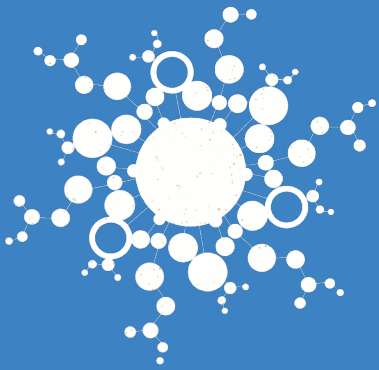




# Hosting Online Events



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## Hosting online events

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2022 Bucharest, Romania

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# Hosting online events

Connecting the world by non-formal digital education.

The 6th edition of Connector aimed to create the virtual space and context in which people involved in learning can become familiar with and put in practice different non-formal learning methods. Even though it took place online, the event will keep its participative and interactive approach, with a focus on direct experience.

## **CONNECTOR 2021 workshop**

How do we design and host meaningful online events? This learning and practice space will invite participants to connect to the deeper meaning of why we learn or meet online, how can we really listen to each other online, how can we co-sense, be present together, co-create and move to action in a way that is both meaningful and enjoyable for everybody that participates.

From all the different hosting methodologies, the invitation in this workshop is to explore and practice formats and tools from Theory U: Leading from the Future as it emerges, Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations and systemic coaching.



**Diana Ghindă**

For over 20 years my work is in creating learning and development spaces for individuals, teams, organizations and ecosystems. I started to practice hosting and coaching in 2011 and since then I believe that the future of learning is in collective learning spaces and the trainer of the future is more a facilitator, a host, a coach and a harvester of conversations. I work with different methodologies: Theory U Leading from the Future as it emerges, Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations and systemic coaching.

Since 2016 part of my practice moved online, working mainly with leaders, educators and change makers, accompanying them and their teams to formulate powerful questions, to practice systemic listening, to have meaningful conversations and to co-create the best future possibility for their lives and the organizations, communities and ecosystems they work with.





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# Designing and hosting an online event: practices and methodologies

## Why we learn or meet online ?

This brochure invites you to connect to the deeper meaning of why we learn or meet online, how we can really listen to each other online, how we can co-sense, be present together, co-create and move to action in a way that is both meaningful and enjoyable for everybody that participates.

It can be useful for your work in designing and hosting online meaningful conversations, community building activities, peer-to-peer learning, crystalizing and prototyping ideas and projects and moving together to action.

From all the different hosting methodologies, the invitation in the following pages is to explore practices, formats and tools from

[Theory U: Leading from the Future as it emerges](#) ,  
[Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter](#) and systemic coaching.

We'll explore different hosting formats such as Circle, Conversations in break out rooms, Knowledge Café, Co-sensing conversations, Guided Journaling, Presencing Spaces, Crystalizing, Prototyping, Pro Action Café, Open Space, World Café, Harvesting online events.

Main practices include: levels of listening, intentions and invitations, crafting powerful questions, designing hosted events, opening a hosted event, creating containers for online conversations, presence, embodiment practices for online hosting, crystalizing, designing and hosting action spaces, closing and harvesting online events.

There are many free resources, learning methodologies, tools and platforms created and shared by practitioners in hosting, I am including a selection in each chapter. I invite you to practice hosting with a co-host, in a group of practitioners, in an online community or learning hub, as the best learning in hosting is by practicing with experienced hosts and by reflecting on the practice.





## Basic practices

In different hosting methodologies there are three basic practices mentioned as being very important for the quality of the process: listening, speaking with intention and being present/holding space/care for the whole.



### 1. Listening.

As hosts we listen more than we speak, as the space belongs to participants and to what is 'in the middle': the intention, the call for action or the objective that has brought people together online. There are different levels of listening that we practice, beyond the day by day listening. We practice factual listening, paying attention to information, including information that is different from what we know.

