



DIFFERENT (GROUP) EXERCISES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND NEEDS & EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE PLANNING OF INTERCULTURAL ACTIVITIES

1. Cultural Mapping Workshop

Description: Participants create a "cultural map" of their garden together. They draw a large plan of the garden and mark locations that hold cultural significance or are used for specific activities, such as places where they like to spend time, special plants they grow, or areas that could be used for events.

Goal: This exercise helps to visualise cultural differences and commonalities within the group and can provide insights into which locations are particularly suitable for intercultural activities.

2. Critical Mapping Workshop

Description: Participants critically map their experiences in the garden, identifying both positive aspects like "Where do I feel comfortable?" or "Where did I have a nice encounter?" and areas where they feel uncomfortable or see room for improvement. Visual aids like drawings or emoticons can be used to express feelings, especially for those with limited language skills.

Goal: This exercise encourages honest reflection, helping to highlight areas for improvement while fostering a deeper understanding of how participants experience the garden. It supports collaborative efforts to make the space more inclusive and welcoming.





3. World Café Method

Description: In a "World Café," participants discuss specific questions about their needs and expectations in small groups. After a set amount of time, they change groups and continue the discussion with others. Topics can include: "What does intercultural exchange mean to me?" or "What kinds of activities would I like to see in the garden?"

Goal: This method encourages the exchange of ideas and perspectives and creates an open space for all members to share their views.

4. Wishing Tree

Description: A tree (or a drawing of a tree) is placed in the garden, and each participant writes or draws on paper leaves what they wish or expect from the community garden, especially regarding intercultural activities. The leaves are then hung on the tree and discussed together.

Goal: This exercise helps collect and visualise individual needs and wishes in a creative way and provides a basis for planning future activities.

5. Persona Creation

Description: In small groups, participants develop "personas" – fictional profiles of typical garden members that represent different needs and backgrounds (e.g., "Ali, 35 years old, working father, originally from Syria, interested in gardening and cultural cooking events").

Goal: This exercise helps to recognize the diversity of members and better understand the different expectations for intercultural activities. It also fosters empathy and understanding for other perspectives.





6. Needs and Resources Matrix

Description: Participants create a matrix with two axes: needs and resources. On one axis, they list the various needs of the members (e.g. cultural celebrations, language classes, spaces for interaction), and on the other axis, the available resources (time, materials, knowledge). They then analyse together which needs can be met with the available resources.

Goal: This exercise helps to create a clear picture of which needs should be prioritised and how they can be realistically implemented.

7. Storytelling Circle

Description: In this exercise, participants share stories about special experiences from their culture or moments when they felt particularly welcome or perhaps excluded in the garden. These stories can then be used to identify needs for future activities.

Goal: Storytelling creates a deep understanding of the cultural backgrounds and personal experiences of members and helps to develop activities that are better aligned with these needs.

8. "Hopes and Fears" Exercise

Description: Participants write down their hopes and fears regarding intercultural activities in the garden on slips of paper and share them anonymously. The slips are then read aloud and discussed as a group.

Goal: This exercise often brings to light hidden needs and concerns and helps to identify misunderstandings or worries that may hinder intercultural exchange.

