

# DIVERSE COMMUNITIES: VISUAL METHOD CARDS

You are holding **Diverse Communities - visual method cards**, an interactive and easy-to-use tool that can help you when looking for ways to cherish diversity and to encourage intercultural dialogue among different groups or individuals in a local community or during your international activity.

These cards were developed as part of the Branching Out: (re) connecting ideas project project of Service Civil International (SCI), financially supported by European Youth Foundation of Council of Europe. Within this project we have been empowering groups of volunteers and their local partners in Europe to connect newcomers, refugees and asylum seekers and their local community to meet, talk, play, and be creative together. Along the path there were many cool ideas, methods and activities from practice shared by SCI's volunteers and partners, that we are now presenting in form of these visual method cards.

## ABOUT THE CARDS

This pack of cards contains 40 cards in total. The cards are divided into 10 sets of 4 cards each. Each set is designed in its own colour and presents 1 specific method or activity idea. One set is a joker set, introducing 3 specific suggestions of how to work with the visuals cards that are pictured on the other side of the method cards. The visuals are chosen from SCI archives and provided by individual SCI volunteers.

### Methods cards:

**Card 01** - Basic description of a method or an activity  
On the first card there is a brief explanation of the method/activity. The pictograms are used to indicate the following:



**recommended (or most usual) number of participants who can take part**



**duration of an activity**



**language difficulty**  
(1 bubble means not much language is needed, more bubbles, more language required to participate fully).

Highlighted keywords describe important features of each method/activity and can help you when choosing the right method or activity for your group and your specific goal or context.

**Cards 02, 03 and 04** - Detailed description of the method/activity  
These cards help you understand what each method is about and how to put it into practice.

# HOW TO USE THE CARDS?

**Visual cards:** check the joker set for tips.

**Methods cards:** Get inspired by our 9 suggestions for activities and understand better how they work.. The keywords on the first card of each set can help you choose a method suitable for what you have in mind. The following keywords are connected to these methods and activities:

- **Breaking prejudices:** Human library, (Comedy) improvisation
- **Creative:** Colours of a journey, Diverse communities - visual cards
- **Discussion:** Role play debate, Photo gallery, Movie screening event
- **Empathy:** Human library, Colours of a journey, Movie screening event
- **Intercultural understanding:** Human library, City of languages, (Comedy) improvisation, Cooking event
- **Language animation:** City of languages
- **Migration:** Colours of a journey, Role play debate, Balkan steps interviews, Photo gallery
- **Non-verbal communication:** (Comedy) improvisation
- **Raising awareness:** Cooking event, Balkan steps interviews, Photo gallery, Movie screening event
- **Reflection:** Diverse communities - working with visual cards
- **Role play:** Role play debate
- **Storytelling:** Human library, Balkan steps interviews
- **Visual:** Colours of a journey, Diverse communities - visual cards, Photo gallery, Movie screening event

We'll be happy to hear about your experience with these visual method cards. Please contact us at [programmes@sci.ngo](mailto:programmes@sci.ngo) with any feedback you may have.

Good luck for your activities.

Amities,  
SCI

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# HUMAN LIBRARY

A human library is the perfect opportunity to meet people (storytellers/books) you might not ordinarily meet, ask all questions you would never ask otherwise, always being respectful of others.

(Preferably) One reader meets a book for about 15 minutes and discusses their story.



10+



2-3 hr



storytelling

intercultural understanding

breaking prejudices empathy



# BOOKS

**Books (storytellers) are the people who tell their story to challenge stigma and prejudice in a certain topic (e.g. discrimination, migration). They are people who give their time and use personal experiences to talk with readers about their individual experiences.**

- **Look for the books** (personal circle, networks, NGOs, schools, newspapers, one book brings another...).
- **Ask them a title** and a baseline of their story (in advance).
- **Create physical "books"** (print the title and a baseline/summary of the story on an old book with a nice image).
- **Meet with the books before the start**, explain rules/principles of human library, offer them drinks.



