

What is the Participatory Video, some comments by experts in Europe



Case Study 1: Participating Country - UNITED KINGDOM

Gareth Benest – the UK expert said “Participatory Video (PV) is an appropriate tool to use in certain therapeutic contexts, providing it is done carefully. The facilitator has to be very confident and skilful and work with a confident and competent team that support all participants. All participants need to clearly understand the reasons and aims of using video methodology. All participants must have complete ownership/control of their videos, the production and distribution.

VISTA - participatory Video and social Skills for Training disadvantaged Adults
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Case Study 2: Participating Country - ITALY



Alessandro Scillitani is a documentary director. He presented his last work during the Venice Film Festival. Expert in the use of storytelling as a means of documenting memories, places, traditions and histories, he underlines that the Participatory Video is a dynamic and effective method of working with marginalized,

disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable groups: "It involves the authorship of the group itself and it's carried out in a truly participative and democratic way" he says.

"Emphasizing the use of video as a social collective process can have a strong social impact, strengthening the subject's personality in interpersonal relations and helping to adapt or re-adapt to a social/economical context. With PV it's possible to discover new intellectual opportunities and new abilities to increase self-esteem. Other than this PV is an efficient way to enhance the value of memory and to restore personal histories, but also local traditions and stories that are often forgotten or transformed, risking to disappear"

Raffele Rago is a filmmaker, expert in videotherapy. In his interview he underlines that the use of video and of the non-verbal language as a therapeutical support for disadvantaged adults and people with problems of social inclusion is a growing phenomenon.



"In recent years - he says - video applications are seen as dynamic and effective methods of working with marginalized groups, mainly in the vast field of expressive form of therapies (art therapy, video therapy, film therapy...). Participatory Video is different form these forms of therapies: it allows a collective realization, it develops creativity and it processes and disseminates unforeseen visions originated by a collective process of self-comprehension and narration".

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GREEK DEMOCRACY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SOLIDARITY
GENERAL HOSPITAL OF PYRGOS “
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CENTER FOR REHABILITATION -
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(KAFIAP) ILIAS – GREECE



Our interviews to the experts about the participatory video

At the end of April we interview two expert about the participatory video in Greece.

Greece doesn't have experience about participatory video but they are relevant specialist in our prefecture.

Mr Theodore Bertsatos is specialist in audio and video technologies. In recent years he has specialized in video production as a freelancer but also he collaborate with organizations to support them with his experience in video production.

Mr Memnon Konstantinou is responsible for the health education into secondary education in prefecture Ilia for students from 12 to 18 years , and he was participating to a European program to made a production with the method of the participatory video to give a message against the drug use.

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Interviews in Germany

The objective of the research phase of the VISTA project was not only to research and collect experiences in using video methods in adult education, with a special focus on the method of participatory video. It was also our aim to find people and organizations in each partner country who work with participatory video and to make interviews with those who were ready to share their experiences and views on the effectiveness and usefulness of the method.

CHANCENGLEICH in Europa e.V. in Germany conducted three interviews. As the leading institution in the field of participatory video is my-View in Köln, our most important interviewee was the founder and leader of my-View, Ms Lisa Glahn. She is a filmmaker who has been working with the method of participatory video for six years, using it in social work mainly with young people but also with adults.

Our second interview partner was a freelance filmmaker in Bremen, Ms Annette Assmy who started to work with participatory video two years ago. She has 12 years of experience with documentary filmmaking in Germany and abroad. Currently she is working with mixing different media methods in her projects.

Our third interviewee was a Marte Meo trainer in the IFS – Institute for systemic family therapy, supervision and organizational development in Essen, Ms Maria Behr. Marte Meo (“with own power”) is a method of educational counselling, whereby normal situations between child and parent/educator are recorded by video and discussed together thereafter. Although the method does not use participatory video as such, some elements of it might prove useful for the material developed by the VISTA project.

