

Lifelong Learning Programme

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DELECA

Module 2

**Data collecting methods**

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## Essential tasks in the research

- Collecting of valid information
- The choice of the measurement tools
- The use of the measurement tools
- Measurement, comparison
- Evaluation of the used research tools and results
- Conclusions



## Collecting data

- Verbal or numeral
- Original –never before collected
- Secondary-already put together by somebody else
- Simply consisting of some responses



## The choice of the research methods

Depends on

- the aim and tasks of the research
  - circumstances
- place and time of the data collecting  
how often the data will be collected  
who will organize and guide  
how will the data be processed
- age group
  - amount of participants



## Classification of research tools

- According to the circumstances of the development of the tools in the frame of the research (questionnaires, tests, interview questions, observation lists, sociograms....)
- Outside research developed instruments (regulating documents, laws, instructions, standards, programmes, books, different learning or teaching materials)



## Classification of research tools

- Traditional
- Creative, non traditional (learning walk, portfolio..)



## Classification of research tools

According to the type of research

- qualitative research tools (questionnaire, interview, observation lists, learning walk, diary, portfolio..)
- quantitative research tools (questionnaire, interview, observation lists, tests..)



## Analysis of documents

- International and local level
- Content analysis (textual, audio, video informations)
- Descriptive analyses
- Interpreting level– significance of the content, conclusions



## Steps in document analysis

- First– research question
- Second– selection and choice of documents
- Third– certain unit of categorisation (word in the text, group of words, definitions)
- Fourth– the choice of category
  - attitude
  - values
  - characteristics, features
- Fifth – the development of coding system, code book



## Observations

- Direct
- Indirect
- Video
- Closely connected to «learning walk»
- Observer – a part of the research tool/method



## Observation involves the researcher in

- Active watching
- Recording (in the time or subsequently by the researcher or mechanically)
- Analyzing events of interest



## Questionnaires

- It is necessary to give the written answers
- Important to know what do we wish to get
- Different types of questions in the questionnaire (verbal or open, list, category, ranking, scale, grid)
- Big amount of participants could be involved



## Advantages of questionnairing

- Economy of resources
- A big amount of respondents could be involved



## Drawbacks of questionnaires

- Selection mistakes by the respondents
- No possibility for spontaneous reaction
- It is not possible to learn the problems (if the respondents dont understand the question )
- Low number of respondents (not everybody returns the filled form)
- Limited usuage (reading and writing skills are needed), No possibility for spontaneous reaction
- Cooperation is possible during answering the questions,
- No possibility to widen the answer



## Suggestions for formulating of the questions



- Questions has to be connected with the research aim
- It is not allowed to use double questions in one (Do you ask students to stay after the lessons or you allow them all to go home?)
- Closed type questions are more reasonable for the answers
- Formulation of questions has to be clear and understandable
- It is necessary to avoid promoting questions
- The choice of "other answer" has to be envisaged



## Interviews



- Information needed
- Structured interviews
- Unstructured
- Preliminary
- The guided or focused





## Structure of interviews

- Introduction
- General information about the respondent
- Questions connected with the aim of research
- Questions
- Concluding part



## Suggestions for formulating of the questions

- To connect with the aim of the research
- To avoid double questions in one question
- To choose more closed questions
- To envisage "other answer"
- To formulate questions clearly
- To avoid promoting questions
- To avoid hypothetical questions



### Advantages of interviews

- It is possible to get wider information
- Possibility to get additional information
- Possibility to get explanations
- Wide practical usage



### Disadvantages of interviews

- Time consuming
- Quality of data depends on the quality of cooperation and interviewer
- Data may differ, if there are more interviewers  
unpricesely formulated questions



## Diaries

- Aim
- Precisely formulated records
- Records are professional
- Regularity
- Behaviour, activities, attitudes are reflected
- Instructions how to form the diary
- "life history"
- Interviews



## Learning walk

- Aim, tasks
- Organized visits to schools, classes
- Focuses on certain instructional principles to improve teaching and learning
- Allow for reflections on different levels



## Purpose of learning walks

### To develop

- learning community
- deep understanding of teaching and learning
- a shared vision of every child
- assist in coaching for improved practice
- reflect on professional practice

### To get new insights and understanding



## Learning walks six steps

- Observe teaching and learning
- Focus on instructional techniques
- Notice level of learner engagement
- Survey classroom ecology
- Analyze data collected
- Reflection



