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In-Cult



Educational methods
Living Library
ILEU e.V., Germany

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Structure of the methods description:

Name of the method: Living Library

Name/Institution of the contributor: Institut für virtuelles und reales Lernen in der Erwachsenenbildung an der Universität Ulm (ILEU) e.V.

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Picture:





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Short info:

Organizer: civil society institution, senior groups

Target Group: individuals, all age groups or specific groups (age, thematic orientated group, e.g. artist groups, cultural interests groups...)

Time required for preparation: shorter or longer depending on the size of the event, preparation of the room for presentations/content preparation of the presenters of the cultural treasures, preparation of illustrative materials (Roll-up. Flyer e.g.)

Time required for implementation: 2 hours or longer for a side-event or event on an exhibition

Venue/place: outdoors or indoors, depending on season and intention, can be a special event or a side-event in a conference, exhibition

Suitable time: anytime

Possibility to implement online: possible as an online talk but effect of the *Living Library* method is more impressive in a face to face meeting

Short description of the method (max. 100 words):

The *Living Library* format is a possibility for representatives of an intangible cultural heritage to make known this cultural heritage to others (of the same age, youngsters, other ethnics) and to explain to them why this selected cultural heritage is of importance for him/her, where it comes from, which life experiences are linked with it: getting people in contact with this cultural heritage. The “expert” is a “living book” with stories, photos, objects he/she shares with the audience to bring a special topic closer to them while combining the given information with personal experience. This method is very suitable for intergenerational and intercultural exchange.

Implementation of the method in the project (max. 100 words):

The partner meeting of the "Danube-Networkers", which took place within the framework of the Danube Festival in Ulm 7.-10. July 2022, integrated the project *Living Library* into different program events. Several roll-ups presenting photos of selected cultural treasures of the IN-CULT game were set up on several days in different contexts (conference, creative workshop, cultural open air event, senior residence) and to fixed dates in the program representatives of these cultural treasures took over the role of a *Living Library* talking to interested people about the meaning, the historical background, the practice up until today and the personal experiences with it. Visitors were able to ask the "experts" about their cultural treasure and share their own experiences.

Step by step description of the method (max. 200 words):

1. Look for topics and actors/experts which are ready to share personal experiences belonging to intangible cultural heritages. (how many, which topics, local, national, international)
2. Choose venue, date(s), check for possibilities to prepare an exhibition/side-event, can be combined with a time witness talk, creative workshop...
3. Prepare illustrative materials such as roll-ups, PowerPoint
4. Prepare a time schedule with individual presentations on the same time (walk around of the visitors) or one after the other and written materials about the different heritages.
5. Prepare good conditions for connecting people and having individual discussions (table, chairs, micro, and other technical support)
6. Create thematic group discussion with inclusion of participants of the main venue (contemporary witness work), combined with workshop (for children or adults)
7. Stimulate communication by questions, comparisons etc.

8. Feedback & evaluation with the participants and experts, did they gain new information & perspectives?

Main goals: foster the exchange, getting to know other cultures, finding similarities

Teaching and Learning (max. 100 words):

With this method, people can share information and their personal experience about a cultural treasure of their country with other people who are more inclined to learn when personal experiences are shared as well. Knowledge is key to combat stereotypes and to learn about similarities we have in different countries, thus bringing us closer together. People start thinking about what was shared and relate it to their own lives and country which raises their personal interests and their motivation to actively learn more about this topic, or in this case, a special cultural treasure. The method should be combined with the IN-CULT game through which new knowledge will be stimulated.

5 Keywords:

roll-up, mixed groups, living library, presentation, inside / outside

Possible training tools, material, resources to use (e.g. flyer, roll-up etc.):

Objects or textiles, photos, flyer, newspaper articles, videos, roll-up, PowerPoint

Public relations (how to promote method):

Press, radio, social media, brochure, conference, civil society, exhibition/exposition