



Forum
Theatre
Workshops
BCN



+ La Xixa we carried out a youth workshop focused on peer to peer learning to understand and tackle early school leaving using the participatory methodologies of Forum Theatre and Community Reporting.

The students were able to be the main leaders and protagonists of the workshop process, which resulted in the creation of more than 10 Community Reporting videos and two Forum Theatre pieces which were presented on three different dates to more than 100 peers and students from their own schools as well as from different schools.

About the context

The workshop and presentations took place between October 2017 and April 2018 with a group of 20 participants in the Baró de Viver Civic Centre. The youth participating in the workshop attend the Secondary School La Esperança located in Baró del Viver, a periphery neighbourhood in Barcelona, with high rates of early school leaving. They participated in the workshop during extracurricular hours lead by a team composed of three main institutional partners: La Xixa, Secondary School La Esperança and the Local Youth Service. The youth facilitation group was made up of a youth worker and two trainers from La Xixa, a youth worker and two technicians from the Local Youth Service, and two teachers from the Secondary School La Esperança who undertook the Youth Worker Training carried out during 2017 in the Y4Y project framework.



Where did it take place, what breakdown?

The workshop took place in the auditorium of the Baró de Viver Civic Centre. This is a public neighbourhood building which holds many cultural and educational activities that take place in the local territory. The auditorium has plenty of space for participants to move around, as well as a stage, video projecting and sound infrastructure, and theatrical lighting. The workshop was 12 sessions long between October and February, with 3 presentations during March and April. Each session lasted for two hours and was scheduled for Wednesdays between 11.30H – 13.30H.



Who participated?

Participants were selected by agreement between the different institutions that were involved in the project. Students from 4th year in the Secondary School La Esperanza were asked if they would like to participate in this extracurricular activity where they would engage in different methodologies such as Forum Theatre and Community Reporting. They were motivated and most of the students in the class decided to participate of the youth workshop.

The participants had the following demographic characteristics:

- 10 females and 10 males 15 and 16 years old
- All participants were born in Spain, 5 have migrant background and 5 have Roma background.
- There is diversity in the group in terms of sexual orientations.
- They belong to a neighbourhood considered to be low-income. They identify themselves as being from the periphery but within the periphery they go to a school which is half public half private, so they feel that they are not at risk of social exclusion.
- Early school leaving an absenteeism is significant in all schools



Who were the facilitators?

The group of facilitators had the following demographic characteristics:

5 females and 3 males from ages 30 to 50

One Mexican, one Argentinian, one Cuban and four Catalan nationalities

One of Roma origin

Most of the team has been through situations of social exclusion or at risk of social exclusion, and hence can relate deeply with the different topics that came up during the workshops.

The starting methodological framework: your key points and ethics / your positioning CR+FT

Our main ethical position in terms of how we relate to both the participants and the methodologies follows three main elements:

- We believe in the basis of Paulo Freire's liberating pedagogy where through dialogue the participants and the facilitators can teach and learn from each other. All persons, no matter their age, background or situation, can teach and learn, are owners of some knowledge, and have the same right to speak, be heard, and propose options, contents, problems and solutions.
- Diversity and critical awareness are at the core to deeply coming together to fight any form of violence and discrimination.

Forum Theatre and Community Reporting are engaging and powerful tools to work in a democratic and meaningful with groups of all ages, and which promote critical thinking, active citizenship and solidarity.

+ Workshop outline

In total there were 12 sessions. Each session lasted for 2 hours.

Sessions 1 and 2: Group building and theatrical games to encourage thinking and expressing with both the mind and the body. Building group trusts.

Sessions 3 and 4: Unveiling the significant themes for the group in relation to school (bullying, gender inequality, sexuality, etc.). Introducing Image Theatre and generating critical thinking through Community Reporting.

Sessions 5 and 6: Using theatre and group facilitation techniques to work with the different viewpoints existing in the group around the different significant topics.

Manage the conflict and pain within the group that was emerging, especially due to how female and male students are subjected to different social standards in school, and how that affects their relationship to peers and to feeling safe in the school environment.

Sessions 7 and 8: Deciding on the final stories. Making them collective. Using aesthetic techniques to work on the stories and deepen our understanding of the different topics that were present in the stories (gender, violence, social networks, school relationships, etc.).

Sessions 9 and 10: Finalizing the stage set-up and aesthetic games. Trying out Forum Theatre as a group. Participants learn that they have the possibility of questioning that which they dislike, disagree with or which makes them feel bad.

Sessions 11 and 12: Rehearsal. Working with participants on theatrical games to empower them as