

Principles

1. People are experts in their lives – others learn from them.
2. Participatory work tries to include everyone relevant to the activity. Participants try to find those who need to be involved and to include voices and ideas that may not normally be heard.
3. In good participatory work people take ownership of the process (using their analysis, their logic and their words) that is developed together with others from many different backgrounds.
4. Participatory work follows cycles of learning – each step helps decide on the next step.
5. Participatory work requires people to be self-reflective. Practitioners continuously examine and develop their practice.
6. Participatory work is rigorous and ethical. Participants continually check their work and design ways of testing the process and the findings.
7. Participatory work should lead to action.
8. Good participatory work identifies the role of power in relationships and seeks to lead to empowerment of those disadvantaged by the existing situation.