We practice empathic listening, paying attention to feelings and emotions. And we practice systemic/generative listening, paying attention to questions, metaphors, patterns, what is crystalizing, what is emerging. Here you can find a video resource on levels of listening from Theory U and an exercise for practicing listening

<https://www.presencing.org/resource/tools/listen-desc>

### 2. Speak with intention.

Intention is an important practice in hosting, almost all check-ins in hosting teams start with voicing the intentions of the people in the team. Intention is guiding the hosting process from the call to meet online to the harvesting of the event. For example a monthly team meeting online, the intention of the meeting can be very different: reconnecting with team members, informing each other about status on current projects, making decisions, co-creating a new project, celebrating or a combination of intentions. The intention will guide the design, the methods, and the time in the agenda for each part of the process.

When we speak in a hosted space we always speak with intention, not to fill the silence or to feed the ego, but being aware that we are there to serve the group, to host a meaningful space for the group.

### 3. Presence / holding space / care for the whole.

If you already have experience in facilitation you probably have a practice that helps you to be fully present with a group and see or sense the group as an entity different than the people that are forming the group. Different hosts use different practices that help to become present: a moment of silence before starting, listening to music, walking in nature, journaling, mindfulness exercises, landing and grounding practices. An example is this Embodiment Practice with Arawana Hayashi from Presencing Institute

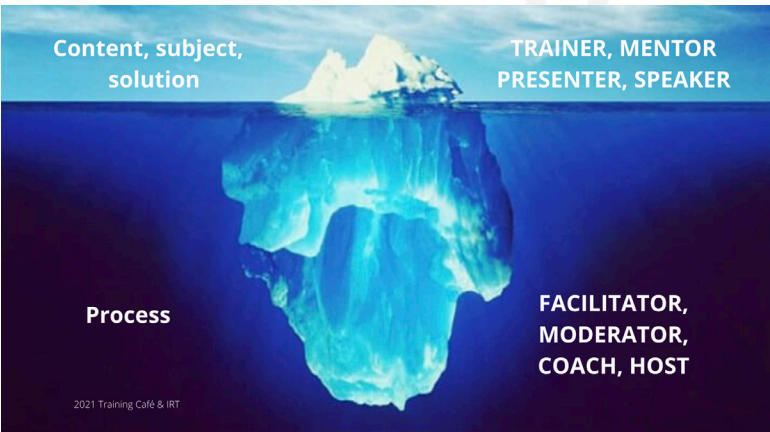
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoQk-ze7ahc>

Holding space is being present with others, as online hosts we help participants to be present in the event that we are hosting, and the first way to do that is to invite them to be present, to listen, to speak with intention and to care for the whole group.



# Hosting methodologies & design patterns





In this section you will find a selection of mental models that explain what is hosting and how is it different from other learning methodologies.






## Iceberg model

When we need to share content with groups our role is usually trainer, teacher, mentor, presenter, consultant or speaker and hosting can be used at the beginning or end of the event for the group to connect and share their learning needs and objectives or what they have learned. If the event is process based then hosting is more useful to create a meaningful space for the group to connect, learn from each other, co-create, participate, decide and move to action together.

**Matrix of Evolution of Education** Is a model from Theory U methodology by Presencing Institute that helps us understand different types of educational activities and how hosting is different from teaching or facilitation. Traditional learning is done in level 1 or 2, with little participation from the student, with focus on downloading content, memorizing, testing, with a lot of bureaucracy and little feedback. In level 3 processes learning is more focused on the participant, we have more participation, more dialogue, more feedback, we explore questions together with participants and is a metaphor for adult education and facilitation processes. Hosting is more of a level 4 process together with generative coaching, with focus on co-creation and innovation, the organization of the process is like an ecosystem with everybody invited to participate and contribute.

Matrix of Educational Evolution						
	STAGE	LEARNER	EDUCATOR	RELATIONSHIP	ORGANIZATION	GOVERNANCE
1.0 	AUTHORITY & INPUT CENTRIC	PASSIVE RECIPIENT	AUTHORITARIAN	DOWNLOADING (TEACHER CENTRIC)	CENTRALIZED, CLOSED	MACHINE BUREAUCRACY, NO FEEDBACK LOOP
2.0 	OUTPUT & TESTING CENTRIC	MEMORIZING INPUT	EXPERT	TESTING (INPUT-OUTPUT)	RECENTRALIZED, LESS CLOSED	PROFESSIONAL BUREAUCRACY, SLOW FEEDBACK LOOP
3.0 	LEARNER & STUDENT CENTRIC	EXPLORES NEW QUESTIONS	FACILITATOR	DIALOGIC	NETWORKED, OPENING	LEARNING SYSTEM, INSTITUTIONALIZED FEEDBACK LOOP
4.0 	CO-CREATION & INNOVATION CENTRIC	CO-SENSE AND SHAPE THE FUTURE	MIDWIFE, GENERATIVE COACHING	CO-CREATIVE	ECO-SYSTEM, BREATHING-IN, BREATHING-OUT	INNOVATION ECO-SYSTEM, SHARED AWARENESS OF THE WHOLE

