citisense METHOD

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10 STEPS OF PARTICIPATION

AIM:
To reflect the level of the participation in practical point of view

TARGET GROUP:
- Young people or any other group of people, whom participation level is needed to discuss
- Youth workers or professionals that are supporting participation of the citizens.

PREPARATION
Mark 10 lines on the ground with the distance of ½ meters from each other.

TIME, GROUP & SPACE:
15 – 60 minutes depending, how long time is wanted to give for the discussion. Outdoors or indoors large space, where everyone is able to stand in a row and take 10 steps forward.

RESOUCES:
- Post-it stickers or other little colourful objects to use as sign on the ground.

METHOD FLOW:

In the beginning participants are asked to stand at the same row. They will get each one post-it sticker or other object to mark their last stand. Facilitator gives statement and if participants agree with the statement, they take one step forward to the next line. After all 10 statements, participant leaves the sign in the place where s/he is standing. Reflection discussion can be made both, personal or group level.

Statements

1. I am aware of the decision making process, that influences to my life
2. I have access to all relevant information in that decision making process
3. I have new ideas for developing my living environment
4. My ideas have been heard and they could be supported
5. I am able to participate to the preparation process of decision-making
6. My opinion has been heard in final decision-making
7. I produce services for others
8. I got feedback and thanks for my participation
9. I am learning and developing my skills
10. I feel that I have influence and I can make a difference

Reflection questions

- How far away you have come?
- What were easy steps?
- What were the steps that you could not take?
- What should happen, that you could take those steps?
- How does the picture seem at group level? Is it equal or are there differences?

Modifications

For deeper work with the challenges of participation, after first round, participants can be asked to go through the statements again. This time, in each step that participant is not able to take, is asked, “what should happen, that you could take this steps?”

For youth workers or other professionals supporting participation, this method can be used to reflect the role of different actors in the field of participation.

- Participant (young person, citizen, member of association etc.)
- Paid stuff, people working for government etc.
- Political decision makers

In this version steps are taken 3 times. First participants are asked to take the role of young person (or other relevant citizen). In second round they are reflecting questions of their own point of view and during the last round from the point of political decision makers. After each round, participants leave colourful sign in the place of their last stand. There is one colour for each group, when it is easy to visualize differences between different groups.

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