

World Café

Sustainability field trip to Austria – September 2013

Graz, 9 September 2013

RCE Graz-Styria, University of Graz



The World Café

A methodology to:

- Participate a variety of people
- Collect and share knowledge in order to solve complex problems
- Aim for a new approach to address complex problems
- People with different backgrounds get together and discuss
- Dialogue / commonly searching for new solutions is important



The World Café

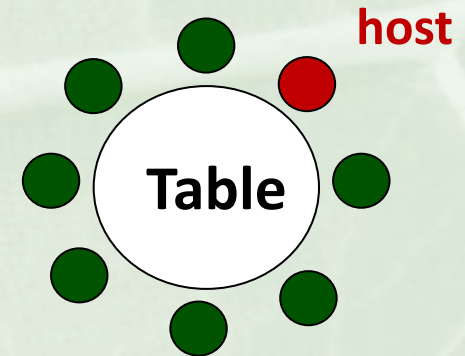
- Developed by Juanita Brown und David Isaacs
- Suitable for groups of 12 to up to 1000 people
- Fields of application: all thematic fields; best for situations with heterogeneous groups who are affected by the same problem

World Café rules



The World Café - Procedure

- **4 tables with 4 discussion questions** (can be more – depending on the amount of people)
- Every table has one host, flipcharts and pens
- The other participants split and take place at the tables.
- 4 discussion rounds – 12 minutes each
- After every round participants change tables as well as their discussion partners (except the host stays at he table)
- New discussions, new ideas
- Presentation of the results by the hosts



Role of participants: –
Share your ideas and write them on the flipchart!

The World Café – Discussion

What does sustainable development (SD) mean to you? How would you define SD?

What do you consider to be the most important challenges – globally and in the Czech Republic? (Think about food, energy, mobility, consumption, social issues, etc.)

How is SD applied in the Czech Republic? Do you know sustainability initiatives?

How is SD implemented at your university? What role does sustainability play in higher education in the Czech Republic (e.g. student engagement, study programs, etc.)?

References

- Brown, Juanita; Isaacs, David; World Café Community (2005) The World Café – Shaping our Futures through Conversations that Matter. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, San Francisco, 242 p.
- The World Café: www.theworldcafe.com (a comprehensive description about the World Café method)
- Sustainicum Collection (2013) “World Café” (description of the methodology by Marlene Mader): <http://www.sustainicum.at/en/home>