



EARTHE

Activity 2

Digital toolkit for innovative curriculum and methodological development

Module – Problem solving

Method – Case studies



Module 4 – Problem Solving

Method 4 – Case Studies

Soft skill focus

This method aims at developing analytical thinking, real-world application of theory, and reflective learning.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this method, participants will be able to:

- Analyse complex real-world situations using structured frameworks.
- Identify key problems and contributing factors.
- Develop and justify recommendations for action.
- Reflect on different approaches to problem-solving

Target group

Age – Adults (20+)

Gender – All genders

Level of studies – Variable (from vocational to postgraduate)

Status – Employed, unemployed, or in transition

Fewer opportunities – Possible inclusion of participants from disadvantaged backgrounds. The method might be useful for adult educators (coaches, trainers, facilitators) engaged in formal and non-formal learning environments across partner institutions and their extended networks.

Method description

Learners explore real or realistic scenarios, pinpoint the main issues, and develop practical solutions, fostering the connection between theory and its application in practice.



Implementation instructions

Timeline: 45–60 minutes

No. of participants: 6 to 20

Necessary materials: Case study text, analysis framework (e.g., SWOT, Fishbone diagram).

Space: Classroom or online.

Implementation in 5 steps

1. Present the Case

Begin by introducing the scenario, providing all necessary background information and context. Clearly outline the central challenge or problem, ensuring learners understand the situation and its significance. This stage sets the foundation for deeper analysis by framing the issue in a realistic and engaging way.

2. Individual Review

Learners take time to read through the case independently, identifying and noting key facts, patterns, and critical information. This step encourages careful observation and reflection, allowing each participant to form their own initial understanding before engaging in discussion.

3. Group Analysis

Participants come together in small teams to discuss the case. They collaboratively identify the main problems, explore possible causes, and evaluate different options. This step promotes critical thinking, diverse perspectives, and the ability to consider multiple angles of a complex issue.

4. Develop Solutions

Based on their analysis, learners propose practical solutions or strategies to address the challenge. They justify their recommendations with evidence from the case and logical reasoning. This stage helps learners translate theory into actionable ideas and reinforces problem-solving skills.

5. Present & Discuss



EARTHE

Finally, teams share their solutions with the larger group. Participants compare approaches, discuss similarities and differences, and reflect on the reasoning behind each solution. This step fosters communication, peer learning, and a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in real-world problem-solving.

Practical tips

Tip 1 – Choose cases relevant to learners' contexts.

Tip 2 – Use a structured analysis framework for consistency.

Tip 3 – Include multiple plausible solutions for richer discussion.

Debriefing questions

Question 1 – What were the main factors influencing your recommendations?

Question 2 – How did prior experience shape your analysis?

Question 3 – Would you change your decision with more information??

Practical description sheet

Title: Case Studies – Problem Solving

Purpose: To develop analytical thinking, real-world application of theory, and reflective learning.

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Format: Group and individual work

Core Steps: Present the case → Individual review → Group analysis → Developing solutions → Discussions

Materials: Case study text, analysis framework (e.g., SWOT, Fishbone diagram).

Key Benefits: Drawing from real-world complex problems to solve potential issues through reflection, problem-solving and analytical thinking.