



Checklist for future trainers of new groups

Things to keep in mind

- Context of media politics - societal aims of community radio
 - community media movement - local and global at the same
 - freedom of speech – participation in public sphere
 - community media diversity vs. content and format of mainstream media
- Open access - possibilities and limitations:
 - public influence (power), decisions on media content/style, learning that goes beyond radio
 - personal responsibility is an essential element of the collective effort; behaviour “on air” and toward radio colleagues deserves ongoing attention
 - broadcasting on community radio requires commitment and skills (not only radio skills!) that can be acquired
 - coordinators working at radio stations are professionals whose judgment should be respected (even if they have personal limits and don't always have the time or capacity to explain complex problems “on the spot”). Patience and mutual respect will take everybody a long way.

Some ways to avoid difficulties

- try to reach clarity on purpose of participation / group motivation
wish to learn? wish to inform? wish to entertain? other goals?
- get background info from group members that will help in establishing roles at the beginning and allow for developing them flexibly in the future (use written questionnaire to learn about existing skills and individuals interests/talents)
- observe group closely: do members wish to learn more? what new topics / techniques might capture their interest? (e.g. interview training, learning to access new information sources, studio handling)
- share knowledge / skills within group, but do not use this *in place of* workshop sessions, but rather *in addition to*. When knowledge is ‘passed down’, it sometimes also gets ‘thinned down’: so on topics like proper handling of

equipment, legal aspects, or editorial preparation, it's good to schedule occasional training sessions

- arrange to meet other individuals and groups active in radio work locally; consider establishing contact with comparable groups at other stations for personal or programme exchange
- when the group has broadcasted material, listen to it together and discuss it in the group
- document the group meetings and radio shows systematically with written notes that can be referred to later
- maintain close contact with the radio employees about developments within the group

Kinds of assistance the professional radio staff can give to groups:

- support in addressing and solving conflicts, and in defining limits
- arranging workshops on individual topics to improve journalistic background: editorial organisation, preparation, systematic use of information sources, technical expertise
- public relations work: inclusion of info on group in flyer/brochure, website; production and broadcasting of jingles or promos.