



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

TITLE	Circle
Time	90 – 120 minutes
Material	Flipchart, sheets of paper
Description of exercise	<p>On the flipchart, the points are written, which are to serve as reference points for the participants, for example 1.Problem, 2.Hypothesis, 3.Suggested diagnostic tools, 4.Analysis of the knowledge about the problem. An attempt at explaining the source of the problem, referring to the theory. Depending on the number of participants and professions they represent, divide the group or keep as one. Participants sit in a circle each having a sheet of paper in front of them. Each one writes about a problem, difficult case (which is reference point1). Next clockwise they pass their sheet to the person on the left, who is supposed to add the comment concerning point of reference 2. The activity is continued in the same fashion until all the points are referred to and all the sheets contain the information required. Then the trainer presents the results. Depending on the group members' cases and professions they represent a discussion follows trying to go deeper into the problem.</p>
Aims of exercise	Sharing problems, possibly discovering the obstacles of a similar nature ('I'm not alone' feeling), working out solutions.
Reflection of exercise	The activity stimulates participants to refer to their extensive knowledge concerning diagnosing the problem, involving experts, existing laws and that is the way it is likely to enlighten the participants. It also enables the participants to work out solutions for a variety of problems, the ones they are personally involved in at the particular moment and the ones they may have in the future.
Benefits of exercise	This activity may be particularly beneficial and successful when it is conducted with, for example, in service teachers (further education).
Obstacles of exercise	The activity itself requires quite extensive knowledge concerning the existing system and if there have been any reforms and changes introduced recently, some problems may arise, participants may feel overwhelmed with the task.