## Participating groups in learning walks



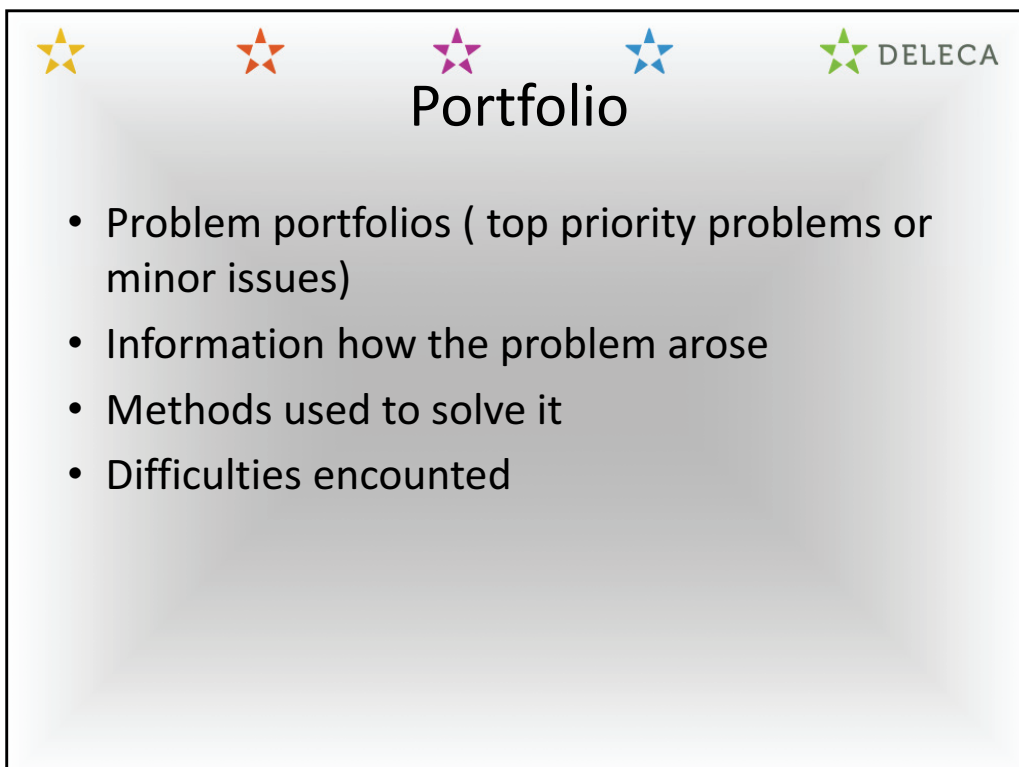
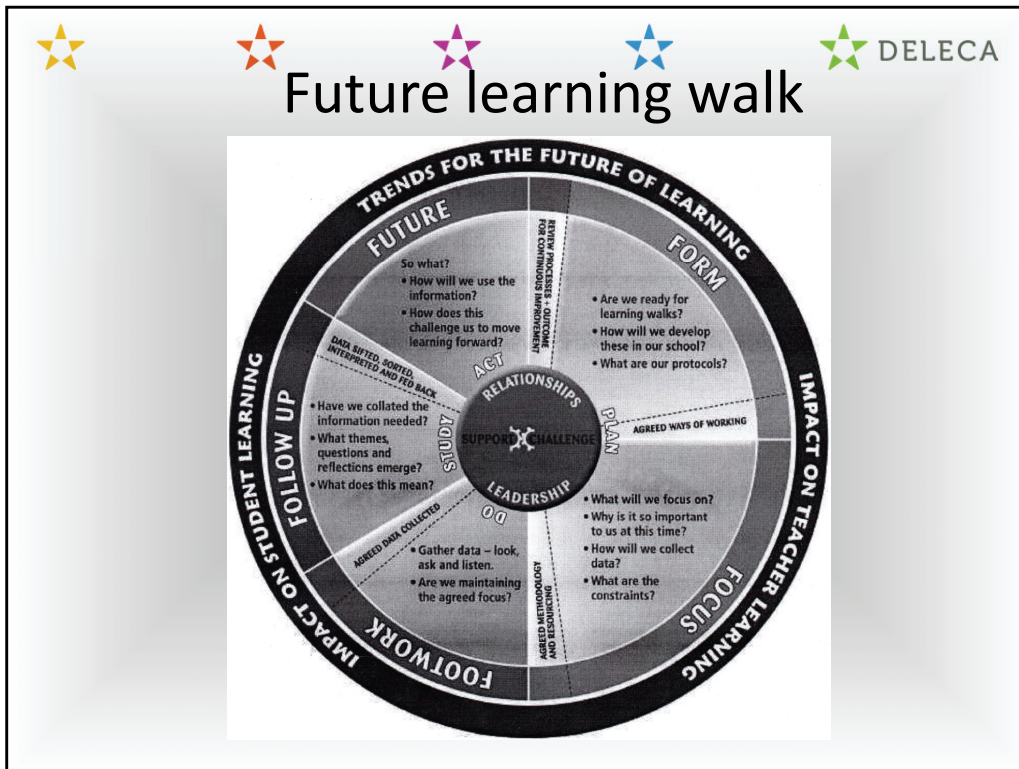
- Department heads
- Curriculum specialists
- Programme developers
- Teachers
- Who else could participate ?



## What happens after learning walk



- The observers will debrief
- Discussion starts
- The observers complete the reflection form Selfreflection
- Observers propose ideas about the possible ways of improvement in the classroom





## Photo interviews

Method brings together the interviewee's images and words and thereby gives multiple dimensions to his or her perspective

Example Questions for Photo Interview Project Focused On Learning More About Student Behaviors and Preferences:

- The things you always carry with you when you're on campus
- Your communication devices
- Tools you use for assignments
- Your favorite place to study
- Something you wish you had known about as a new student
- Where you like to go for a drink or a snack
- How you keep track of your school work and other activities
- A place in the library where you feel lost or frustrated
- A comfortable place where you go to relax with friends
- Something you think is a problem in the library
- Something about the library that works well



## Using creative expression to collect data

- Are collected to document changes in knowledge, skills, feelings and behaviours:
  - Drawing
  - Drama
  - Role-playing
  - Story telling; storyboards
  - Music



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