

Emotional map of public place

Introduction

Both the subjective and the objective factors influence the perception of the quality of a particular urban or rural environment. These include the human personality, expectations and interests, lifestyle, perception of aesthetics, but also his economic or health situation. The objective factors include the distribution of landmarks and its relevance, the availability and quality of greenery, cleanliness and safety, functioning public transport, cycling possibilities, peaceful sites or dilapidated spaces, and the availability of space for sports, entertainment, relaxation and culture. It is the quality of the public space that gives the place its life and decides whether or not we will stay in that place or avoid it.

Learn about the problem

Use the internet, (scientific / popular) literature, or in collaboration with experts to find available information on active citizenship and participatory methods. Also focus on the following questions:

- What does the term public place mean?
- What participatory methods does your government use and how they motivate citizens to participate actively?
- How did the public participate in the last major investment in public space?
- What kind of public space beautification initiatives do you have in your area?
- Why is it important to be an active citizen?

Recommended resources

[Source 1:](#)

Urban systems



[Source 2:](#)

Towards a more urban world



[Source 3:](#)

Active citizenship and participation (pdf)



Verify the occurrence of a problem in your area with your own research

Goal

Students can argue about the quality of life in urban or rural environments. They can identify beautifying or corrective actions to improve the quality of public space.

Tools & Materials

- territory map for each group member
- green, blue, brown, orange and red marker for each group member
- notepad
- a board / flipchart / tablet or similar
- camera / mobile to record activity

Implementation

At the beginning, choose the territory you will be mapping. Start with a smaller area first and only when you master creating of an emotional map, can you expand the mapped area. If you do not have a map for each member of the group, print it from the map website (e.g. Google maps). Discuss the progress of the activity beforehand. In order to create a really good emotional map, you must also notice the details in the field. For example, if there is enough green space in a given area, or whether a part of the cycle path is not dangerous in a particular place, whether the particular public transport stop is destroyed or whether the curb is too high and thus problematic for handicapped citizens.

Mapping process

Take the printed map of the territory to the terrain (each member of the group has its own), markers (green, blue, brown, orange and red), mobile phone or camera and notepad. In the first part of the mapping, each individual (or pair) creates his / her own map - by colouring the printed map. Remember that you only spot each public place. For example, if one is a building, one dot is enough for the entire building.

The meaning of colours is as follows:

- green: here I feel good and safe, I like it, there's nothing to disturb me or require a more fundamental repair
- blue: At this point, I feel good and safe, but something requires correction or repair
- brown: I feel neutral, I have no positive or negative emotions on this place
- orange: I am not happy here because it is dangerous, neglected or dilapidated, or I have a different reason for it
- red: I feel uncomfortable at this point and I would prefer to avoid it because I am afraid of it, there is nothing I am interested in, or I have a different, serious reason for it

Be sure to take pictures while mapping, especially if you gave them a non-green colour. In the second part of the activity, as a group, meet and try to create a common emotional map of the same territory. Discuss why you assigned a particular colour to a particular location and find a compromise.

Analysis of results and proposal of solution

Did you manage to create a common emotional map? Which places were most discussed and why? What colour prevails on your sensation map? Can you identify entire zones that require higher attention and a more fundamental change? Can you say you are proud of your town / city? Is there anything you miss here? Choose a particular public place that you have marked with blue, orange, or red and try to suggest a change. Write down your suggestions. Think about whether your solutions are feasible. Is there one that you can action among them?

Implementation of the solution and evaluation

Did you implement the selected solution? If so, how did you get the result? Did you approach the school, family or community in your effort to implement the solution? How did they react to your initiative? What would you do differently next time?

How did you feel after implementing the selected solution?

Frustrated	Disappointed	Rather Negative	Neutral	Rather Positive	Satisfied	Enthusiastic
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Publicity

Record and share photos on social networks with [#mybioprofile](#) during the activity. Help others to join us.

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

The project BIOPROFILES - Implementation of practical environmental education in schools is co-funded by the European Union, ERASMUS+ programme. Contract number: 2018-1-SK01-KA201-046312.

