

We Position Ourselves in Economy

Type of tool: methodology used in training sessions

Area: economic literacy tool dealing with the individual view on economy

Aim: Participants consider their own approach to economy and the reasons why they are interested in economics.

Target group: NGOs / women's groups, students, pupils

Description of the tool:

Length: 30 min

Material: 4 posters with different statements for the 4 corners of the room.

The 4 different statements are placed at the 4 corners of the room and read out by the trainer.

The participants are invited to position themselves in relation to the different statements. They should stand in front of their favourite statement. Then the small groups (in every corner) exchange their experiences, opinions and emotions. To conclude, every group may ask another group a question or every group may issue a statement.

Examples of the statements:

1. I am interested in economics, because

- I am a woman
- I have family
- I have a job
- I am a politically-minded person

2. In the newspaper / online news I read the business / economy section

- every day
- seldom
- often
- never

3. Knowledge of economy is necessary because ...

- ... economy is not a natural phenomenon but made by humans and can therefore be changed
- ... it is necessary to secure our jobs and meet our material needs
- ... markets are not naturally fair
- ... economy is connected to nearly all aspects of life
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4. I am interested in the economic situation of women in countries of the so called Global South because of

- their daily lives
- their family situations and relationships

- basic infrastructure and services (food and water supply, education, health care, etc.)
- working conditions and workers' rights

Background and context:

This tool is shown in the handbook "Wirtschaft anders denken. Handbuch Feministische Wirtschaftsalphabetisierung", first published in 2010 by WIDE Austria, JOAN ROBINSON and the Institute for Institutional and Heterodox Economics at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU).

Experience with the tool:

Before publishing the tool in the handbook it was tested several times with different groups. It is a great tool to get started on the topic of economy – gathering the opinions of the participants and their knowledge about economy. Furthermore the participants get to know each other in a specific way.