
Envisioning sustainable futures: Exploratory Thinking

1. Description of the competence

Recommended resources:

[Presentation of the competence model](#)

Description:

Exploratory Thinking involves the ability to consider multiple perspectives, generate innovative ideas, and experiment with novel approaches to address complex challenges. In the context of sustainability, this competence empowers individuals to envision and implement creative solutions for environmental, social, and economic issues.

2. Workshop components

Duration: 90 minutes

Digital tools suggested:

- Mentimeter: For interactive polls and icebreakers
- Miro or Padlet: For collaborative brainstorming and scenario building. Also useful for ice breakers or energizers
- Google forms: For collecting feedback and reflections

Competencies exercised:

Exploratory thinking, Problem framing, Critical thinking

3. Workshop overview

Annotation:

The Cultivating Exploratory Thinking workshop is designed to equip participants with the skills to experiment with new ideas and approaches in sustainability contexts. Through interactive exercises and collaborative discussions, participants will explore strategies to enhance their exploratory thinking, enabling them to develop innovative solutions for sustainability challenges.

Objectives:

- To introduce participants to the concept of exploratory thinking within sustainability and engage them in reflecting on their experiences with innovation and experimentation.
- To develop participants' abilities to generate and experiment with new ideas in sustainability contexts through collaborative exercises.
- To encourage participants to reflect on their learning experiences and identify personal strategies to enhance exploratory thinking in sustainability efforts.

4. Detailed session structure

Evocation (20 minutes):

Tools:

Mentimeter

Activities:

- Introduction to exploratory thinking (5 minutes): Brief explanation of exploratory thinking as a key competence in sustainability. Discuss the importance of experimenting with new ideas to address sustainability challenges.
- Interactive poll (15 minutes): Pose questions in Mentimeter such as "Share an innovative idea you've encountered or developed in the context of sustainability." Collect and display anonymous responses to identify common themes and experiences.

Resources:

Video [tutorial on how to use Mentimeter](#)

Understanding (50 minutes):

Tools:

Miro or Padlet

Activities:

- Case Study Analysis (20 minutes): Present a real-world sustainability case study where exploratory thinking led to innovative solutions (e.g., a community implementing a novel waste reduction program). Identify the innovative approaches used, challenges faced, and outcomes achieved.
- Idea Generation Exercise (30 minutes): In small groups, participants brainstorm innovative solutions for a given sustainability challenge (e.g., reducing carbon emissions in urban areas). Each group presents their ideas, highlighting the exploratory thinking processes involved.

Resources:

Video: [Tutorial on how to use Miro](#)

Video: [Tutorial on how to use Padlet](#)

Reflection (20 minutes):

Tools:

None

Activities:

- Personal action planning (10 minutes): Participants individually outline steps they can take to incorporate exploratory thinking into their professional or academic pursuits. Prompt: "What specific actions will you implement to foster innovation and experimentation in addressing sustainability challenges?"
- Group Discussion (10 minutes): Facilitate a conversation where participants share key takeaways and discuss how exploratory thinking can be nurtured within their communities and organizations.

Resources:

None

5.Resources used and additional info

Links:

Video: [What is adaptability](#)

Video: [Tutorial on how to use Miro](#)

Video: [Tutorial on how to use Padlet](#)

Canva presentation: [Presentation of the competence model](#)

Suggested Reading: [GreenComp Framework](#)