

Association postcards

A picture-based discussion

Overview

In this activity, participants explore the many layers of meaning associated with the terms “growth” and “economy”, and express their own thoughts on the matter. To this end, they select postcards with themes which they associate with the terms and discuss their ideas in pairs.

Instructions

Preparation

The postcards are displayed with the picture side facing up so as to be easily visible.

Execution

1. The participants stand in a circle around the postcards. They receive the following instructions: “Take your time to look at the postcards, and choose one which you associate with the term “growth”. Take it, and quietly return to the circle.”
2. When all participants have returned to the circle, they are asked to wander around the room quietly.
3. When the facilitator gives a signal, each participant finds the person closest to them and begins a short conversation about their thoughts on the postcard chosen.
4. After around 3 to 4 minutes, another signal is given, and the pairs return to the circle and place their postcards back in the middle. Steps 1 to 4 are then repeated twice: first with the term “economy” and finally with the term “economic growth”.
7. After the third round, the participants discuss new or interesting findings, or any questions which might have come up during the activity.



6-30



20 minutes



2 to 3 times as many postcards as participants, signalling device

Tips for facilitators

Facilitators can participate in the activity.

Suggestions for follow-up

Suitable activities to follow this method include “Wachstum ist...” (“Growth is...”), currently only available in German - see www.endlich-wachstum.de, and “The economy and me” (both in chapter 1).