



COMMUNITY FORUM: BRANCHING OUT

06 - 10/06/2018 ANTWERP, BELGIUM
FOLLOW-UP REPORT

“Branching Out: (re)connecting ideas” is a project supported by European Youth Foundation that focuses on collecting and sharing best practices when it comes to working with refugees and asylum seekers. The project is part of Building Bridges Campaign.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 INTRODUCTION

04 AGENDA

05 OPEN SPACE: Building inclusive societies
Short Description, Contact, Pictures

13 Study visits & workshops
Links and contacts

15 PLAYING CARDS:
Visual tool

20 WHAT'S NEXT?
Invitation to Strategic planning workshop for participants

21 EVALUATION:
What was your opinion on Community forum: Branching out

23 SHARING BEST PRACTICES:
Presentations and workshops by participants

25 LINKS

INTRODUCTION

Without meaningful initiatives and people like all of you are, things would not be possible. We came to Antwerp during few days of June (6 -10) to reconnect, to discuss, to exchange, to share and to create. A report this small cannot put into perspective everything that happened during those days, but it can for sure help you remember, give you contacts, so you can re-connect and reflect on your experience during the Community forum: Branching out.

The report has in itself all that we thought you will find useful. In case there is something else you would like us to share, let us know and we will do our best to do it in the future. Our contacts will be somewhere among these pages. :)

We hope you enjoyed this experience with us and we wish you all the best in your future work. And last but not least - we are also looking forward to see you in October in Finland and evaluate on the whole project with us, including both Community forum and the local activities you will organize. If it sounds like something you would like to be part of, find more info in this report and get back to us.

Let's continue **#branchingout** in the spirit of **#volunteeringforpeace!**

Yours,



THE BRANCHING OUT TEAM

NOTE: We kindly ask you to keep this follow-up report internal and among the participants of the project, as it contains personal data of persons that might do not want to have their information send out in public.

COMMUNITY FORUM: AGENDA

Wed, 6/6	Thu, 7/6	Fri, 8/6	Sat, 9/6	Sun, 10/6
BREAKFAST				
ARRIVAL Hopper Hostel	LOCATION @ De Shelter		Networking coffee 9.30 - 10.00	Local initiatives : how to do it, best practice examples, tips and tricks, inspirations Guidelines, partnership agreements for local actions
	9:45 Welcome & Introduction Branching Out: <u>(re)connecting</u> ideas	9:00 - 10:45 Sharing: <u>best practices/ programmes/ formats</u>	10:00 - 12:00 FORUM THEATER (Thomas, Peace Craft)	
	Introduction & Getting-to-known each other	Inspiration from the field: 11:30 - 13:30 CURANT - co-housing project Challenges in the field 11:30 - 13:30 Comparison: Balkan Route Case Viuchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen - Road of Change & SCI - Route to connect project	12:20 - 13:00 Open Space Preparation	Evaluation
	LUNCH			
	14:00 - 16:00 Atlas TOPIC: Guest workers and super diversity in Antwerp & How to tackle the topic	Breaking out of bubble when facilitating intercultural dialogue 15:00 - 16:30	Open Space: <i>Building inclusive and peaceful society</i> - vision, tools, action	DEPARTURE
	of polarization and radicalization WORKSHOP: TOPIC: Local actions and communities - what is the local community? How do we understand the concept?	WORKSHOP: Media for Change - Slow Motion Video Or STUDY VISIT: Wingerbloei (community center for refugees) in Kiel 17:00- 18:30 Sharing: <u>best practices/ programmes/ Formats (2)</u>	Experimenting: <i>Intercultural Dialogue</i> Preparing the Iftar with Al Ikram 19.00 - 21.30 Leaving: 18:00	
DINNER				
@ 20:00 SCI Branching Out: Meet-and-Greet		Workshop: Crafting traditional Afghan Kites	IFTAR (Al Ikram) @Laar, Borgerhout	

OPEN SPACE: BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

In case you have forgotten who presented which topic during the Open Space or you would have liked to join more activities than you were able to - here is a list with the sessions that were offered during the Open Space.

If you want to get in touch with the people and follow up on discussions, please use the Participant List for contact details.

NOTE: more information on each session of the Open space (scanned papers that were filled in during the workshops) you can find at the end of this document).

