



Community Mapping

purpose

Before engaging with communities and stakeholders, it's crucial to investigate which ones you like to engage with and which ones are essential to be able to reach your goals. By making a list and dividing these groups into the following three categories will help you structure your thinking and make sure you won't forget about any of them. You'll also see that different groups have different ways to communicate with.

timeframe: 1 - 2 hours
group-size: 1 - 5 people
materials: blank page (A3 or A4)

Rules and instructions

Take a blank page and make three lists. The community of place, community of interest and community of practice. Try to come up with as many communities that fall under these as possible.

Communities of place are defined by geographical boundaries, which can vary in size from administrative areas, to whole towns, a couple of streets within a town or smaller settlements. These people can be organized in neighborhood groups, committees or other. Their shared factor is the fact that they share a similar space or area to live in, which engages them on a geographical level.

Communities of interest are defined by people with a shared interest or background (i.e. Action group, Patients' Groups). They can also be defined by people with protected characteristics (i.e. race, gender, disability, age, religion etc.) This is a group of people interested in sharing information and discussing a particular topic that interests them. Members are not necessarily experts or practitioners of the topic. The purpose of the community of interest is to provide a place where people who share a common interest can go and exchange information, ask questions, and express their opinions about the topic. Membership in this community is not dependent upon expertise - one only needs to be interested in the subject.

Communities of practice are communities that have a practical or professional interest in the topic in common like bus drivers, air quality experts or mobility planners. The purpose of a community of practice is to provide a way for practitioners to share tips and best practices, ask questions of their colleagues, and provide support for each other. Membership is dependent on expertise one should have at least some recent experience performing in the role or subject area of the community of practice. You will reach these communities more because of their professional interest or expertise, than their political background or strong opinion.