Table of methods

Print, Cut out and Reassign

Name of method	Description	Benefits	Risks
Energiser	Focuses on activating participants, stirring up energy and/or creating a light atmosphere.	 → usable at almost any time → creates an informal atmosphere → can be linked to the topic under discussion → short activity for 2-3min 	 → the need to adapt to the target group → may be perceived by participants as unnecessary, childish or inadequate
Icebreaker	Focuses mainly on getting to know each other and strengthening interaction between participants.	 → creates a positive atmosphere and a feeling of security → opens up space for sharing on a personal level → strengthens good relations in the team → helps e.g. in resolving conflicts in the future → suitable for different age groups 	 → rejection by some participants → adapting sensitively to the group → assignments that are too simple or too complicated can lead to frustrations in the group and boycotts → missing understanding why to do these activities

Brainstorming	Produce as many ideas as possible on a given topic, from which the most suitable ones are then selected.	 → universal application → can be used to open a new topic → fostering creativity → suggestions for possible solutions → basic writing equipment (e.g. flipchart, post-its, markers) 	 → diversity of outputs → the laboriousness of subsequent sorting, grouping and analysis
Discussion	Exchange of opinions, experiences and different perspectives on a given topic between activity leaders and participants or between participants.	 → universal use → knowledge and experience sharing participant → greater activity of participants → continuous feedback in the form of answers 	 → uneven involvement of participants → dominance of a few individuals → inappropriate when participants lack knowledge and experience on the topics → longer duration risks loss of motivation and attention
Lecture	Used to impart new information on a topic and to develop knowledge.	 → systematic transfer of knowledge and facts in a short time → suitable for larger groups of participants → ease of execution 	 → not very effective unless combined with other methods → minimum activity of participants → the difficulty of maintaining attention → quality depends on the rhetorical skills of the lecturer
Exercise	Can contribute to a better understanding of the topic discussed, usually follows the explanation of the theory.	 → quick check of participants' understanding of the topic → can be done individually or in groups 	 → with a complex assignment, some participants may take a long time → different groups have to wait for each other

Group work	Takes place when participants are divided into smaller groups and given a specific assignment related to the topic under discussion.	 → universal use → doesn't usually have just one right solution → uses the knowledge and experience of the participants → creates space for the involvement of all 	 → diversity of outputs → dominance of more experienced people in the group
Role-playing	Is taking on the identity of another person in order to experience a situation from their perspective.	 → Opportunity to gain a different perspective on the topic at hand → complex experience → touches on the participant's attitudes 	 → eliciting a strong emotional reaction from participants → uncertainty for the tutor in which way the game progresses → increased demands on the person who leads it → challenging to share afterwards unless participants 'step out' of the characteristics of the person
Open space technology	Meetings on topics proposed by the participants themselves.	 → the choice of topics by the participants themselves → for larger groups of participants with sufficient previous experience → mutual enrichment through discussions or sharing of experiences from own practice 	 → non-participation in the discussion of less motivated participants → moving participants will disrupt the flow and continuity of work in individual groups
Reflection	Encourages participants to think more deeply about the context.	 → variability of use in different areas → creates a safe atmosphere for sharing → also suitable for participants who need enough time to sort out their thoughts → reinforces the learning process by looking at a topic or situation from the outside 	 → Participants may not reach the goal if they do not have sufficient support from the activity leader → time demands between different participants with different needs for time to think