OPEN SPACE TOPICS:

Discussion on Existing Opportunities (Raising Peace, Building Bridges, Funds, Projects)

Chantal, Ling, Sonja

No More War Festivals

Shirin, Kat

Playing Cards

Alena, Laura, Nicolai

How do we make Workcamps & Branches a safer space for everyone

Olivier, Barbara, Jesús

Brave Kids

Kaska

Urban Activism

Kami

The Refugee Project & Engagement of Locals

Kat

How to get involved with SCI International & SCI Members Area

Morgane, Zahra

Open Doors - Open spaces and creativity

Ági

Mindfulness Meditation for Activists

Dario

Future Work (SCI) on the topic of Inclusion & Refugees

Chantal, Ling, Sonja

School Visiting

Bostio

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS 8/6:

CHALLENGES ON THE FIELD - Balkan route case (session from Friday, 8th June)

Sonja and Rein

CHALLENGE #1: Project visibility

- Advertisement
- Timing and planning
- Involve participants in planning the communication together and making sure it will happen
- Branches should commit to make their projects visible. Improve the feeling of ownership in the projects so branches really do a good communication

- Should we do marketing? Including in participants group a famous person with a potential visibility.
- Trainings on critic/ethical communication strategies for branches
- BALANCE – selling our values to devil / coherence with our values
- Aside from social media . maybe using a public event/festival already in the calendar to organize a kind of workshop to illustrate the project and explain the results to whom is interested.
- Get in contact with mainstream media / journalists instead of only using social media?
- FOLLOW UP EVENTS: include also not-so-like-minded people

CHALLENGE #2: Understanding the "reality"/ needs and community – what do you do/how do you do it?

- Talking to many people
- Having participants belonging to the community
- Integration using their skills, knowledge and work
- Using participatory needs – assessement methods
- Contacting local leaders who know the reality of that community
- Make sure you get to meet and gain the trust of all the leaders of the different communities (elderly people, recognized individuals...) and make sure you listen to all they have to say and they know who are you and accept you. (not only the leaders but they are essential to reach the rest and to ensure the participation and security of everyone)

- They demand, we supply
- Field work, open discussions, forums, inquires, being active part of the group with that we would like to work.
- Repeating the project, maybe somehow different but with the same features and with some community maybe can help to understand better the needs, what to improve, what to eliminate.

CHALLENGE #3: Approaching the official institutions

- Start "on time"
- Being aware of the procedure, contact other organizations who has experience in doing the paperwork; networking
- Adapting organizational and language habits to meet the required standards without losing vision
- Be well prepared and confident
- Building a healthy relationship with official insitutions prior to the events/projects.
- every partner organization tries to maintain contact with institutions in each country and keep them informed.
- Invite representatives to visit/see the work you are doing
- Being honest; not asking for help but being sure I am doing something valuable (also for the official institutions)
- Stressing the social value of this in particular and in general these kinds of projects.

CHALLENGE #4: Follow up: making sure something is happening after the project – HOW?

- commitment to each participant to make activities to raise awareness once they're back.

Open to the public

Organization – partners (strong relationship)

In universities, social centers...

- Promote and plan social, non-formal activities to ensure connections and sharing

- Organize discussions with all participants about the post-project phase before, during and after the project.

- Select participants who are already involved with partner organizations and other institutions where they can implement follow-up activities

- Form a group with local communities in the project locations and make regular contents with them by email or visit them in person

- Call them, visit them periodically

- Staying in touch with the people, making sure you know about what they are doing..

- "After" events: mobilization of the group (keeping it alive);

COMMON ACTIONS

CHALLENGE #5: Us/them – how do we choose activities during the project?

- Include participants in all the phases of the project, as much as possible.
- Adapt to the constant changes of needs.
- Be in touch with people who has been there or with an organization that will be visited beforehand to understand the needs and what would be useful.
- Doing a huuuge research before planning the project. Talk with people who I am going to work with/for, what are their needs, interests, skills. What do they want to do. Ask "local leaders" what are the resources in that area.
- Get in touch with local organizations working on the same field to indentify the needs of the community or do a base line survey and indentify the priority of the community. Having contacts with local organization will reduce duplication.
- Contacting focusing on objectives and resources

CHALLENGE #6: Voluntourism

- Interactive campaigns to break "saving people" videos of volunteering (especially North-South projects)
- Look for competencies and expectations
- Selection process: google form + interview
- Motivational letter, deep interview background
- Include volntourism topic in preparation training + develop guidelines on behaviour/photos/interaction

- Limit the number of volunteers and the kind of tasks everyone can do.
- Ask volunteers and yourself to work with the same level of excellence and respect as you would do if you were working anywhere in your country.



