



COP IDEA COLLECTION

IDEA SHELF INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A COP IDEA SHELF?

Great ideas usually do not arise ad hoc. And if ideas arise, it often does not seem to be the right moment to share them or to follow them up. Or even worse they get lost over time and development processes.

The Yanuz idea shelf is a simple means to stimulate idea collection and to create a basic inventory of ideas for community of practice activities and initiatives. A poster displayed during COP meetings creates a basic inventory of ideas.

HOW TO APPLY IT?

Print the idea shelf poster in an oversized format. Prepare sticky notes together with pens. Both the sticky notes and pens could have different colours to differentiate input related to separate areas of collaboration. However, we recommend not to use more than 3 to 4 colours to increase the traceability of ideas and input.

Put the poster up the wall of your local COP makerspace or meeting room. Display it in a visible place but aside the core working arena. Lay out the sticky notes and pens next to the poster. You may label individual shelves by formulating concrete tasks or problem statements. However, make sure that there are always one or more shelves kept unlabelled.

Explain the idea behind the shelf to the group. Keep the poster displayed during the entire COP meeting. Participants may write down their ideas at any time. There is no limit of ideas per participant.

After each meeting, all ideas are screened, sorted, and grouped. They are filed and made accessible to all COP members. This can for example be done through the COP's virtual working space.

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES

It is important that the idea collection does not lead into an unused inventory. Mapping and selection sessions must be organised that lead into a more structured idea management process. When reviewing the ideas, ensure to focus on an appreciative feedback and not to criticise them. There are no wrong ideas.

This idea collection approach can be done with any group size. However, with bigger groups displaying more posters facilitates the idea collection.

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