Welcome and expectations

Information

Objectives of the Session
Welcome the group to a training/workshop. Create a nice working environment. Get to know the group. Share expectations about the training/workshop.

Participants' Learning Objectives
Get to know each other.

Requirements

Time required
35 minutes

Space required
Any room with chairs in the form of a plenary.

Group Size
Not specified.

Materials required
Flipchart papers, post-its, markers.

Preparation needed before starting
Prepare the questions for step one (there are some examples though). Prepare flipchart papers with questions on them for step three.

Activities step by step

Step 1: Get to know each other
10 Minutes

The group makes two circles of equal sizes; one of the circles stays face out while the other’s face in. The facilitator provides a topic to talk about and gives 1 minute. Both partners facing each other should both introduce themselves and be able to carry on a conversation within this minute. After the whistle, the facilitator says the outside circle has to turn, indicating the direction (left or right). This way, new partners are created and the facilitator provides another topic to talk about within another minute.

Topics can vary (see examples):
1. What is the best place you have been to? Why?
2. How did you started being involved in youth participation?
3. What is the field you are most interested on within youth work? (equality, inclusion, employment, VET...)
4. How did you get to be involved in your student organisation?
5. What do you think is the best thing about your student organisation?
6. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
7. If you would have superhero powers, what would they be?

Step 2: Introduction to the workshop/training programme
10 Minutes

The facilitator goes through the agenda explaining each session.

Step 3: Sharing expectations
15 Minutes

Each participant is asked to answer the following questions:

1. What you expect to develop, understand or learn during this training/workshop?
2. What can you bring to the group during this week? How can you contribute?
3. What are your fears about this training/workshop? Imagine the training/workshop was a disaster. What happened? Why would that happen?

The participants are asked to write their answers on a post-it, which is going to be put on a flip chart paper. A separate flip chart per question has to be prepared.

Participants are then asked to group the responses and to view the groupings. If they find their answer is grouped inappropriately they can move it elsewhere.

After groups of post-its were made, the participants should go back to the plenary and have a short discussion/reflection addressing following questions:

1. Are the expectations in line with the course objectives?
2. Are there any expectations that cannot be met during this training course?
3. General comments.

The responses from question 3 are separately discussed and suggestions are made for how these fears can be dealt with in order to create a safe working environment. This forms the basis of a working agreement for the course, though it should be reviewed when necessary.