**Activity:Photovoice**

**What is Youth Photovoice?**

 Photovoice is a process by which students capture and record their life experiences and community through photography and stories.  These projects can be adapted to cover any issue that is of concern for a community.  Photovoice includes group discussion about the photographs and what they mean.  Finally, the photographs and stories are presented to the community in order to raise awareness and influence policy makers from the youth perspective.

**Who is involved?**

 Community youth who are interested in expressing their concerns about their environment, local community through photography.

 **What does Photovoice include?**

 Group training:

• Trust building, defining photo subject matter, and Photovoice ethics.

• Training on photography techniques.

**Photography and discussion:**

• Select and discuss photos.

•Prepare for the exhibition, identify common themes, and receive training on activities.

**Community exhibition& dialogue with leaders:**

 • Invite policy makers and influential community members.

 • Include students in dialogue facilitation.

**Objectives of the Photovoice:**

* Allows students to document their lives and concerns from the inside and present them to the outside world 
* Empowers students to inform others and speak out on important issues 
* Includes a follow-up plan (exhibition, booklet, posters etc.) on how to use the outcomeof the PhotoVoice method
* Aims to share experiences, perceptions and viewpoints between participants, to broaden their vision
* Builds the skills of students in visualisation and research and/or advocacy

**School subjects involved**: Civics, Image processing, Art, ITC, English

**Final product:** An exhibition with the photos selectedincluding some explanatory text:

* An explanation of the project 
* An explanation of PhotoVoice 
* The research question 
* Introduction / profile pictures of the participants. 
* Summary of the findings

**Materials:** photos about the problem. Each student will take pictures connected to the research before the meeting in Romania. (the number of the photos/student will be max 50 photos)

**Work steps – Each school will organize activities for steps 1-8, to reach the objectives before the Romanian meeting.**

**Step 1: The Basics of Photography What do we see?**

**Objectives**: 

* To understand how we ‘read’ images 
* To understand that what you see in an image is not necessarily what I see in an image
* To understand what draws our attention when looking at images
* To learn about visual literacy and be stimulated to think beyond the obvious and the usual
* To support the students in their photographic creativity

**Step 2: Perceiving images. Linking images.**

**Objectives**:

* To think about the different possible meanings of pictures 
* To learn how we scan images for meaning, and that this depends on our culture, background, experiences, age etc. 
* To learn to look for a common theme of pictures together 
* To understand that themes can have different associations 
* To understand that pictures with different subjects can depict a similar theme 
* To understand that pictures together can reinforce a message 
* To understand that by selecting and categorising collectively, you have a very powerful tool of communication

**Step 3: Composition**

**Objectives:**

* To understand the basic rules of composition 
* To understand how to focus on the most important part of a picture 
* To understand how to make a picture more interesting

**Step 4: Reality, symbolism and an arranged scene**

**Objectives:**

* To understand that there are different ways of visualising what you want to say 
* To understand that symbolism or arranging the scene can create curiosity about the message of your picture and can help you when access or consent to people or places is difficult 
* To understand that to suggest something visually can sometimes evoke a stronger image than to show something visually

**Step 5: Discussing/Developing the Research Question/ Identify a theme for their project Photovoice**

**Objectives:**

* Student will propose different themes for the project
* Student will select a relevant theme for them and for the local community
* Students understand the research question they are going to answer through PhotoVoice
* Students understand the key concepts of the research question 
* Students understand why the question has been selected

**Step 6: Critical Thinking**

**Objectives:**

* To brainstorm possible individual answers to the research question 
* To enable participants to reflect on their own ideas and opinions related to the research question

**Step 7: How to Convey Your Message in a Picture**

**Objectives:**

* To think of possibilities of symbolism to represent the answers 
* To think about possibilities to arrange a scene to create the image

**Step 8: The Fieldwork**

**Objectives:**

* To take photos representing the participants’ answers to the research question

**Workshop in Romania**

**Step 9: Individual Selection & Captions**

**Objectives:**

* To select the five best and most relevant photos of every photographer 
* To find out the story behind each of those five photos 
* To write captions for every photo

The teacher will guide the students to select the best 5 photos. The goal of this activity is to have the five best pictures & captions, the most relevant to the research question, according to the photographer. In this activity, the photographer is going to give background information on the photos they have taken. The teacher will make a folder with the name of the photographer on a laptop. Upload the selection of the photographer into this folder.

**Step 10: Sharing Individual Selections**

**Objectives:**

* To share the five most relevant pictures and stories with the rest of the students
* To find out if pictures and stories are applicable tothe whole group

The teacher will introduce the presentation of the selections of five best pictures of all students. The students will present and explain their five pictures one by one. The participants can have no longer than one minute/picture. The participants can present their pictures according to the following questions: 

What do we see in the picture? 

What does this represent? 

How does this answer the research question?

**Step 11:Top Categories/Final selection**

**Objectives:**

* To find out which categories are most valuable to participants in relation to the research question 
* To create a ranking in categories
* To reach collective agreement on the categories 
* To decide which pictures to exhibit 
* To work together as a group

Witheach group teachers will determine the final number of categories for the exhibition. This depends on the goal of the exhibition: if the exhibition is to spur change in policy, it is important to have few categories, strengthening the group’s opinion and impact. To show a range of impacts or effects in the exhibition? Then you can include many categories. Several pictures will be selected for each category, so have no more than five and seven categories. A category can have only one picture. Make the priority of the categories clear in the exhibition.

The students have to pay attention to the captions. In the selection, participants need to think about the variety of issues that fall under the category and try to capture that. It is not about the best picture, it is about the strongest message

**Step 12:** Organising an Exhibition. The exhibition provides the opportunity to show the message of the group to a certain audience.

**Objectives:**

* To convey the message of the studentss to a selected audience 
* To create a feeling of celebratory closure 
* All students see the results of their work displayed 
* The results can be shared more widely, if appropriate

As well as showing the pictures, it is recommended to include some explanatory text in the exhibition. For instance you can print some pages with: 

* An explanation of the project 
* An explanation of PhotoVoice 
* The research question 
* Introduction / profile pictures of the students. 
* Summary of the findings 
* Logos of the Erasmus+

**DEADLINE: …………….. 2018**

**Each school will send to the Romanian team the photos made by each student archived with the name of the student. The photos will have …………**

Please be aware:

* *By taking photos to this activity, you are allowing Signs of the times, Erasmus+ Project to use all intellectual property rights for promotional use and for any other purpose.*
* *Photos must be entirely an own original work and must not breach any copyright or third party rights. Signs of the time, Erasmus+ Project will not be made partially or fully liable for any non-original work submitted.*

**Bibliography:**

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