STUDY VISITS & WORKSHOPS

CURANT

We had the chance to visit the Co-housing project for young Belgians based in Antwerp, to interview its Project Manager Jolien and visit a co-housing space to talk to a peer living together.

Contact: Jolien De Crom, JOLIEN.DECROM@ocmw.Antwerpen.be
<https://www.antwerpen.be/nl/overzicht/cohousing-curant-1>

WINGERDBLOEI

Young people 15 - 18 years old live together in a community house in Antwerp (Kiel). How their life is going, how Wingerdbloei is helping them with integration and their challenges was part of the experience during the study visit.

Contact: Charisse Verberckmoe, charisse.verberckmoe@wingerdbloei.be

ATLAS

The local institution provides integration and language courses to individuals. Ahmad gave a presentation about their work, migration history in Antwerp and how he sees diversity of the city.

Contact: Ahmad, <https://www.atlas-antwerpen.be/en>

FORUM THEATRE

PeaceCraft is a Belgium-based theater organization run by refugees from all over the World. We had a chance to meet them and hear what they do through participating in a small theatre workshop.

Contact: Thomas Deweer, thomas.deweer@paxchristi.be

<http://www.forumtheater.be/>

<http://www.peacecraft.be/>

YWCA & IVCA CAW

Veerle gave an introduction about the international women organization YWCA in Antwerp and their volunteer work getting in touch with and supporting the integration process of refugee women. The volunteer organization works on certain projects and activities hand in hand with IVCA CAW, which is the intercultural women center from the municipality of Antwerp.

Contact: Veerle van Lieshout, info@antwerpen.ywca.be

<https://www.caw.be/locaties/ivca/>

<http://www.ywca-antwerpen.org/>

VLUCHTELINGENWERK VLAANDEREN - Challenges on the field (Balkan route case)

Working as an activist for several decades on the topic of refuge and migration, Rein came to the Community forum to tell us more about the project called Road of Change that was organized in February 2018 by Vluchteling Netwerk Vlaanderen, what his organization does and how grassroots initiatives are extremely important.

Contact: Rein Antonissen

rein@vluchtelingenwerk.be

<https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.be/>

PLAYING CARDS

VISUAL TOOL

We are developing Playing Cards - a new easy-to-use and attractive visual tool that brings inspiration to volunteers and activists by presenting best practices, methods and tools proven to build bridges and to organize and facilitate inclusive volunteer events or activities.

How to imagine these Playing Cards?

Front: best practice, method or tool description -

1 method should have 3-4 cards

Back: attractive photos/visuals - to be used as visual cards when working with groups for activities like expectations, evaluation, etc. - this in order to motivate organizers to use the cards during team meetings or volunteer projects, where others can also learn more about the methods in order to encourage innovation and new methods to be used in their activities/projects.

Find some examples on the following pages! There will be 4 different sections representing each card, with a name of the method above.

In case you want to contribute to the Playing Cards with your methods and best practices, write us! :)

METHOD #1 - HUMAN LIBRARY

#1 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 keeping respect of the others.

(Preferably) 1 reader meets a book for about 15 minutes and discusses their story.

Nr of participants: 10-30

Typical duration: 2 - 3 hours

Difficulty to organize (?): medium

CATEGORY: storytelling

TOPICS: intercultural understanding, breaking prejudices, empathy

#2 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.

TASKS TO DO:

- 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 / slots, with snacks and drinks
- hang posters, leave leaflets before the human library starts
- plan space in between books so that readers can hear well

#3 BOOKS

Books (story-tellers) 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.

TASKS TO DO:

- 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

#4 LIBRARIAN

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

TASKS TO DO:

- create a catalogue (overview of books: titles and baselines)
- prepare a visual schedule with clear time slots per a book
- welcome readers, explain how human library works
- actively talk to readers, advice 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

METHOD #2- CITY OF LANGUAGES

#1 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 or Somali, according to who is present.

Number of Participants: at least 3 language spots and 10 visitors

Typical duration: 1hr to prepare, 1hr to run

Difficulty to organize(?): medium

CATEGORY: language animation

#2 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.

#3 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

#4 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!

METHOD #3 - (COMEDY) IMPROVISATION FOR INTEGRATION

#1 (COMEDY) IMPROVISATION FOR INTEGRATION

(Comedy) Improvisation is easy accessible for everyone and brings lot of joy and laughter. (Comedy) Improvisation gives an opportunity to address taboo-topics and communicate in a more non-communicative way. It will work wonder!

