



# YOU PART

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# PHOTOVOICE

## FACTS

**Age** of participants: 15+

**Number** of participants: 5-15

**Duration:** about 60 minutes

## GOALS

Photovoice is a participatory research method that can be used as an innovative evaluation tool at the end of a youth work program (e.g. Workshop). In this method, cameras or smartphones are given to young people and they are asked to take photos of their experiences and perspectives on a particular topic or issue. The photos then stimulate discussion and reflection to uncover insights and perspectives that might not have been captured through traditional evaluation methods.

This innovative seven-step evaluation method allows you to assess and measure the impact of our youth programs and activities on young people. This allows you to ensure that your programs are effective and meet the needs of young people.

## TOPICS

Reflection, follow-up activities

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONS

This method allows you to implement it in a variety of ways. You can adjust the time frame of collecting photos, so participants take photos over a longer period of time, to give them additional time for reflection, and then again gather together to analyse them. Instead of taking the time for photos after the activity, you can encourage participants to take them during the course of the activity and analyse them after the activity is done. This will help you evaluate experiences and perspectives of specific situations during the activity.

## MATERIALS

Smartphones, cameras, instant cameras, projector

## PREPARATIONS

- Define the research question and objectives of the evaluation
- Prepare smartphones or instant cameras in case that participants don't have their own
- Prepare a projector so you will be able to look at the photos as a group

# INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 1

Define the research question and objectives: Before you begin the Photovoice process, you must define the research question and objectives. This includes identifying the specific goals and outcomes that the your activity aims to achieve. Base the research questions on the goals of your activity, to find out through if they have been achieved. This evaluation method can be used also to find out about experiences and feelings of participants during the workshop.

*Example: Some general questions would be: How happy are you with the workshop/activity? How did the collaboration in your team look like? Are there things you would change about the programme? You can also pose questions that promote a bit more reflection and creative answers through photos, for example If your activity was a workshop on promoting inclusion, you can ask the question: How would you explain inclusion after attending this workshop?*

## Step 2

Gather participants: Once the research question and objectives are defined, the next step is to gather participants. Ask them if they have their own cameras or smartphones, otherwise you should provide them to participants.

## Step 3

Provide cameras or smartphones: The next step is to provide cameras or smartphones for participants. It's essential to provide clear instructions on how to use the cameras or smartphones with some basic rules of photography (composition, lighting, angle etc.) as well as guidelines on what types of photos are appropriate and relevant to the research question (tell participants to always ask for consent when taking photos of other people, photos should be in no way offensive or make fun of other people, define the area in which they can take photos – are they allowed to go outside? ...)

## Step 4

Collect the photos: After the cameras or smartphones are distributed, participants are asked to take photos related to the research question or objectives. Participants may be given a set amount of time to take the photos or asked to take them over a longer period of time.

# INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 5

Analyse the photos: The next step is to analyse the photos collected. First ask the participants to send you their photos or put them in a selected online folder. Use the projector to view the photos, so all participants can see them. Then review the photos together with the group and identifying common themes, patterns, and insights among the participants. It's important to involve participants in the analysis process, as their perspectives and insights are crucial to the evaluation. Some questions that might help the analysis:

- *How do these photos represent your experiences during the program?*
- *What emotions or feelings do these photos evoke, and why?*
- *Are there any experiences and feelings you couldn't capture with the photos?*

## Step 6

Stimulate discussion and reflection: The photos are then used to stimulate discussion and reflection among participants. This may include showing the photos to another group and asking participants to discuss what they represent and what insights they provide about the impact of the youth work program. Some sample questions you can ask:

- *What common themes do you recognise in the photos?*
- *Can you connect the photos to your personal experience?*
- *How do these photos represent the impact of the programme?*

## Step 7

Report and use the findings: The final step is to report and use the findings to improve the programme. This may mean making changes to the programme based on the Photovoice findings or using the findings to secure funding or support for the programme.



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## PROJECT PARTNERS



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