

Cross-deliberation

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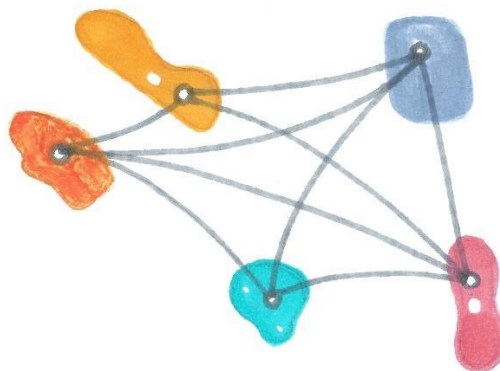


Figure 5: Cross-deliberation, Source: Calarasi FvL

Description

The aim of this method is to bring the problems of a particular community to the other communities and to receive the others in their own space, where they can share their problems. While the process will leave space for inter and intra community differentiation, only by considering them as a whole and thinking about marginalized groups at city level, we could see a significant power shift.

The method is based on sending *ad hoc* representatives (could even be children) to become familiarized with other communities' problems and building common ground and rationale around topics of interest, slowly forming a common agenda. The three representatives will receive a brief introduction to basic participation tools, to make sure that they retell the diversity of the community's problems, not just those pertaining to them individually.

Together with the team who acts as facilitators (Frontal and the local connections), they will visit another community and have a dialogue, beginning to identify a list of common problems and priorities, but also important differentiated needs, which they could later support in solidarity. In this task they will be assisted by the Frontal team, which will provide transportation, document the

interaction, facilitate the access and record some of the meetings, and help them produce a brief report on their findings and ideas.

The goal of deliberation is to identify a path of action for solving a problem. During this exercise, which often starts unprompted in our conversations with various members of the community, the groups will be informed about various aspects that they generally miss, like the legal framework, the financial cycles and the structure of public budgets, the technical constraints for certain works, etc. In doing so, we aim to provide them as much as possible information that will empower them in their demands in the long run.

There will be 2-3 meetings to visit all the communities (maybe two neighbourhood visits per day, bringing together 1-3 representatives from each group). The final meeting will bring all representatives into one big cross-neighbourhood gathering. There, they will identify and interrogate common issues and decide what/why things matter to them collectively. If they don't emerge organically, we will prioritize and democratic decision-making techniques may be used during the focus group. Then they will be ready to move on to the next level, where they practice representing their needs and interests to public authorities.

A potential challenge is that the findings and issues deliberated at this level will not be fed back by the representatives to the community level. While kinship ties are strong and can ensure dissemination, the community could be encouraged to organise another open courtyard (our first method) to make sure that everybody is in tune with the common priorities reached in the cross-deliberation exercise.

Tags/ keywords: Method, deliberation, internal dialogue, empowerment, information, technical knowledge.

Who can use this method/ be involved?

The method can be used by any actor that has access to all of the groups and areas that have to be involved and the capacity to work with groups that are involved in multiple visits.

Resources and materials required

Sound recording device, video recording device, notebook, flipchart, car, cookies, water.

Tips/ What to pay attention to

There is a very strong tendency of the members of the community to focus on personal, individual issues, people have to be guided to identify communalities.

The leaders have the habit to monopolize the discussions.

Gender balance has to be on the agenda, women are not used to participate and this can be encouraged and demanded when the visiting teams are formed.