Number of Participants: 10 +

Typical duration: 25 Minutes +

Difficulty to organize: easy

Difficulty to facilitate: medium

CATEGORY: Non-verbal Communication (closed group)

TOPICS: intercultural understanding & communication, breaking prejudices and taboos .

#2 FILLING STORY

Group: A small-group (at least three, but dependent on number of participants as well 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 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.

#3 I AM AND I WILL TAKE...

The group forms a huge circle which will be the performing stage.

Person #1 steps in the middle of the circle 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 second person, s/he takes along takes with her/him performed.

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

#4 CHARACTER IMPRESSIONS

Note: This play is for the actors a more complicated one. It requires some self confidence to do play.

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 by saying this.

METHOD #4 - COLOURS OF A JOURNEY

#1 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/>

Number of Participants: 10 +

Typical duration: 25 Minutes +

Difficulty to organize(?): easy

CATEGORY: storytelling, reflection, creative, visual, building bridges

TOPICS: migration

#2 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.

Colouring, drawing and texture techniques are 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.

#3 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.

#4 ORGANIZE A EXHIBITION

For more information, visit this link:

<https://coloursofajourney.eu/how-to-join/>

WHAT'S NEXT?

BRANCHING OUT: STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

14 - 18/10/2018 ANJALANKOSKI, FINLAND

We invite you to join us at the third and the last activity of **Branching Out: (re)connecting ideas** project.

The strategic planning workshop will happen together (partly in parallel and partly joint sessions) with the **SCI Exchange Platform Meeting (EPM)**, a big annual meeting of SCI that invites about 70 different players in the SCI movement in order to exchange best practices/ less successful projects and plans for the next year.

The **Strategic Planning Workshop** is a place for you - 12 young activists of the SCI movement and partner organizations to:

- meet and reflect on knowledge, best practices and challenges experienced throughout the involvement in the Community Forum and the organization of the Local Activities during the summer 2018;
- share your best practices, tools and lessons learnt with the SCI movement in order to inspire other branches and partner organizations to take action towards more inclusive volunteer projects and events in SCI;
- finalize the playing cards - a visual tool introducing inclusive methods and tools of work;
- evaluate Branching out project in its whole;
- discuss future strategies on engaging young refugees/migrants in SCI work.

Conditions

Board and lodging for the meeting will be fully covered. There is no participation fee.

The travel costs up to 150 per participant are guaranteed at the moment (the travel policy applies). Arrival day is 14th October, departure is 18th of October.

Let us know if you are interested to participate by **10th July!**

EVALUATION

WHAT WAS YOUR OPINION ON COMMUNITY FORUM: BRANCHING OUT

At this point once again, thank you very much for your honest feedback about the Community Forum. As well for us it had been the first time we organized such form of event and we were very excited about your feedback.

The motivation that brought you to the Community forum:

“My motivation was to get out of the local context and get some international inspiration”

Sharing ideas & knowledge - learning new things

“Meeting new people”

“Getting to know other SCI realities and activities”

“Get more involved into local activities”

“To get ideas and inspirations from other partners and initiatives in order to develop and implement successful activities in our own branch.”

“To prepare myself for my organisation's upcoming project with asylum seekers and refugees.”

If we met your expectations:

9/11 - yes

2/11 - partially

Your Highlights (ranked by the frequency of mentioning):

Forum Theater

Kite Workshop

Iftar Event

Open Space & Sharing Best Practices

What disappointed you:

Not addressing the activist's local challenges and how to deal with it

"More games - less lectures"

"I didn't understand so much the goal of the talk of the organization from Antwerp on the first day, he was sharing the history and it is important, but he was not sharing neither what they do to gain from the "superdiversity" nor to answer the challenges they face."

"Lack of movement"



SHARING BEST PRACTICES

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS BY PARTICIPANTS

Again, as a reminder, we would like to list what you have presented during our Sharing Best Practices sessions. It was important to you to have these exchanges of experiences and projects formally, in the session, and informally in conversations.

