



Why actively address controversial issues?



Social
innovation

We start from
the examples
and reactions
in step 1 of the
training

What did we hear or
tell already about
addressing or
avoiding
controversial issues?

Literature: four options

Avoid
Convince
Let them ventilate
Discuss

Group
discussion 

Which motives do field workers have to avoid controversy in the group?

Motives for avoiding controversies

- ✓ Too little time
- ✓ Fear of loss of control
- ✓ Negative effects on participants
- ✓ Negative effects from the environment
- ✓ Lack of knowledge or experience
- ✓ And related to that: lack of education and training

Group
discussion 

What are arguments
against avoiding
controversial issues in
the group?

Arguments for discussing controversial issues

- ✓ it is 'formative for the role as citizens in pluralistic democracy';
- ✓ 'it sharpens critical awareness' and
- ✓ it is 'good for their skills'.

OPEN CLIMATE IS NEEDED...

If you want to gain time for an adequate response...

Some stockphrases can supervisors help to 'slow down' so that they gain time to look for adequate responses:

- ✓ What makes you say that?
- ✓ Do you know where that word comes from?
- ✓ That's not my experience of [group]!
- ✓ What's your intention here?

CLOSING OF THE SESSION



- Do you feel more comfortable dealing with this issue in your practice?
- Which elements from this training were very useful for your practice?
- What questions and uncertainties are left unanswered?
- What opportunities and limitations do you see now to use this in your professional context?