Participatory Systematization

What is it about?
Within the organisation HORIZONT3000, systematization is known as a participatory process of generating know-how and documenting practical experiences.

Why an intervention?
Valuable experiences in organisations, which are the basis of high quality work, get lost when no documentation exists or when responsible staff leaves.

What does it change?
- Improves internal learning processes in organisations
- Implicit practical experience is documented
- Helps to communicate Lessons Learnt
- Participatory approach: People feel their opinion is respected and valued and it contributes to a higher self-esteem as well as better understanding between partners, stakeholders and employees.

How does it work?
Know-how can be extracted through reflecting and analysing the own practical experiences. It is done by the same people who implemented the project activities or participated at implementing them.

The five main steps of a systematization process are: Elaborating the Framework, Describing the Context, Retrieving the History of the Experience, Critical Analysis, Sharing of Lessons Learnt / Recommendations.

Who are the beneficiaries?
The very people who gained the experience: Organisations with whom the Lessons Learnt will be shared e.g. Institutional staff, project’s beneficiaries, donors, networking partner organizations, universities.

Who could use that approach?
Interesting for nearly every group, institution or organisation.

Who is already using it?
So far, systematizations have been carried out in the following partner countries or regions of HORIZONT3000: Brazil, East Africa (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda), Senegal, Philippines, Ethiopia and Central America (Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala).

Sector: All
Period: Since 2001
Further material:
Anton Luger and Lilo Massing: Learning from our experience. A guide to participative systematisation. (adapted English Version 2012)
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