Laboratorio 53 & La Citta dell'Utopia

Elisabetta and Dario - Partner of SCI Italy

(Local) Participation for Change

Júlia and Bryan - SCI Catalunya

Fondacio GERMANIA

Clara - Partner of SCI Catalunya

Integration of Refugees into our Society

Jesus - SCI Madrid

Colours of a Journey

Martin, <https://coloursofajourney.eu/>

Letters to Europe. PDF:

futurelabeurope.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/letters_to_europe_book.pdf

Picture Discussion

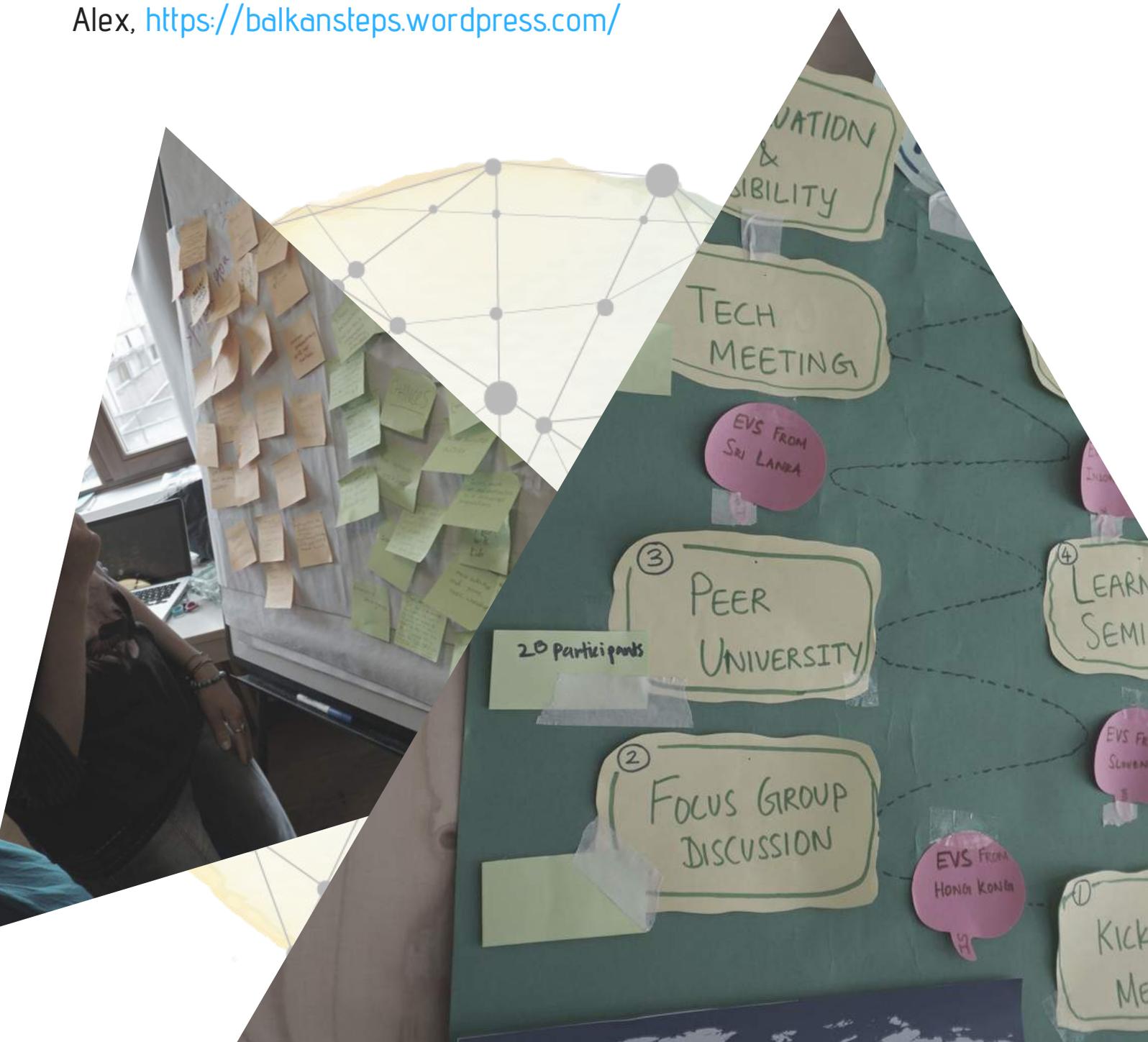
Francesca and Nevena

Intercultural Community of Artemisszió

Terez

Balkan Steps (Blog)

Alex, <https://balkansteps.wordpress.com/>



LINKS

SCI WEBSITE

Read more about Branching out: (re)connecting ideas project on SCI website:

<https://sci.ngo/what-we-do/projects/branching-out-re-connecting-ideas>

BRANCHING OUT: RESOURCES

Read more about Branching out: (re)connecting ideas project on SCI website:

<https://sci.ngo/what-we-do/projects/branching-out-re-connecting-ideas/branching-out-resources>