

CLIL4ALL FOCUS GROUPS

Students

Preparation (for the interviewer)

- Secure a location that will be comfortable for the specific group you're expecting.
- Set up the room so that groups of seven to 10 people plus a moderator and recorder / note taker can interact comfortably. Round tables are good options for this. Also provide name tags and refreshments.
- Ensure that you have at least one recorder or note taker per group, and that these individuals have the equipment or supplies they need to record or take notes.
- If you think the focus groups may go longer than one hour, plan for a break after an hour.
- Review the list of "Moderator Best Practices" at the end of this protocol.

Introduction

Hello everyone, and welcome to this focus group. You have just completed a week intensive programme at Karelia working in transnational and transdisciplinary teams. At the end you presented your results. You have been collaborating with students from other cultures and countries the whole week and we wanted to find out how that went. Thank you all for taking the time to join us. My name is [_____], and I will be facilitating our discussion today. Before we begin, I'd like to provide a brief overview of what we will be discussing and some guidelines for our session.

Purpose

The purpose of this focus group is to gather your insights, experiences, and suggestions regarding this intensive programme. We are particularly interested in understanding how you experienced this business/technical content and doing everything in a foreign language, what challenges you have faced, and what strategies have been successful.

Importance of Your Participation:

Your participation is incredibly valuable. Your honest feedback will be instrumental in shaping future initiatives and support mechanisms.

Confidentiality

Please be assured that everything you share here will be treated with confidentiality. We will use the information gathered today to compile a report, but no names or identifying details will be included. We want you to feel comfortable sharing your thoughts openly.

Ground Rules:

To ensure our discussion is productive and respectful, here are a few ground rules:

- Please speak one at a time and allow others to finish before you speak.
- Respect each other's opinions, even if they differ from your own.
- Keep your comments concise so that everyone has a chance to contribute.
- Feel free to share both positive and negative experiences; all feedback is valuable.

Structure:

Our focus group will last approximately 40 minutes, and we have several key topics to cover. I will guide the discussion with a series of questions, but please feel free to share any additional thoughts or insights that come to mind.

Introduction of Participants:

Before we dive into the discussion, let's take a moment to introduce ourselves. Please share your name, which university you come from, your degree programme and the semester you are in.

Starting the Discussion:

Thank you for introducing yourselves. Let's get started with our first topic

1. Background and Experience with ICLHE

Potential subtopics

Have you ever studied in a foreign language before?

Personal motivation: Why did you decide to participate in this Intensive Programme at Karelia?

What role did the programme language (i.e. English) play in your decision?

2. Student Experience and Feedback

Potential subtopics

Did you have any difficulties using the business language or the technical vocabulary in your project? (Did you ever feel that doing this in your native language would have been easier than in English?)

Did you have any language difficulties following the lectures?

How did you experience working together with other students in your teams?

If there were any problems in your team how did you resolve them?

Did the Code of Conduct help you to resolve problems or misunderstandings in the group?

Were the problems in the group related to language (different levels/discipline) or culture or personality?

How did you experience the support from the teachers and lecturers?

And the support from the coaches?

What was the most positive experience throughout the week?

And the least positive?

What is the most important take-away?

What could have been done better / differently?

3. Outcomes and Impact

Individual positive outcomes. Group.

Professional Development and Support

Would you have liked better preparation before participating in the Intensive Programme?

Do you think this programme will be useful for your professional future? Do you feel more confident about presenting projects in public?

Would you now consider taking a module in English next semester if it were available? Do you feel more confident in your ability to participate in an English-taught course?

If you apply for a master's programme, would you consider taking this in a foreign language/English?

Institutional Support and Policy

Should your university offer more such intensive programmes in a foreign language?

Open Discussion

Further comments / suggestions