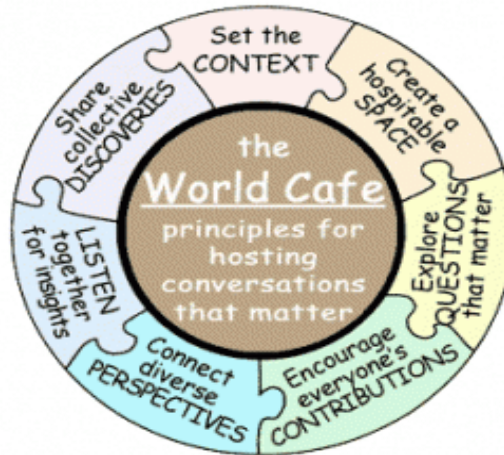


2015 Evaluation Practice Exchange (EPE) World Café Concept Note



Brief Description – amended/adapted for the EPE

The World Café is a whole group interaction method focused on conversations. A Café Conversation is a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes. The World Café methodology for hosting group dialogue emphasizes the power of simple conversation relevant to the themes/topics that will be presented. The environment is typically set up like a café, with People sitting around a table and holding a series of conversational rounds lasting from 20 to 45 minutes about one or more questions or topics. Table hosts welcome newcomers to their tables and share their stories, experiences or project results. The conversation continues, deepening as the round progresses. World café is used for sharing experiences, stories or project results in a relaxed, informal and creative atmosphere.

Methodology/format for the session

The World Café will be a platform for the EPE knowledge sharing exchange; for the sharing of experiences, stories or project results and the opportunity for participants to input, debate, raise

questions and share their own experiences that will enhance our collective knowledge. When done properly, with the right balance of informality and structure, the World Café can be a very effective way of a workshop style event that produces rich and innovative output that can lead to action and change in our practice. The knowledge café leaders will lead their sessions in groups (set out in café-style format), with a space/format for displaying posters which would have been prepared in advance by the leaders of the topics for the world café session.

Each topic/theme:

1. Will have an area set up for each theme/topic, and the host of the topic will welcome participants as they arrive and will share the main ideas, themes, stories, experiences and/or project results. The host will also lead the table with some key questions relevant to the topic/theme they want some ideas/suggestions to answers to, encouraging participants to discuss, debate, share their own ideas, practices, successes, challenges, and ask questions in relation to the topic/theme. Or it could be discussing the challenges of a project/initiative, or the successes of a project/initiative, the lessons learned, what could have been done differently or what would be done differently, what worked and so on. It will be up to theme/topic session leaders to frame this for their specific topic.
2. Ideally the information would be delivered in the format of a poster, or other creative/innovative way such as infographics or storytelling, for example.
3. As participants move from topic/theme to another, the hosts are encouraged to welcome new participants, share as above, but also briefly share the main ideas coming from the previous conversations, and encourage new participants to link and connect ideas and build on each other's contributions, as well as the opportunity to ask their own set of questions. Note that participants will be moving from one theme to the next simultaneously, almost like a market fair/place. By providing opportunities for participants to move in several rounds of conversation, ideas, questions, and themes begin to link and connect.
4. After several rounds of conversation, initiate a period of sharing discoveries and insights in a whole group conversation. It is in these town meeting-style conversations that patterns can be identified, collective knowledge grows, and possibilities for action emerge. At the end of the conversations, a collective sharing of insights, learning will be shared to end the World Café session.

Tip and Lesson Learnt: think very carefully about your poster presentation, (with as much as creativity and innovation as possible), also think of how long you will present your topic, and the questions you will use to convene the cafe conversations. Like many interaction methods, the presentation/question is at the heart of the interaction. It has to be clear and it has to MATTER to the participants, because World Cafe is about "**conversations that matter.**"