



EARTHE

Activity 2

Digital toolkit for innovative curriculum and methodological development

Module 1

Date:

Module 5 - Leadership

Case study - Six Panels, Big Impact: Telling the Riverside Story

Related Method - Community leadership projects

Context and Background

The case comes from **Vistula Learning Hub**, an adult-education NGO in Warsaw that helps long-term unemployed adults (aged 30–55) develop green-skills and civic-leadership competences. As part of their six-week Community Leadership Projects track, three learner teams organised micro-initiatives—riverbank clean-ups, native-plant workshops and a recycling pop-up. The cohort needed a way to showcase results to local sponsors and city officials who might extend support.

Problem / Challenge Presented

Participants could show statistics (“38 kg of litter collected”) but struggled to craft a compelling narrative that connected need, action and benefit. Previous slide-deck presentations were text-heavy and failed to engage partners. The group needed a **concise, visual storytelling tool** to celebrate achievements, attract follow-up resources and reflect on leadership growth.

Actions Taken / Method Applied

Facilitators introduced the **Impact Storyboard Gallery Walk**:

1. Each team condensed its project into a six-panel poster: *Need* → *Idea* → *Plan* → *Action* → *Result* → *Next Step*.
2. They used phone photos, bold captions and icons rather than paragraphs of text.
3. Posters were mounted around the training hall; peers walked the gallery, leaving colour-coded sticky notes (green = powerful, yellow = unclear).
4. A plenary debrief connected storyboard clarity to leadership competencies—purposeful communication, evidence-based persuasion, feedback culture.



Outcomes and Results

Teams reported dramatic confidence gains in public storytelling; 11 of 12 learners said they would “proudly show” their storyboard to a potential funder. City-council visitors invited two projects to present at a municipal eco-forum after seeing the gallery. Social-media posts using resized storyboard panels reached 4,800 local views—triple the centre’s usual engagement. Peer feedback yielded concrete upgrades (e.g., adding QR codes to donate gloves for the next clean-up).

Lessons Learned

Visual brevity beats data overload when communicating impact to busy stakeholders. A gallery walk fosters cross-project learning—teams borrowed ideas from each other’s layouts and captions. Soliciting micro-feedback in real time normalizes iterative improvement and reduces fear of critique.

Key Success Factors

Six-panel structure kept stories tight and comparable.

Real photos + minimal text created emotional resonance.

Two-colour sticky-note system gave feedback clarity without overwhelming comments.

Celebratory atmosphere (background music, refreshments) boosted pride and networking.

Challenges Encountered and How They Were Addressed

Time pressure—some teams felt rushed to design posters. Facilitators provided a ready-made panel template and photo-editing help.

Low artistic confidence—participants worried about drawing skills. Solution: encourage collage with printed photos/icons and simple stick-figures.

Uneven feedback quality—early sticky notes were vague (“nice”). Trainers modelled specific feedback (“Panel 4 could show how you recruited volunteers”).

Applicability / Recommendations for Educators

Use storyboards as a final showcase for any adult project-based course (entrepreneurship, digital upskilling, social justice).



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Provide a sample poster and a “10-word caption” rule to keep panels punchy.

Pair gallery walks with invited stakeholders—instant networking + authentic audience.

For online cohorts, convert panels into a shared Padlet or Miro board; use emoji reactions plus comment threads for feedback.

Encourage teams to repurpose panels for grant applications, social-media outreach or portfolio evidence.