

OSG – Open Science Gallery



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1. WHAT:

The Open Science Gallery (OSG) is a new kind of meeting for multidisciplinary groups of people who want to share knowledge but barely know each other. OSG creates a socialising space which enables group members: 1) to find each other based on shared passion and 2) to build suitable teams around relevant new ideas. OPEN refers to the ethical value that there is no right or wrong; by this we want to encourage creativity, inspiration and innovation. SCIENCE adds the relational dimension of expertise: each participant is seen as expert and invited to share his or her expertise. GALLERY indicates the spatial setting where participants meet. A bright room and pin-boards as catalysers with posters as boundary objects to facilitate social interaction.

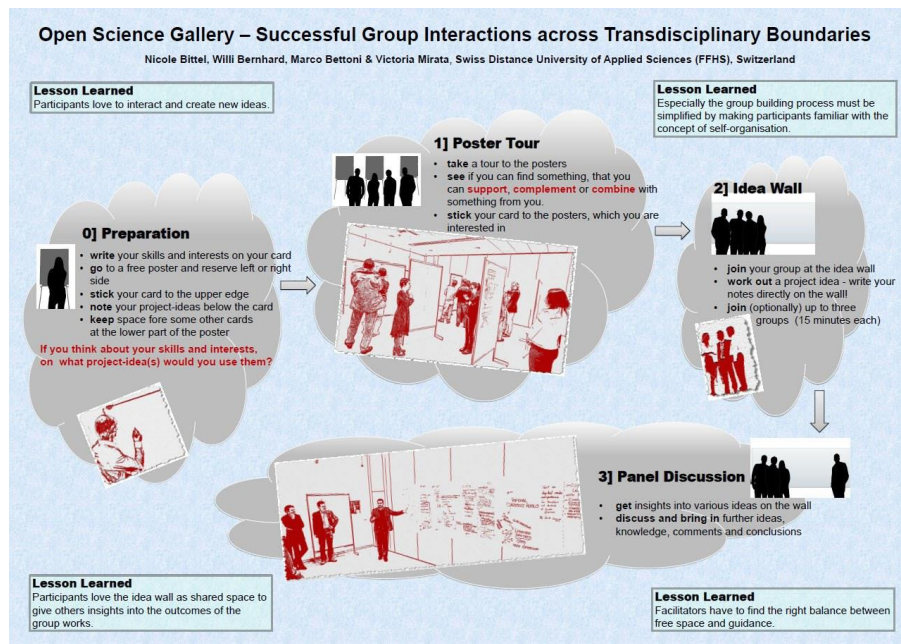
2. WHY:

OSG is designed for promoting collaboration and especially for supporting the first step of a knowledge-creation process which consists in sharing tacit knowledge. And this is not easy in our traditional organisations based on “command & control”. In fact, rather than being controlled, knowledge sharing needs to be enabled, and is in this similar to the growth of a plant, which also cannot be controlled but only “enabled” by appropriate cultivation. OSG is different from

OpenSpace formats: first of all its purpose is to build teams around new ideas, secondly it creates a safe environment and last but not least it aims at supporting people in activating their ideas-related passion and at the same time be completely free in how to do it.

3. WHO:

OSG has been specifically developed for geographically distributed organisations (business, academic) with various autonomous groups who seldom work together and with many group members who, for different reasons, barely know the group members of other groups.



4. HOW:

An OSG session needs about 100 minutes and follows a procedure composed by 8 basic steps: [1] Introduction and seed question (5'); [2] Creating personal interest cards (5'); [3] Creating posters on pin boards (15'); [4] Visiting posters (15'); [5] Building groups; [6] Working in groups (3x15'); [7] Visualising outcomes; [8] Presenting outcomes on a poster wall (15'). As an example of a seed question (step 1) we used *"If you think about your skills and interests, on what project-idea would you use them?"*