

Intergenerational Community Theatre –Process Diary (03 april-30 june)

Intergenerational Community Theatre -*Age Against The Machine*

European Network of Cities CERV, Funding ID: 101138625 (2024-26)

1. SESSION 4, Listening is caring (“Escutar é cuidar”)

Place: Sede do Sport Lisboa e Évora, Évora, PT **Date:** 08/05/2024 **Hour:** (14:00-16:00)

Group:

Members of the team present: 2 coordinators (Ana Moya e Isabel Bezelga), 1 expert from CM Évora (Pedro Silva) and 3 assistants (Diana Oliveira, Isabel Guedes, Daniela Salazar)

Participants: 2 students from U Évora (Performative Studies), 2 Pedro Silva interns and 10 Senior persons

Structure of participants: all women

(It is a homogeneous group all coming from Alentejo region)

Total number of participants: 14 persons

Total number of team members: 6 persons



Topics session and goals:

Walk and visit the neighbourhood to create intimacy, get to know each other better and let ourselves be surprised by the participants.

They share their lives (hobbies, family, work and study issues and memories). They created the 2-hour route to show us some places in the neighbourhood. It was an open proposal for them to create the route.

Keywords: Performative tour, sharing, active listening, personal memories

**Methods, techniques and exercises:**

Allow participants to take initiative and control the session, creating a dynamic of trust, intimacy, and sharing.

Participants were asked to prepare the 2-hour itinerary in advance.

Summary of the artistic activities developed:

Today's session has the format of performative itinerancy in the neighbourhood where they live. We started at Margarida Alegre's house, where she showed us her dogs and a photo with her husband at college (Margarida graduated at 42 and entered at 37. She worked, had children to look after and studied). Her husband died at the age of 59 (18 years ago).

Afterwards, we went to Isabel's house, who showed us the medal for 19 years of service in

the army, but it was 30 years of service. She feels proud of the medal because “They gave me value”. Then we stopped in front of the primary school, and Catarina told us she had studied there until she was 10. She has many memories from school and still has good friends from that time. In all the stories heard until now there is a sense of pride. Along the way, we walked close to nature and discovered things we did not know about, such as playing with flowers and plants. We ended up at Tomásia’s house with her beloved treasure: her husband sculptures. She showed a poem she had written to her husband. “The greatest tribute to my husband”

Report of the participants responses and evolution:

They were very willing to open their homes and let us in to discover their intimate world.

They showed a lot of enthusiasm and joy in the session.

In conclusion, the response was very positive. Participants feel now more at home in the group.



Team impressions, comments and observations:

The participants had a great desire to share and show their world. Everything that was shown was life goals, which made them very proud, both of themselves and their families.

Our keen observations revealed a tapestry of smaller groups within the larger participants’ group, woven together by shared interests and friendships. Whether they were neighbours

or bonded over leisure activities like gymnastics or water aerobics, these individual groups fostered a strong sense of camaraderie.

Sharing intergenerational and intercultural experiences:

We observed among them a generational and collective memory of experiences during childhood and youth in the countryside, including how they played with plants and flowers and created their own toys, with elements of nature.

They also talked about Alentejo cuisine and how aromatic plants were used in dishes and gastronomy.

They shared information about education during the dictatorship regime.

Unexpected results and challenges during the implementation:

Discover their treasures, which they guard with devotion at home, such as oil paintings, plants, medals, or sculptures made by their husband. Their houses contain all these treasures, which give meaning to their homes.

The challenge was the heat, distance, and limited time. We would have stayed all afternoon.

Results at the level of the self, the community and the regional-cultural social context:

Nothing to report in this session.

Problems with the topics by participants:

Nothing to report in this session.



Dialogue among different topics (intersectoriality) and transversality in the themes:

Nothing to report in this session.

Evaluation of the workshop by participants (statements):

They were grateful that we gave them the opportunity and the time to meet in an informal and relaxed way, visit their homes, and show their treasures. They said they are very busy women with their grandchildren and children and do not have time for these types of activities and conversations.

They told us that when they do gymnastics, there is no time to socialize and talk. They do the activities and leave.

Ideas for upgrading exercises or continuing next session:

The present absence of their husbands and their care for their legacy and their memory.

Forms of personal value.

The family relationship will be important in the next session, when we will work on three improvisation fragments (the wedding, the first child, and the overload of life at home).

Ideas for a dramaturgy:

Still to be discuss.