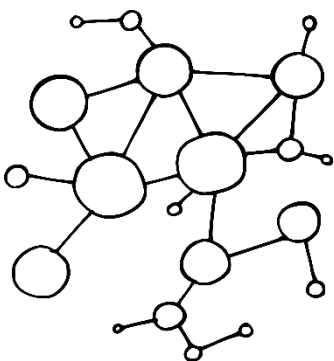


Mind map

Short description	<p>A mind map is a visual method for organising ideas, knowledge, and experiences around a central topic. In the context of the ICOPE project, it is used as a participatory tool to support and develop a Community of Practice (CoP) in a school setting, enabling members to deepen their understanding through regular interaction and shared reflection.</p>
Objectives	<p>Support shared understanding of topics addressed within a school Community of Practice (CoP)</p> <p>Encourage the exchange of experiences, peer learning, and collective problem-solving</p> <p>Strengthen collaboration, critical thinking, and active participation among CoP members</p> <p>Provide input for reflection, planning, and further CoP activities</p>
Duration	<p>30–45 minutes (depending on depth and group size)</p>
Social form	<p>This activity takes the form of a facilitated workshop combining individual reflection, small-group collaboration, and plenary sharing. Participants first reflect individually, then co-create mind maps in small groups, and finally discuss key insights together as a Community of Practice.</p>
Materials and organisation	<p>Meeting room with tables for group work, A3 paper or flipchart sheets, coloured markers, and optional sticky notes. The space should allow groups to work visually and to display mind maps for plenary discussion.</p>
Preparation	<p>Define a topic relevant to the Community of Practice (e.g. sustainability in school life, student well-being, teaching challenges, student participation). Prepare a short introduction to the mind mapping method and clarify the purpose of the activity within the CoP. Organise participants into small groups of 3–5 members.</p>

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Step-by-step description

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Presentation of the session goal and brief introduction to the mind mapping method 11. Individual reflection – each participant notes 1–2 key ideas or experiences related to the topic 12. In small groups, participants create a shared mind map, clustering similar ideas and themes 13. In plenary, groups present their mind maps and identify common patterns and priorities 14. Closing – key insights are summarised and linked to next steps of the Community of Practice
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Variations and differentiation

Online mind map for example <https://www.mindmup.com/>

Practical notes

Encourage use of keywords instead of full sentences

Ensure all participants contribute to the map to capture diverse perspectives

References | Sources

Buzan, T. (2018). *Mind Map Mastery: The complete guide to learning and using the most powerful thinking tool in the universe*. Jaico Publishing House.
<https://books.google.sk/books?id=5VUWEQAAQBAJ>

picture: OpenAI. (2026). *Mind map illustrating the development of a community of practice* [AI-generated image]. DALL·E. <https://openai.com/dall-e>

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