

MOSAIC | TOOL "Open letter" - Clara, Joana and Sérgio

1) Aim + objectives

What do you want to take out of this session:

- To make the community aware of cultural diversity issues;
- To encourage people to express their concerns and experiences;
- To stimulate journalism, storytelling and therapeutic writing techniques.

What do you want your audience to achieve:

- The implementation of local policies, based on the messages that have been written; ● Empowerment of the people who are writing these letters, as they feel heard through this channel which is completely "open" to their demands;
- A greater openness to problems involving cultural diversity and sensitivity to issues that are normally "invisible".

2) What is the theme that you are addressing with this tool?

3 - Raise awareness about cultural diversity.

3) How will you implement it (the methodology)?

Therapeutic writing.

4) Debriefing. The closing questions that will make you think and learn something out of this learning experience.

The debriefing would be made through the activity and the tool itself, which already consists in an exercise of reflection and learning experience.

Description of the tool:

The implementation of the methodology begins with an awareness-raising and education regarding the topic of cultural diversity and how writing can help to expose some problems experienced in this area.

In this way, posters, flyers and publications in social networks on the topic of cultural diversity and therapeutic writing would be created.

In the associations' premises, young people can find one or two tables, a small mailbox, writing paper, envelopes, ball-point pens and the flyers mentioned above. We invite each young person who visits us to do a writing exercise: we ask them, with the pens and paper we have provided, to write down experiences they have personally lived or situations they have witnessed or know about,

related to prejudice and exclusion associated with cultural diversity. These texts can be in the form of a letter, a poem, a story, etc.

Basically, we intend that people find in this activity a safe place where they can share the problems they face or believe should be solved, anonymously or not.

At the same time, this initiative may also take place in digital form, with the creation of a "tab" on the websites of the associations, which would contain a space where users could write these same letters, which would then be submitted online.

Youth workers would then collect these letters and take them to the appropriate local policy makers in the community so that these problems can be read and reflected upon, acting as a catalyst for change.

The main goal of this initiative would be to see the problems exposed in the letters reflected in practice, through concrete measures applied in the community. These could be shared by the association, so that the young people who got involved in the initiative can see the fruits of this action and feel motivated not only to share their experiences and concerns more, but also to be more active citizens.

This activity could also be applied to the school context, mainly in certain subjects related with Citizenship and Development or even the mother tongue.

Materials:

- One small mailbox



- Ball-point pens
- Papers
- Envelopes
- Two tables