

CARAVAN LOCAL ACTIVITY

Circus Elleboog

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What methodology for **social circus?**

**A study case based on the Dutch experience
and methods developed in Circus Elleboog**

Circus Elleboog uses its own methodology in the circus activities with participants.

The five elements of the methodology				
Target group analysis	objectives	preconditions	type of activity	evaluation

These five elements are related. We call them the elements of our methodology. The methodology helps the employee in the ring to consciously deal with the preparation, execution and evaluation of the work. The methodology encourages employees to keep asking questions and immerse themselves in the work. In this way, Circus Elleboog pays attention to the content and quality of the work in the ring. The 5 elements return in the project document and the activity plan

In order to ensure this methodology is practical, Circus Elleboog uses a number of practical means:

- The methodology diagram
- The project document. This is a fixed format oriented towards the points of departure, the framework, the execution and preparation of the activity.
- The working document. This is a fixed format for each segment and is aimed at the practical design, co-ordination and execution of the activity.

Below, the five elements of the methodology are discussed one by one and related to one another. When a new project or activity is set up, the employees will start with the elements in order to come to a good project- and work document

1.1 Target group-analysis as an element of the methodology

Definition

The analysis of the target group describes a number of characteristics of the group with which one can start in developing the project. The way in which one does this is dependent upon on the type of activity. Example: In the case of a co-operative project with a health care organisation, the analysis is more extensive and different than in the case of a weekly training.

Important elements of the target group analysis

The analysis is mainly aimed at information elements that is relevant to the project:

- Age
- Number
- Ratio boys / girls
- Existing group/new group
- Cultural background
- Traditions and rules within the group
- Circus technical level
- Specifics Possibilities/skills
 Handicaps
 Interests

The target group analysis and 'the goals and significance'.

The analysis is the point of departure for determining the objectives.

Example:

(Moet nog geschreven worden)

The target group analysis and 'the preconditions'.

The analysis of the target group can be used to determine a number of preconditions such as: Team composition (number, abilities and background of the team members), type of music, clothing and material

Example

A school group with 14+ participants requires different music, cloths and material than a group from a primary school.

The target group analysis and the form of work to be used.

In determining the form of work, the analysis of the target group provides input that helps one to arrive at a form of work that; has the appropriate level, suits the experience and which is doable and challenging

For example:

- (Voorbeeld wordt nog toegevoegd)

The target group analysis and 'the evaluation'.

The target group analysis provides a reference point and point of departure on the basis of which one can determine the objectives and the content of one's activity. During the evaluation one describes the results and the course of the process. By comparing this to the previously made target group analysis and objectives one provides insight into what the activity has contributed. As a result, an evaluation is a suitable way to make modifications.

1.2 Objectives and significance as element of the methodology

By describing the objectives one indicates what one wants to achieve. Objectives can be described in terms of quantity (numbers and extent) and quality (substantive). The setting of clear objectives provides a focus, direction and clarity. Within Elleboog, we try to describe objectives in a focused and concrete way.

Within the projects, the objectives are often described in terms of concrete results and regularly modified. On the basis of a sense of the target group, team consultation (discussions before and afterwards) and evaluation moments, objectives are often modified or made more specific in the process.

Chapter 5 provides assistance for determining your objectives within our circus work. In the segments playing, training and presenting, the objectives are mentioned. The objectives of the project are described in the project document. These objectives are elaborated into work objectives in the work plan. These objectives are described as; group, individual and circus-technical and artistic objectives.

Objectives and the "*target group analysis*"

One's target group analysis forms the point of departure for determining one's objectives.

Objectives and 'preconditions'

The preconditions codetermine the extent to which the objectives can be realised.

Objectives and the 'form of work'.

When one knows - through formulating objectives - which results should be achieved, one tries to find a suitable form. This work form is the way in which one works on achieving one's objectives.

Objectives and the 'evaluation'

In the evaluation one determines whether the previously formulated objectives have been achieved and why/not. By looking at the progress the objectives can be modified.

1.3 Project preconditions as part of the methodology

Definition

This concerns the input and quality of:

- Team / hours invested
- The location
- Host/hostess
- Costume
- Decor
- Materials and repairs
- Light and sound technology

Preconditions needed to deliver work of good quality

It is important that one determines what is needed to realise the objectives of a project. This should be done in a careful and realistic way. In practice, the project document provides the framework for doing so. The project preconditions are described in it. See attachment 3 project document.

The project preconditions and 'the target group analysis'

The analysis of the target group can be used for determining a number of preconditions such as: Team composition (competencies and backgrounds of the team members), use of music/light, type of clothing, type of material

Example

A school group with 14+ participants requires different music, cloths and material than a group from a primary school. The outdated or playful form no challenge to young people.

The project preconditions and the objectives and significance'

The project preconditions codetermine the extent to which one can achieve one's objectives.

The project preconditions and the 'forms of work'.

One's project preconditions determine which forms of work one can use

Example:

- When one works in a gym hall, it is difficult to create atmosphere.
- 2 employees for 60 children does not work.

The project preconditions and 'the evaluation'

In the evaluation, one tries to determine whether the preconditions were present for working in a qualitatively good way.

1.4 Form of work as part of the methodology

Definition

A form of work is a certain/specific way of working.

Examples of forms of work are: circus circuit, free play, workshop, group games, and working on the basis of an assignment.

The form of work and the target group:

Your form of work should always suit the target group. When determining the form of work, the analysis of the target group provides input to arrive at a form of work which: fits the level, fits the experience, is doable and challenging.

For example:

- Wordt nog toegevoegd.

Relationship to objectives:

The previously determined objectives have much influence on the choice of the form of work. The form of work therefore is the way in which one works on the objectives.

Example

Wordt nog toegevoegd.

The type of work and the preconditions:

When determining the forms of work, the preconditions provide ways to arrive at a form of work that can be practically implemented. The project preconditions provide frameworks and therefore are co-determinants for the choice and the use of forms of work.

The forms of work in relation to evaluation:

The specific form of work can in retrospect be assessed with regard to 'suitability' and 'implementability' (see the points mentioned above). It offers the possibility to make changes.

1.5 Evaluation as a part of the methodology

Definition

Evaluation is the articulation of the results and the process while linking them to the objectives and target group analysis made earlier. In this way one provides insight into the contribution made by the activity. As a result, evaluation is useful to modify the objectives or even change the way of working while the process is still ongoing.

Evaluation provides input for the activity policy and policy development.

Elleboog has various forms of evaluation; discussions before and after each activity, a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation.

The evaluation and the objectives

Evaluation is used as a way to assess whether the objectives within a project have been achieved. By doing an evaluation one clarifies why an objective has (not) been achieved. To do so one looks at the process and relates this to the objectives formulated earlier.

The evaluation and the project preconditions

The evaluation provides insight into the measure in which the previously determined preconditions were / were not sufficiently available to achieve work of good quality.

The evaluation and the form of work

By evaluating during discussions held before and after it is possible to assess and where necessary modify the chosen form of work. In this way one can also arrive at a new way of work.