

4. ACCREDITATION: RECOGNITION OF EXPERIENCE, PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



4.1. LEARNING JOURNAL/BLOG – A PERSONAL JOURNAL TO RECORD LEARNING




Aim

A learning journal can have different formats and can be used in a variety of ways. The main idea is to give learners a tool to describe their learning and how they have learned. The greatest value in writing a journal is the fact that you sit down, think about what you have experienced and give words to it. It helps you become aware of what you have learned.

Another benefit of keeping track of your learning is that you can refer back to previous experiences and thoughts. It is a good way of remembering your learning. A learning journal can be daily, weekly or related to different events. But it definitely helps to have a rhythm.

The learning journal can be a nice-looking notebook that you give to participants at the beginning of the project. People can carry their journals with them during the activities, make notes and use those notes when talking to their peers.

It is also possible to invite learners to write their journal online, as a personal blog. A blog can be kept strictly personal, or learners can invite a selected group of readers, or they can share their learning with the whole world (public blog).

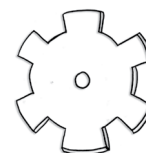
 Time needed Varies	 Resources needed A paper diary for each participant or notebook for the electronic blog variation	 Group size Any
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Step-by-step description

Give participants/learners time and space in the project to write in their learning journal. You could, for example, set aside half an hour at the end of each training day to write down learning thoughts. It is important to emphasise the importance of this individual reflection.

Provide tips and questions to start the reflection and paste them into the first page of each journal.

Give participants/learners the time and material to personalise their journals (e.g. different colours, types, decorations). That way, it becomes their own tool and you avoid mix-ups.



Reflection and evaluation

You can use peer reflection, where two or more participants/learners reflect on their learning in pairs or in small groups. The journal can be an excellent tool for exchanging ideas and supporting each other's learning reflections.

Some further tips

The activity can be adapted or used in almost any context. It can also be translated into different languages or turned into an online application or blog.

Young people with visual impairments can use electronic tools to write down and read back their learning reflections.

People with limited linguistic skills or educational difficulties can express themselves by means of other media such as drawings, collages, pictures, etc.⁵¹



⁵¹ See www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-2636/YP+Unfolded+complete.pdf, accessed 26 October 2016.