

The 3rd Space

Collaboration
#207

Objectives:

To explore how collaboration in programme/ project implementation can be challenging, especially when working in a large and diverse team from different disciplines. Working on the 3rd space refers to the space you are entering when offering your knowledge to co-create new knowledge.

Number of players: 10-20 persons

Time: approx. 30 minutes

Materials needed: 3 Table tennis balls, 1 bouncy ball, 1 cotton ball, Cotton Cloth with strings attached

Facilitation skill: ★★ Somewhat challenging, needs careful facilitation



Relevance for climate resilience

Many large consosortia are working together to increase climate resilience, working in large teams and tackling diverse components. Collaboration in teams, especially reaching across sectors and own fields of expertise is crucial.



Climate
Centre

Process:

1. Place the Cloth and string circle (see instructions on the back) on the ground in an open space. Invite participants to take hold of one or several strings. Ensure that all participants hold at least one string. If there are more participants than strings, ask people on the outside to observe the process. (for large groups you can play two rounds and have the respective other group observe).
2. Explain that the participants are a trans-disciplinary team that has just been awarded funding for a large adaptation project. The aim is to move all components around the outside circle, back to the finishing line. This symbolises year 1 of the project. Explain that if a ball falls off, it can be put back onto the cloth by a team members (effective adaptation). If a ball crosses the red circle in the middle, the project team is being accused of mismanagement or corruption.
3. Action phase: Ask participants to lift the cloth off the ground and place 5 different balls on the starting line. Note the dynamic during this round. Stop the round if at least some balls are crossing the starting line again or if there are too many balls crossing the middle line (accusation of mismanagement). Ask the team to reflect on the year 1 process and to strategise for year 2. Repeat the process one more time.
4. Close with a reflection after the game and explore how the experiences relate to real challenges in collaborating in trans-disciplinary teams.

Debriefing:

The debriefing is the most important part of this exercise. It can include the following questions: How did you experience managing the project together? Was there a different in process of year 1 and 2? What was different and why? How does this relate to practice in managing trans-disciplinary projects? How can we facilitate these processes effectively in practice?

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