

Description of Tale Innovation Groups

As a Prototype for Collaboration between Adult Learning Education and Green Grassroot Initiatives

The main activity of the Tale project has been to launch “innovation groups” in six countries: Finland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Greece, and Switzerland. The partners searched for, mapped and contacted local grassroots initiatives working with sustainability at the start of the project and identified one (or two in some cases) to form a partnership with them. This partnership is called an innovation group.

The innovation groups are an open, emergent, and collaborative process involving green grassroots initiatives, adult education organisations and (adult) learners. The innovation group could freely use and adapt a co-design process to create meaningful, interesting learning activities in line with the project’s goal to foster transformative learning and contribute to sustainability in local communities.

All Tale innovation groups have organised a workshop or an event. Main emphasis has been on practical, hands-on activities, utilising the unique expertise of the grassroots initiative in sustainability topics such as forest protection, seed diversity, sustainable gardening, climate activism, circular economy, repair skills, food preservation and ethical consumption combined with well-being, dialogues, crafts and art therapy. Reflection of the joint activities and the learning experiences they have offered is also a key part of the collaboration.

For adult education, the innovation groups have enabled them to explore new ways to work with their surrounding communities and promote awareness and skills in sustainability. For grassroots initiatives, the cooperation has provided an opportunity to explore the learning processes within the initiative, get support for their work, and share their sustainable knowledge and innovative practices more widely.

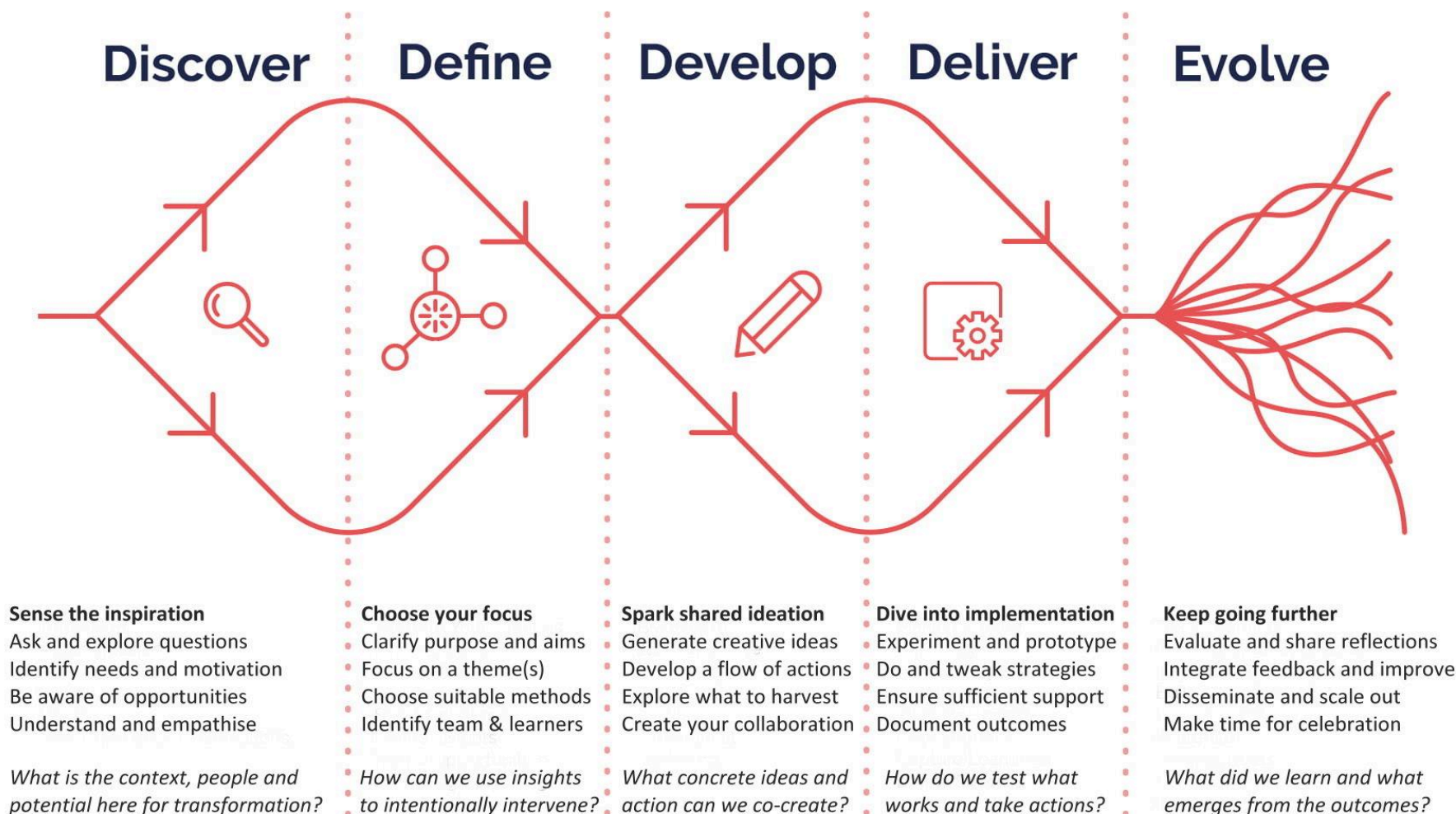


Photo taken by Sari Pohjola of the “repair & fixing workshop” hosted by Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation (Kvs) in collaboration with Dodo, an environmental NGO, in the Finnish innovation group.



Co-Creation Methodology for Innovation Groups

5-Phase Co-Design “Diamond” Model as Guidance for Collaboration Process





Reflections of Tale Innovation Groups

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Phase 1: Initial Contact with Green Grassroots Initiative	Phase 2: Building Connection and Collaborative Process	Phase 3: Joint Event(s) with Green Grassroot Initiative	Phase 4: Future Outlook and Collaboration
How did you learn about the initiative and what caught your attention? How did you find it (through internet search, personal contact, social network, word of mouth)? Why was the initiative selected? How does the initiative work for a green transition? How does the initiative provide (adult) education or learning? How did the first contact take place (phone, email, other)?	Who did you meet? What was your first impression (personally, professionally)? How did the communication work? What did you arrange at this first meeting and what were your feelings? What are your plans for working together? Describe the process of collaboration: What are shared goals? What are the main parts and actions? What are highlights and challenges? How can you create mutual benefit? How do you feel about it all? Metaphor of cultivating a plant to describe this process of growth, the need for pruning, watering, using some kind of fertiliser and protecting the plant from negative influences.	What kind of event did you organise? Where? When? Why? Who with? Who for? How did the process work out? What are your impressions of the event? What are impressions of the grassroots initiative? What is the feedback from learners? In what ways did (transformative) learning happen? What methods or tools did you use? What did you observe or learn?	What went well in the collaboration? What was challenging? What would you do differently or change next time? What do you appreciate about the green initiative and innovation groups? Will you continue working together - any future plans? Would you like to collaborate with the same/other green initiative? Yes or no and especially why? What do you see as the results and what as the potential of such collaborations for advancing the green transition?
Meta Reflections and Recommendations			
What are your learnings and unlearnings from the entire experience and process of the innovation groups? What are your suggestions, recommendations and good practices for other ALE institutions? What are your suggestions for selecting green grassroots initiatives? What did you experience that are barriers and what are enablers for a collaboration between ALE and green grassroots initiative? How was it to work “cross-borders” institutionally - and what did you learn or would recommend?			