

Tool: Discussion with statements

Goals

Getting acquainted with group members.

Informal and structured way of exchanging views on mentoring.

Conditions

For in the beginning of a course or workshop.

Make sure that the room is big enough to give place to 5 little groups standing near the wall but in some distance of each other.

Process

5 minutes. Put 5 flipcharts on the wall, on each a different statement on mentoring. Read the statements out loud without any comment. Say that you want members to group according to their choice for the statement that is the most attractive, moving, repelling or otherwise emotional significant to them. Ask them to reflect a moment and then walk and take position at the statement.

10 minutes. Ask them to tell each other in the small group what made them choose for this statement. Trainers visit the groups and facilitate the discussion if necessary.

10 minutes. Plenary: Trainer invites one by one representatives of a statement to tell why they are there and what they have heard from the others under that statement. Other group members are invited to ask questions. Trainer show an interactive attitude to include as much as participants possible in this discussion. Emphasis is on the differences and similarities in views on mentoring.

A short summary is made and the discussion ends.

Material:

Sticking tape.

Flipcharts with statements that can provoke discussion.

We give five examples of statements as used in the workshop on mentoring in Agrigento, Sicily:

- 1. The mentoring process is entirely in the responsibility of the mentor.**
- 2. Good mentoring can not do without good training on mentoring skills. No training – no mentoring.**
- 3. A critical and confronting mentor's attitude will damage the relationship with the mentee.**
- 4. The ultimate purpose of mentoring is to enhance the teaching quality of the school.**
- 5. Without classroom visits mentoring can not have a real impact on the mentee.**