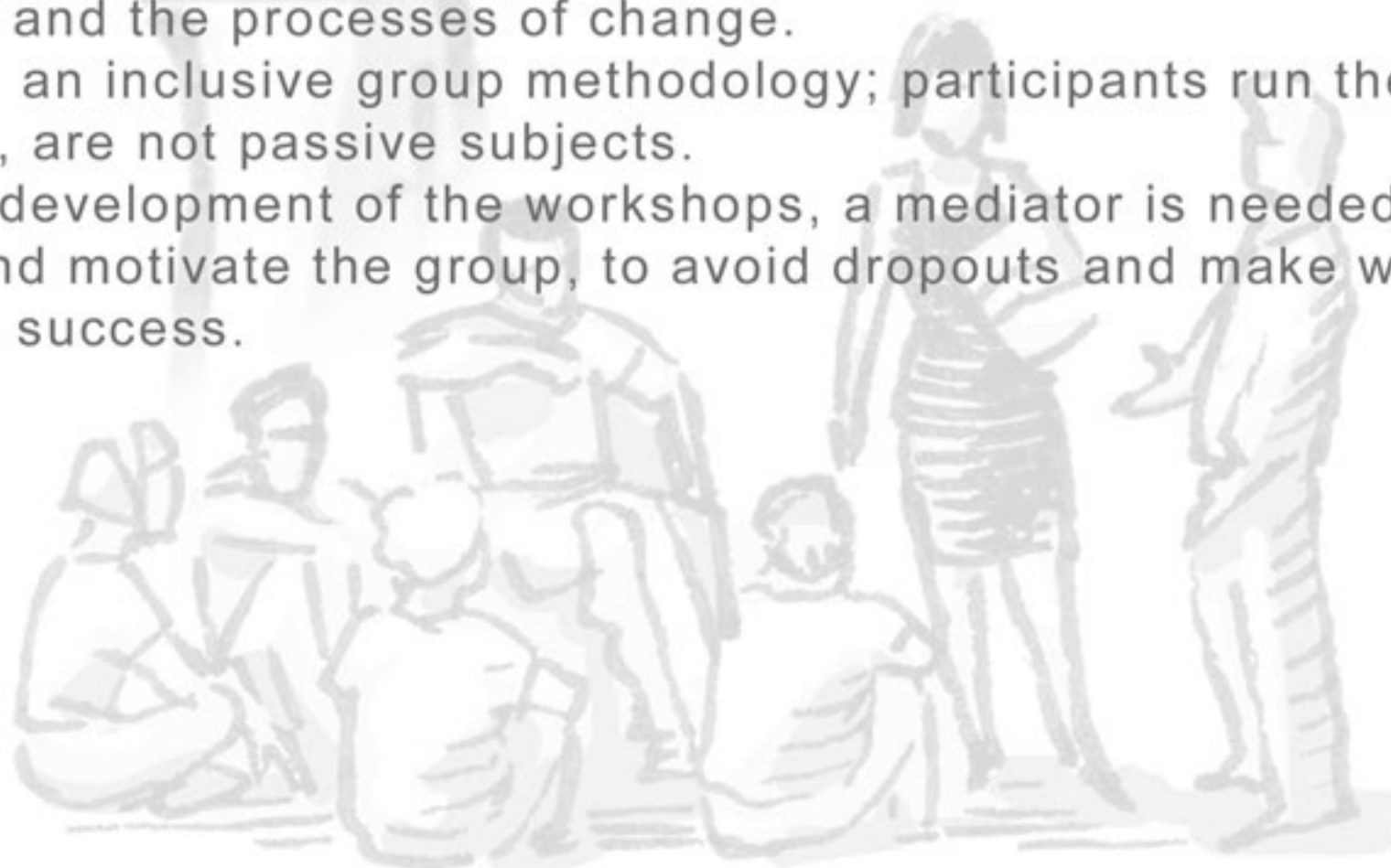
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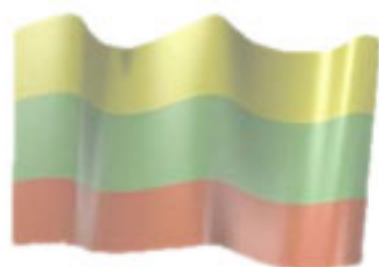
SPAIN

The study, conducted by PATER, of these three innovative experiences in using participatory video offers the following conclusions:

- It is a potential therapeutic methodology that works with members of groups at risk of exclusion (in addition with other tools) in promoting their personal development and lifelong learning, helping to improve their participation in the labor market and overcome barriers. It can also serve to give voice and opinion to the excluded and to exchange views and stereotypes about them.
- Participants of these workshops develop personal and social skills necessary in learning processes, such as confidence, social skills and communication with others. Through the development of a video, participants become actors, directors and public at the same time in order to improve their communication skills, cooperation and work.
- The participatory video method develops creativity, motivation and self-esteem of participants, helping them to realize their own abilities and the processes of change.
- This is an inclusive group methodology; participants run the process, are not passive subjects.
- In the development of the workshops, a mediator is needed to guide and motivate the group, to avoid dropouts and make work come to success.



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Case Study 6: Participating Country - LITHUANIA

"Two of the experts interviewed for the purposes of the research for VISTA project had background in psychology and psychiatry. They agreed that the methods of Participatory Video are very new for Lithuania and nothing of this sort was yet tried out in the country. However, they provided a throughout image of other methods, which could be useful for the PV. These methods included Film Therapy, Psychodrama and Therapy of Story-telling."



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