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Group Workshops as Inclusive Communication Spaces - ZuNaMi Approach

What is ZuNaMi?

ZuNaMi (*Creating narratives of cohesion together*, in German *"Zusammenhalt/narrative miteinander erarbeiten"*) is an action-research-based deliberative project initiated by the University of Muenster, the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences and the Foreign Institute of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany and financed by The Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the framework of Cohesion Research track. The Project seeks to reconstruct narratives of cohesion for an inclusive society and to transform some of these narratives for citizenship education purposes in the sense of making them visible and applicable in educational settings (Zimenkova et. al. 2018).

Methodological Approach

During the first and now completed phase of the project, the citizens of Dortmund were called to develop narratives of cohesion within group workshops which function as inclusive and deliberative communication spaces.

"Which narratives of social cohesion can be found in the population of Dortmund?"

- 6 Group Workshops
- 8 Participants per Group Workshop
- Heterogeneous Groups (taking into account the socio-spatial segregation in Dortmund)

Elaborating Conception of Cohesion with Help of Deliberative Procedures in Disintegrated Urban Spaces

Heterogeneous urban spaces, facing phenomena of global migration, disintegration and exclusions might as well bear specific potential for social inclusion and cohesion. The area of the old industrial town of Dortmund is a well-known locus of social disintegration and socio-spatial segregation in Germany (Kurtenbach 2016, Borstel; Luzar 2012). The research project "ZuNaMi" creates, tests and applies instruments for developing shared narratives of societal cohesion in a heterogeneous multicultural urban setting. The design-based research project ZuNaMi invites citizens of Dortmund to participate in – and co-create the – deliberative process, in which they are brought together in artificially heterogeneous workshops, facing the "others" they would due to spatial and social disintegration unlikely meet in regular everyday situations. In workshops with limited regulation, participants are called to discuss cohesion narratives, given that the framing and normativity of "cohesion" conception is left to their own consideration. The deliberative practice itself is being observed and analyzed.

Central Observations during the Group Workshop

"What is your personal idea of cohesion?"

Two dimensions of cohesion?	Openness, Attention, Tolerance, Respect, Empathy, Dialogue
	Affiliation, Demarcation, Identification, Differences

"Where do you experience cohesion in Dortmund, where do you see challenges and are there possible solutions to those challenges?"

Challenges	Possible Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary Challenges (Access to leisure facilities, places of communization, etc. is hampered by monetary barriers) • Lack of Sustainability • Socio-spatial Segregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Inclusive Spaces (Spaces without social or economic access restrictions) • Promote Sustainability (Creating sustainable networks and structures that can be implemented within the city)



Research Issues and Initial Results

Each group workshop was recorded and transcribed. After the transcription, a sequential analysis integrating elements of conversational analysis will be performed (Oevermann et. al.1979).The current results include the analysis of the first group workshop as well as the analysis of the mind maps produced by the participants.

Who is allowed/accepted to talk about cohesion?

- Expertise on cohesion is mainly gained by regional origin or belonging or rather by direct experience of the specific characteristics of the region
- Profession and professionalized knowledge play a secondary role

How is cohesion negotiated on?

- Emotions (Feeling of belonging and solidarity) vs. Structures (e.g. support networks funded and organized by the government)
- Genuine Cohesion vs. Pragmatic Cohesion
- Capitalism vs. Cohesion

How is cohesion being defined?

- Three central components:
- To be heard and find resonance
 - Cohesion understood as an acting reciprocal
 - Cohesion as Caring (Solidarity as emotional component)

Dissemination and Contact

For further information, downloadable content as well as regular updates about our state of research: <https://zusammenhalt-dortmund.de/>

Literature:
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