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None of the levels are better or worse than the others, they are just different and it is useful to understand what kind of process does the group need and when is hosting useful. If our group needs us to be an expert in a subject we'll use more level 2 tools and methods such as public speaking or guests invited as experts to share knowledge and resources and to answer questions from participants. If our group needs to make a decision, co-create a project, work together for a longer time, share knowledge as a community of learning or engage in a change process that hosting will be very helpful.



## Chaos & Order.

Chaordic design. In level 1 and 2 in the above model the educator is in control of the process, similar to the tip of the Iceberg model (content) the more we go into level 3 and 4 process (or at the bottom of the Iceberg model), the more chaos we invite and we need to host. In learning and collaboration spaces designed with control and order we work with what exists, with the past and a little with present and future. In hosting we work at the intersection of chaos and order (chaordic design), where we invite and host creativity, possibility, innovation, change, transformation, co-creation, emergence, unfolding of something new.

We work in the same space of intersection of chaos and order in coaching and other generative and participatory leadership spaces, if you usually work in more structured/controlled/ orderly spaces and it's first time you are starting to explore chaordic design watch this short video on [The Art of Hosting - Chaordic Stepping Stones](#), join hosted spaces as a participant, practice with an experienced host/hosting team or with a community of practice.

**Divergence-Emergence-Convergence** or Diamond of participation is a model from Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making by Sam Kaner.

It is a basic, but very powerful model for hosting almost any kind of offline or online meeting where we invite people to participate, especially for decision-making processes.

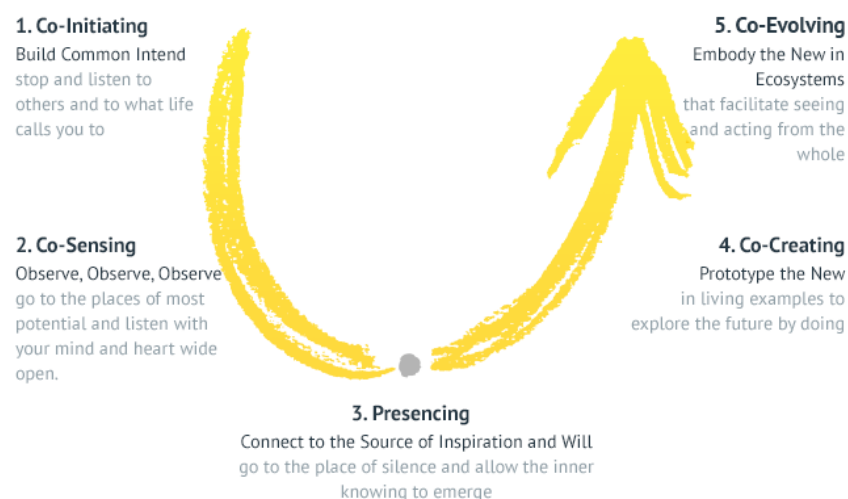
You can find the model in a lot of free resources like [this one](#) from Chris Corrigan, If you want to explore this model or intend to host a decision-making online space this article can be useful [Seven Little Helpers for dialogue and action: Part 5 – Make a wise decision.](#)

## 4fold(ed) practice

The 4 fold(ed) practice is a framework from Art of Hosting, created by Jan Hein, Monica Nissen and Toke Moeller, that explains a set of practices we do as hosts:

1. First host yourself, be present.
2. Participate in a conversation, listen, practice conversation, let yourself be hosted.
3. Host others, calling & inviting participation, designing & harvesting
4. Co-create, contribute in becoming a community that hosts itself.

