

## **Workshop: „Playing with ideas“ (Top 5 methods of non-formal learning)”**

Date, Time: 01.10.2009, 10.00 – 13.00 and  
01.10.2009, 14.30 – 17.15 (workshop duration in both cases 2,5 hours)

**Trainer: Sonja Čandek, TiPovej, Institute for creative society, Slovenia**

### **Workshop content/theme**

In the workshop “playing with ideas” we explored few useful methods of non-formal learning which can be used in classroom or among peers to provoke creativity and different (new) views on the topic of learning and problem solving process.

### **Aims**

- to understand formal, non- formal and informal learning
- to value the individual way of learning
- to explore new solution
- to understand positive, negative and interesting sides of the situation
- to use the great brain potential

### **Method(s)/Approach**

The workshop course went from a short introduction of the program, trainer, aims and methodology to getting-to-know-each-other-activities. In the middle of the circle were cards with different words written on. Each of the participants took a card, according to preference and said his/her name as well as the country of origin and gave explanation of the selected card.

To get closer to the topic we warmed up our thoughts with an association exercise. The question was: “What crosses your mind when you hear the word "Non-formal Education (NFE)", the word "Method", the word "Educational Process"?”. After getting an idea of what we would talk about, the participants were invited to draw the "Learning River" on the paper. Firstly they started to work individually in order to draw their own river of learning. The river stood for their learning process since the beginning (or the first experience they can remember). They were told to be as explicit and detailed as they want (and can) to illustrate what and how that learning happened. After 15 minutes they shared their drawings in trios. At last we had a debriefing about the process, the content of learning and learning river-experience.

After the discussion we had a short input on formal, non- formal and informal learning within long life learning as well as about the methodology and values used in non-formal education. Participants got familiar with most important features of NFE as: participation on voluntary basis; personal and professional development; learning with the group, within the group and from the group; curriculum based upon needs of society and participants; great importance of learning process as such, competent educators with high qualifications; flexible structure (plans, curriculum..); based on values of democracy (human rights, participation...); facilitator and participants share responsibility for learning outcomes; empowerment of participants.

The team work game “Impossible is possible” followed. Each group got a brick, 4 sheets of A4 paper and scotch tape. Within 10 minutes they had to build a paper construction, which holds a brick 10 cm above the floor. After the test we had group reflection.

For the end of the workshop, participants had to think about the statement “It would be good if everyone would wear a tag with the present emotion written on”. They had to list advantages, disadvantages and interesting things about this suggestion and exchange them with others. The most attractive points for discussion were the interesting sides of the proposed statement.

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As evaluation we used the questions "If this workshop was a colour/food which colour/food would it be?" and if they wanted they could also said some more words about their findings on the workshop.

### **Further tips, sources, resource material or links**

for inspiration and to explore more about learning and thinking you can take a look on:

websites: [www.learning2learn.eu/](http://www.learning2learn.eu/),

[www.learnssomethingeveryday.co.uk](http://www.learnssomethingeveryday.co.uk) ,

[www.infed.org](http://www.infed.org)

[www.tipovej.org](http://www.tipovej.org)

book: Edvard De Bono, LATERAL THINKING

### **Questions for workshop reflection**

Students/Teachers in workshop 1: If this workshop was a colour which colure would it be?

Students/Teachers in workshop 2: If this workshop was food which food would be?

### **Impressions, Outcomes of the workshop**

The participants were great, willing to participate and to share experiences. They were full of creativity and according their feed backs they got new inspiration for learning.

As answers on the evaluation questions, we got almost all colours of the rainbow and food such as cheese – because I like it a lot; fruit salad - because I got a bit of everything; ice-cream – I got the inspiration; dessert – I came at the very end so I deserved the dessert.

Some of the participants gave also a bit more explicit feedback as: it was very useful, I got new games to run with my student, it was great to draw the river and think about my learning, I very much liked the team building exercise.