# READERS

**Readers are members of the general public who get a unique opportunity to have a conversation with someone they might not ordinarily meet. They may ask direct questions about Book's experience and how it relates to their title.**

- **Look for the readers** (personal circle, networks, NGOs, schools, newspapers, one book brings another...).
- **Arrange a place for the human library:** with facilities (toilets etc.) + space for the people waiting for their turn, with snacks and drinks.
- **Hang posters, leave leaflets** before the human library starts.
- **Plan space in between books** so that readers can hear well.



# LIBRARIAN

**Librarian is a person who knows how the human library works and helps readers find a book to read, based on their interest and availability.**

- **Create a catalogue** (overview of books: titles and baselines).
- **Prepare a visual schedule** with clear time slots per book.
- **Welcome readers,** explain how the human library works.
- **Actively talk to readers,** advise books to read.
- **Create librarian cards** for readers to mark what books they borrowed.
- **Help the reader** find their book.
- **Ask if the reader** enjoyed reading the book.



# CITY OF LANGUAGES

**Migrants are often encouraged to learn the language of their new home country. The idea of this activity is to switch roles: this time migrants are teaching their native languages to locals.**

The city of languages represents the multilingual everyday life and encourages participants to learn a few words of e.g. Arabic, Dari, Hindi, Persian, Somali or Urdu according to who is present.



at least 3 language spots and 10 visitors



1 hr to prepare, 1 hr to run



language animation

intercultural understanding



# MY FAVOURITE PLACE

**In the activity each language is connected to a different place in the city. E.g. an Arabic football court is a fun place to visit, because you can play games and learn words and phrases connected to sports.**

Brainstorm together where could you teach your language to others? An Arabic football court? A Somali bus? A Dari coffee shop?

**A tip:** Ask the participants to draw their favourite place in the city! Let participants present themselves using the drawings.



# CREATING LANGUAGE SPOTS

**Once you have chosen the ideal spot – e.g. a Moroccan market, think about the key elements of this place.**

What kind of words/sentences are useful to know?

What kind of materials would you need to create the location?

Prepare the decorations and teaching materials before the activity.



# ACTION

**Prepare the spaces in the city. To create a welcoming atmosphere you can make coffee to be served in the coffee shop, etc.**

Ask the participants to spend as much time in each location that they wish, but tell the length of the whole activity (60-90 mins) at the beginning.

Use language in a way it would be used in the football court or coffeeshop. Facilitators will help participants to find words for each action.

**Enjoy the city atmosphere!**



# COLOURS OF A JOURNEY

Each day, children all over the world become refugees and embark on a journey for a better future. Colours of a Journey is an online platform that gathers the artworks of refugee minors in order to try to see the world through their eyes.

This platform is open to all organizations that are able to facilitate the production and collection of paintings done by newcomer children, living in any European country.

<https://coloursofajourney.eu/>



10+



25 min+ (to draw)



creative

visual

migration



# DRAW WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS

**Organize a drawing session with kids or youngsters (6-18 years old).**

- Ask the children/youngsters to visualize and draw one of the following: **their past, present and/or future.**
- **Use A4 size paper** because it is easier to find, scan and photograph.
- **Use colouring, drawing and texture techniques** of your choice. Use whatever is available to you. Keep in mind that glossy materials can create shades and shines if photographed and not scanned.



# UPLOAD THE PICTURE

To upload the picture, register first in the platform.

