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Name: Fishbowl

Goal: Facilitate focused, inclusive, and dynamic dialogue on controversial issues, encourage active listening, share diverse perspectives, and promote engagement from both the inner and outer circle.

Short Description

A Fishbowl is a group discussion method used to facilitate open dialogue and encourage participation from a larger group while maintaining focus on a specific topic. It involves two groups: an inner circle (the "fishbowl") and an outer circle. The inner circle consists of a small group of participants who engage in a conversation, while the outer circle observes. After a set time, participants from the outer circle can switch places with those in the inner circle, allowing for a dynamic exchange of ideas. This method is often used to promote active listening, diverse viewpoints, and an inclusive conversation.

Step-by-Step Guidance

1. After a general introduction on the technique, process and objective, a selection of experts on the selected theme is invited to the inner circle, the facilitator explains that only the inner circle is allowed to speak
2. The facilitator should make sure the outer circle observes silently, takes notes and prepares questions so they are ready to move into the inner circle.
3. Participants are allowed to switch between the inner and outer circle to either contribute or observe.
4. Once the topics or the time allocated have been covered, the facilitator should summarize the discussion and open the floor for a debriefing to review key points, and the groups feelings regarding particular issues.



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