamburg	
Statement to the press, sent to 3 local newspapers and 3 radio stations	Information leaflet with the headlines "Come and Stay", "Common good is the key"	Attachment to E-Mail	see Dropbox folder	8 th November 2015	Unfortunately no reporter shared the seminar.
Statement to the press, sent to 2 local newspapers and 2 national newspapers	Information leaflet with the headlines "Tool Kit for participation", "Common good is the key"	Attachment to E-Mail	see Dropbox folder	10 th November 2015	Unfortunately no reporter shared the seminar.
"Beteiligungsblog" team blog of a social player	Essay with the headline "Processes of participation are processes of learning"	Online	www.beteiligungsblog.de/?p=443	12 th November 2015	Essay was written by a participant of the seminar

Follow up

Please describe which follow up steps were agreed after the Local Seminar event:

- A participant invited us to his next citizens' initiative's meeting KÖLN MITGESTALTEN (19th November 2015).
- A member of the local parliament in Cologne wants to engage us as facilitators of a participatory discussion within his political party.
- Two of the participants in Berlin will join the conference in Loulé (Algarve).



Coordination and cooperation feedback

Provide your constructive feedback about the project coordination support as well as partners cooperation in this second step of the project as well as recommendations about aspects all of us need to improve in order to successfully implement the next project phases.

- We would propose more intensive feed-back moments regarding the seminar results between the partners in 5 countries.
- Altogether project coordination was well-organized and very friendly. Thank you very much for your excellent support by Ana Morgada, Joana Franco and all the other colleagues from ECOS team.

Other relevant info

Provide any relevant info, such as key lessons learned

- It was very difficult to motivate and convince politicians and administration officers to take part in the workshops and seminars, although we followed good relations from other projects we held before. Most of them were caught in their doubts, for example:

Is the issue of participation really my business or isn't it the business of another department?

Is it worth to involve at European level, when my daily business on local level is exhausting enough?

- Because the topic of the refugees coming to Europe was so dominating in politics, administration and media, we recognised that our intension to foster citizens' participation was out of sight to most of them. We respect that they really work on difficult challenges in these days. We wish that in the long run the refugees can be a enrichment to participatory democracy in Europe.

Documents provided

Please provide the list of the materials that you have produced to the event (matching your event's dropbox folder)



- Poster for pinn wall, with main goals and events of the ROUND TRIP project: *Poster-Local-Seminars-Berlin+Cologne.jpg*



- 2 statements to the press: *Press-information-Local-Seminar-Cologne.pdf*,
Press-information-Local-Seminar-Berlin.pdf



- 40 photos from the process
- 2 pages sketchnote minutes (a participant made this)

