

Doing Participatory Community Mapping

New entrepreneurship



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Community Mapping

- Using '*the hive mind*' – the collectives' knowledge – to find things out which individuals cannot (easily) know
- As always, the quality of the answers relies on the quality of the questions.
- This is a F2F exercise needing people to be in the same room

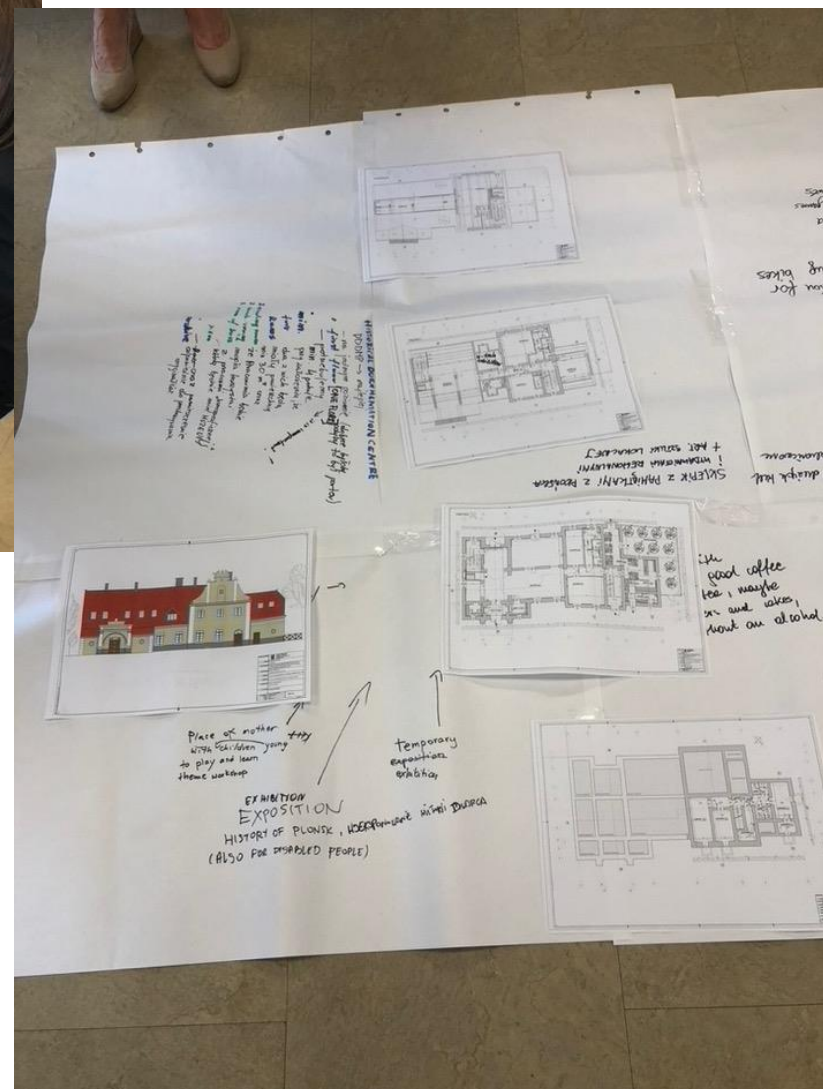
Starting up

Gather a relevant group of stakeholders

Try to get hold of people who

- Know
- Can
- Are in charge
- Are using
- Etc

in relation to your issue of interest



Is generally place-oriented but may be useful for other types of issues!