Artists stay anonymous, but please collect the following information:

- **nickname or alias** of the creator of the picture. Alternatively, use the first name of the child.
- **age** of the creator
- **country of origin**
- **country of residence** at present
- **favorable destination / Where would you like to be?** (optional)

**Select attribute** of the picture uploaded:  
present // past // future

**Quality:** min 72 dpi resolution, with min dimensions 1200 pixel width.

no borders, no nations, no governments  
we are an image from the future



# SHOW COLOURS OF A JOURNEY TO WORLD

**You can organize your own exhibition, video work or projections using the pictures from Colours of a Journey or visual material from your workshop.**

**Let your creativity rule!  
All initiatives are welcome.**



# (COMEDY) IMPROVISATION

**(Comedy) Improvisation is easy accessible for everyone. It works wonders when integrating new people into a group and brings lot of joy and laughter.**



10+



25 min+

**non-verbal communication****intercultural understanding****breaking prejudices**



# I AM AND I WILL TAKE...

**Person 1** steps in the middle of a circle or on stage and says what object s/he acts. The performing object includes an attribute and/or a movement.

**Person 2** adds another object to the scenery.

**Person 3** adds another object to the scenery.

**Person 1** leaves the scenery saying “I am \_\_\_\_\_ and I will take \_\_\_\_\_”. S/he explains what s/he performed and what the other person s/he takes along performed.

**One person** (person 2 or 3, depending on who **#1** took along away from the scene) remains, becomes Person 1, and s/he explains what s/he performs... .

**Person 2** and **#3** joining the scenery... .



# FILLING STORY

## Group:

A small-group (at least three, but dependent on number of participants can be bigger) steps in front of the group and lines up next to each other.

## Decisions:

The entire group decides on the **location**, the **characters** and the **situation/topic** that the characters of the small-group are put into. The story will be developed...

## Play:

The small group starts to develop a story, one person after another, each adding phrases/ parts of the sentence to the story.



# CHARACTER IMPRESSIONS

## Note:

This play is a more complicated one for the acting person. It requires extensive knowledge about a personality which will be emulated.

## Group:

**Two participants** from the group will play in front of the group.

**Person 1** will play a known personality.

**Person 2** will play a translator.

**Person 1** starts to act and quote real statements of the real personality.

**Person 2** translates to the audience what the personality really means giving his/her statements.



# DIVERSE COMMUNITIES - VISUAL CARDS

Say it with a picture! Diverse communities - visual method cards contain 40 visuals that can be used loosely from the methods described on the other side.



6 - 40



5 - 45 min



visual reflection creative



# SHARING EXPECTATIONS

**Lay visual cards on the floor/ table and ask participants to choose an image that represents their expectations from a particular event, workcamp or a seminar. Everyone picks a card and comments on their choice in a bigger group.**

**If a common language is an issue or you want to save time, try the following tips:**

- Keep it simple: everyone can use only 3 keywords to explain why they have chosen the visual card.
- Ask people to find someone with a similar visual card. After a short sharing moment, each pair finds a common word that connects their expectations. Once all pairs are ready, they present their word to a bigger group.



# DIVISION INTO SMALL GROUPS

The cards can help you divide participants into sub-groups.

Examples:

- **2-10 groups of 4 people:** Use the colours connecting each set of 4 method cards. Everybody gets a card and has to find people who have a card of the same colour.
- **3-20 groups of 2:** Have everyone pick a visual card and let them look for somebody whose visual fit to theirs.

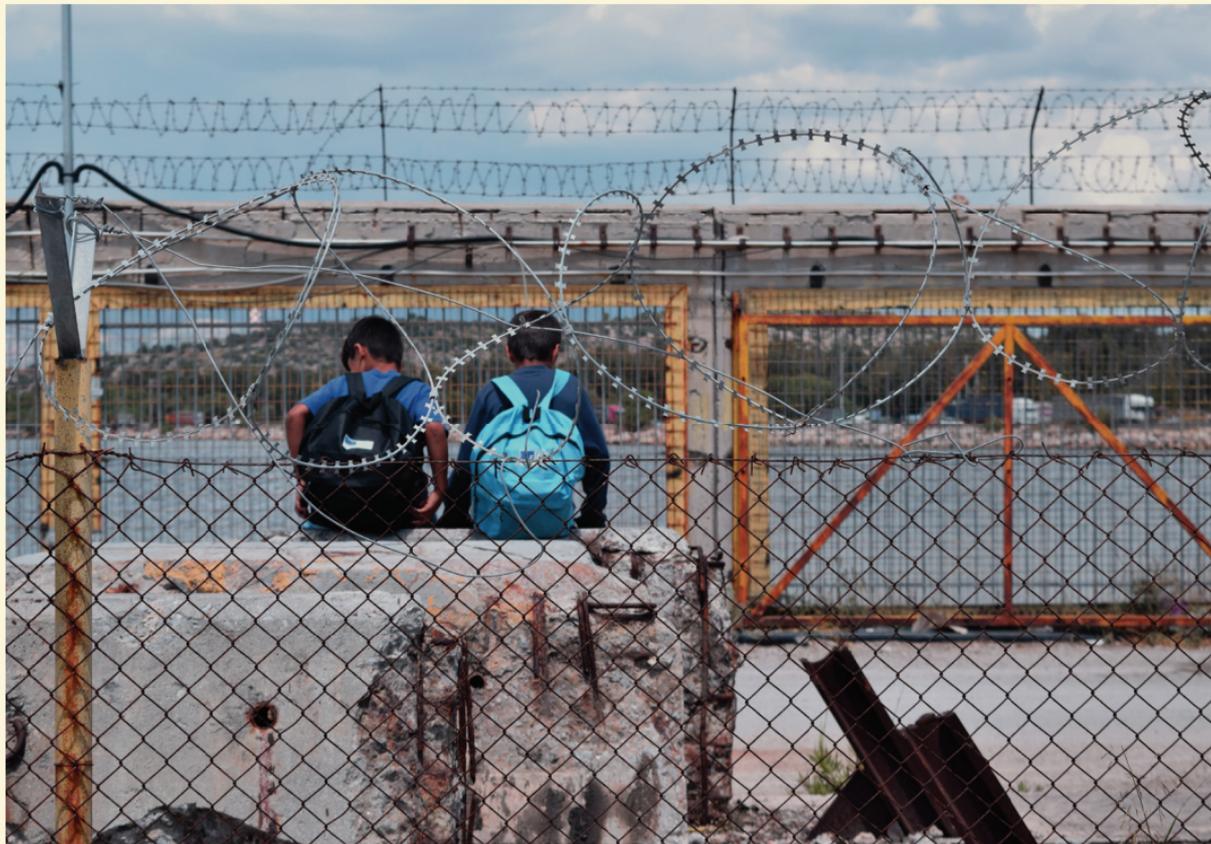
**Be creative and find your own ways to divide the group.**



# REFLECTION

**You can use the visual cards as a starting point for a reflection on an activity. Lay visual cards on the floor/table and ask participants to choose an image that reflects their feeling from the activity.**

Link the pictures together: one person starts and shares their word - e.g. connection. Everyone who can agree to that comes stand behind the person. After a moment, people return to the circle and the next person continues presenting their feeling.



# ROLE-PLAY DEBATE

Debate is a chance to tackle a topic related to your project and to raise awareness about it. Through the role-playing situation, the participants have an opportunity to discover different perspectives on the topic. Interesting topics to discuss might be e.g. territorial borders, freedom of movement or migration.



4-12



1-1,5 hr



roleplay

discussion

migration



# ARRANGING THE DEBATE GROUPS

**The participants will have to either object or defend a certain statement (e.g. the existence of territorial borders).**

- There are two groups of approximately equal number of debaters.
- Draw lots to decide the sides:  
“Territorial borders are necessary” and  
“Territorial borders should be abolished”.

Look for articles, statistics, videos, photos and websites dealing with the chosen topic. Provide a variety of different perspectives by the choice of materials. Before you start discussing, provide time for the groups to look through the materials to help them prepare their arguments.