Community mapping

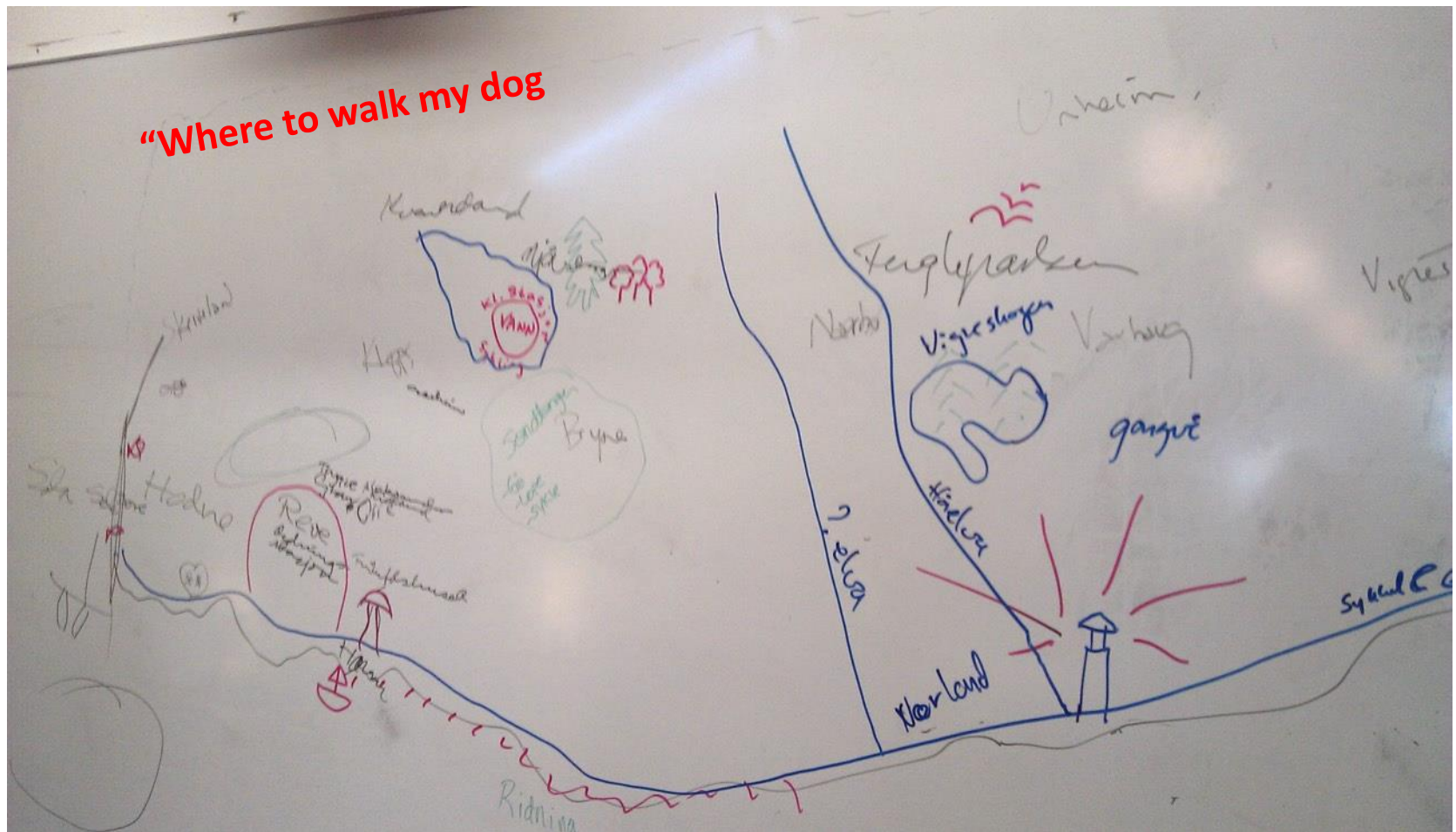
Needs:

- A large white board and appropriate markers for each participant
 - Or: a big sheet of paper and markers
- Sketch an outline of the area (or issue) of interest.
 - It does not need to be accurate or highly representative!
- Mark key landmarks/ elements so people can orient themselves
- Ask your question and get them to put the features on the map.

Community mapping

- Have plenty of time (and space)
- Be around, be inquisitive and keep asking additional questions to get them to elaborate further when necessary
 - ensuring the process doesn't grind to a halt
- When done, go over the “map” with the group and try to extract key pieces of information which have emerged.

Community Mapping



Participatory Mapping

- More formally: Use of spatial analysis to gather data about issues or concerns
- Insiders draw/elaborate on maps which:
 - Gives ‘insiders view’
 - Gives ‘insiders knowledge’
- Main concern is not cartographic accuracy

Participatory mapping

1. Create checklist before starting with respondents
 - Make sure all important issues become represented on the list
2. Let respondents work with map until they are satisfied
 - Wait until then before asking for clarification

Participatory mapping

- A sheet is seldom «big enough»
- Maybe use the ground, or other larger spaces
- Have the group work with the map and help each other, correct errors, etc
- Facilitator to start by drawing one landmark (that everyone knows, often where you are meeting) as an example, then hand over to respondents

Participatory mapping

- As much as can be - leave respondents alone!
- But when they are finished and satisfied, you can then ask for clarification or other features
- Good questions =
 - «Is there anything else?»
 - «Has anything been forgotten?»

Possible types of maps

- Regional, local territorial maps
- Family maps
- Resource maps
- Historical maps (do more than one)
- Interest group maps (even men's maps and women's maps)

Always useful to have one group present their finished product to the others for discussion.

Map types

- Social maps (combines spatial analysis with ranking). Could be class, could be food security, could be occupation

Taking notes

- Team member to sketch (!) map in own notebooks when complete
- Photograph map and offer to community
- Transfer to flip chart for discussion

For later use:

Outside of training, never do mapping for exercise only!

- Discuss with group about further use
- Assign responsibilities and tasks
- Next steps, milestones etc

Remember: tools are only useful if they keep on living – and contributing!