# RULES OF THE DEBATE

**The two groups are facing each other.**

- Only one person can speak at a time, but each person can speak more than once.
- Time limit for one speech is 2 minutes.
- Before each person starts presenting a new argument, it is mandatory that they make a summary of what the last person speaking said. Only if the last person agrees with the summary, can the new person go on with their argument.
- The debate finishes when the groups run out of their arguments or the debate starts diverting from the topic. The facilitator finishes the debate with a closing speech.



# FACILITATION TIPS

Set the room ready for the activity. How do you want to show the source materials? Arrange tables and chairs ready for the debate.

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Explain that in the role-play you have to defend an opinion that you may not agree with. It's a great way to learn to understand different views as well!

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Moderate the debate as little as possible. Make sure the rules are respected, but do not comment on the content of the discussion.

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After the debate is over, let the group reflect on their speeches and give them an opportunity to express their own opinions.



# COOKING EVENT

Food connects people, and a cooking event is an opportunity to gather people for a greater cause! Bring people together, raise awareness about a certain topic, point out the situation that is currently important for the local community and "spice it up" with interculturality - what more can you ask for?



10+



2 - 3 hr cooking event

**intercultural understanding****raising awareness**



# PREPARATION

- **Find a chef or a group of volunteers that will cook.** In case you would like some special cuisine to be presented at your event, make sure there are people who can do it.
- **Find a place.** At this point it would be convenient to know how many people will attend the event.
- **Recruit volunteers** that will help with cooking, promotion, logistics, etc.
- **Have a checklist with tasks** and who is responsible for each task.
- **Think about a proper promotion strategy.**

**Tip:**

Spice up your event with a discussion on a specific topic – e.g. Syrian food and situation in Syria, or Balkan specialities with a presentation of photos from the Balkan Route.



# DAY OF THE EVENT

It's best if a team meets a few hours before the event to prepare everything. Have a checklist with you: Is everything ready? Is there some additional help that people might need?

- Prepare the spot where the food will be served; arrange tables & chairs.
- Place visible welcoming sign.
- Share some promotional material from your organization/initiative.
- If there are some additional activities aside from cooking, make sure you prepare space for them as well.
- Be ready to welcome people!



*Ursa Minor*

**URSA MAJOR**

# TIPS AND TRICKS

## **Easy to connect with different activities**

(exhibition, collecting donations, movie screening, kite making, debate, etc.).

That way you will attract more people!

## **Organize the event on an (international)**

**awareness raising day** so your message becomes more visible (if your focus is climate change, organize an event on the Earth day, etc).

**People like unusual things** - so if you announce that you will cook some "exotic" food for your event people might be more eager to join.

**Sustainability matters!** Encourage people not to waste food and wash the dishes themselves after the meal (if possible).



# BALKAN STEPS INTERVIEWS

The Balkan Steps blog is devoted to sharing good practices and examples of integration of and by refugees through stories, reports and interviews, without wishing to erase or deny the situation firsthand in Serbia, across the Balkans and Europe. You can do it too!

[balkansteps.wordpress.com](http://balkansteps.wordpress.com)



1 or 2 interviewee(s), 1 interviewer



Interview up to 1,5 hr



intercultural understanding

raising awareness



# INTERVIEWER

**The interviewer should keep in mind that the experience of refugees can be quite particular.**

- **Find people** ready to tell their story with honesty, integrity and commitment to justice.
- **What do you want to focus on** in your interview? Respect the privacy and the direction the interviewee wants to go.
- **Seek the truth**, through language and empathy of gestures.
- **Coordinate with the interviewee before**, during and after the interview to create the final product together.



# THE INTERVIEW

It is important to assure a peaceful and quiet setting, and to make sure the interviewee(s) feel they are getting the undivided care and attention of the interviewer during their interview.

- Make sure both parts are working together for the **same goal**.
- Provide for the **most comfortable surroundings and circumstances** possible where both sides can feel safe.
- **Avoid rushing answers** or interrupting the speaker.
- Register and record only what is explicitly allowed.



# PUBLISH THE INTERVIEW

Once you have agreed with your interviewee that everything is set and ready, it's time to publish the story. Depending on your expectations and agreement with the person you interviewed, you can publish a story on BalkanSteps blog and contribute to its purpose of telling people's stories with accuracy and respect.

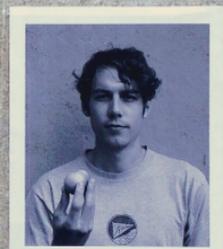
**For more information, contact  
the blog creators via this email:**  
[balkansteps@gmail.com](mailto:balkansteps@gmail.com)



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# PHOTO GALLERY

The Photo Gallery method uses photos as a tool to reflect, initiate conversation, exchange information and raise awareness about different topics, concepts and events related to forced migration in the world.



migration visual

raising awareness

discussion



# FIRST STEP

## Prepare materials:

- Photos related to your topic (e.g. from magazines, internet, books - at least 1 per person or 1 per two persons)
- World Map

**Identify a topic for each photo you have chosen,** based on the subject of the corresponding articles and news. Write a question related to that issue on the other side of the photo.

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**Example:** How many asylum-seekers live in your country? Do you know what the Dublin agreement is about? Do you think that female refugees face more danger than men?



# FLOW OF THE ACTIVITY

**Place the photos on the floor, with the photo facing up and the question facing the floor. Ask participants to walk between photos and stand close to one by themselves or in a pair. Once everybody has made a choice, invite them to sit with the photo, but without turning it around!**

Give them a few minutes to think (or discuss in pairs) where the photo was taken, when, and what it is showing. Ask them to flip the photo and answer the question(s). When done, they place the photo on the world map next to the place where they think the photo was taken. Place one photo at a time and discuss the questions/answers (in case of a wrong hypothesis, explain the correct context).



# TIPS FOR DISCUSSION

## Questions to think about after the activity:

- Were you surprised to find out about some specific place/event/issue?
- Which conflicts/areas of the world were the most represented and why do you think it's like this?
- Did you discover anything new about migration?
- Did you learn something more about your own country or the countries of others?



# MOVIE SCREENING EVENT WITH DISCUSSION

**A movie/documentary screening event is a great way to raise awareness about a specific topic and start a discussion. It can happen with few people or a big crowd – the impact will be there either way!**



5+



1,5 hr+

depends of the length of the  
movie and the discussion



raising awareness discussion

empathy visual



# PREPARATION

## Tasks to do:

- **Find a movie:** if you have a topic but not a movie that you can show, you can search for it online or you can ask some people you know to recommend it.
- **Find a place.** How many people do you imagine having at the event? Find a place big enough.
- **Arrange** a movie projector, a computer and speakers.

## Tips:

- **Always watch the movie before screening it!** It's possible that it doesn't present the topic very well, or that is not in line with what you would like to discuss.
- **Download a movie beforehand.** The internet connection might not be stable enough for online streaming. **Identify a topic for each photo you have chosen**, based on the subject of the corresponding articles and news. Write a question related to that issue on the other side of the photo.



# READY, SET, GO!

## Movie/documentary screening:

- **Make sure everybody has a place to sit**, that people feel comfortable and, if possible, provide some snacks and drinks.
- **Make an introduction** – why you are screening this movie today, what is the main topic etc.
- **Invite people to participate in the discussion** after the movie/documentary ends.

## Discussion:

- **Ask for general impression** about the movie/documentary: What they did and didn't like? Did it fulfill their expectations?
- **Ask specific questions** about the movie and the topic. Was there something they did not know beforehand?



# TIPS AND TRICKS

**You can invite external speakers** (activists, people with experience working in the field of interest) that can be part of a discussion. That way participants might be more willing to stay after the screening.

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**Allow participants to write their thoughts or questions** on a piece of paper that can be used later on for discussion. In case there are external speakers, it's possible that people from the audience will want to ask them specific questions.

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**You can get in touch with the director of the movie.** It can be of added value to the event: the director can leave a message for the participants or, if possible, join the event.