Explore 4fold(ed) practice resources: like [this video](#) with contributions from several experienced hosts and [this visual](#) by Mary Alice Arthur.



## The U: One Process, Five Movements

This pattern is useful in designing online events where every person participates and engages in the process. The event is designed so that the group can go to all 5 stages in one event or in a series of events: *Co-initiating*-> *Co-sensing* -> *Presencing* -> *Co-creating/Prototyping* -> *Co-evolving*

Explore the short version of the model [here](#) and in-depth in the resources at the end of this brochure.





## Before the event

What all of the above models and practices say is that in hosting it is really important what we do before the event for the quality and meaning of the hosted event.

### Need & Purpose

At the core of every hosted event we have the need and the purpose: why do we need to meet/learn/work together online? What is the need? What do we need to learn? What do we need to change? What is the purpose of every event? How does one event serve the need?

### Co-design & co-hosting

Designing a hosted event is more of a collaborative process. One of the recommendations from practitioners is to never host alone, to design, host and harvest in a team. If the context is that we cannot invite another host in the process, then we can co-design, co-host or co-harvest with participants, inviting them to contribute by sharing their needs, practicing the practices together, sharing from their stories what is relevant for the purpose, harvesting the learning, the co-created ideas or the decisions.

### The invitation

Inviting people in a hosted event is considered an art more than a science, as we need to consider in every case multiple elements: *what is the context? when is it best to invite people? who are the people to be invited? what is the intent, the call, the purpose? what seeds are we planting for the event/meeting?*

A few ways to practice the art of invitation: co-hosting with an experienced host, reflecting on the invitations in events that you participate, having a conversation with your participants to understand what made them respond to your invitation. For inspiration you can watch this short [video](#) on the art of invitation or read this [article](#) on the art of invitation in participatory leadership.

*Technical preparation:* For online events technical preparation is similar to preparing the physical space for offline events, the host needs to arrive earlier in the virtual space, to have an event design/flow with all the tools used, prepared in advance (such as polls, documents, slides, music, texts and links to be copied in the chat, breakout rooms). With enough time in advance so that the host also has some time to connect again to the purpose, the people, the invitation, the agenda and his/her own space. In a team of co-hosts this is the moment to make a team check-in and intention setting for the event.

*Physical space of the host:* A beautiful, inviting and functional space adds to the quality of online hosting, make sure you have water/tea/coffee, fruits/cookies or other goodies for breaks, good lighting and backup internet hot spot.



## During the event

### **The beginning: arrival, welcome, check-in, co-initiating**

*Arrival & welcome.* Online people arrive as offline at different paces, some minutes before or after the official hour.

For large groups it helps to prepare a few minutes and an invitation for arrival. As participants arrive in the space they can be invited to write in the chat something that is meaningful for that event (e.g. the place from where people participate, a curiosity, an intention, a need) or to rename themselves based on location or department or another criteria that would be meaningful so that people in large groups can connect online.

*Technical information & privacy:* If we don't know for sure that people have used the same platform and are familiar with it we can make a short technical brief in the beginning: introducing the chat, invitation to turn the microphones and cameras on/off, setting the view for gallery/speaker, reactions. If we plan to harvest visually the meeting (print screens, recordings) this is the moment to inform/remind participants so that they can choose how they will participate.

### **Grounding & mindfulness: a short mindfulness practice helps the group to be present.**

*Framing:* what is the purpose/what are the objectives, what is the agenda/flow of the event, what else is important and needs to be agreed with the group from the beginning (public space, maybe recorded or live streamed or private space & confidentiality)

*Check-in:* we can use a check-in question that helps people connect to each other and the purpose, for larger groups we can use break-out rooms of 3-5 people.

### **The MIDDLE: co-sensing, presencing, co-creating, decision-making, prototyping & collective action**

The beginnings and the ends of online hosted events have very similar structures, the middle can be very different depending on the purpose: (re)connecting, learning, sharing information or knowledge, making decisions, co-creating ideas and projects,

Depending on the purpose we can choose the methods for every online event, almost all methods for hosting offline events can be adapted for online events.



## Powerful questions

Powerful questions are an important tool for hosting, they open the conversation, connect people with the intention of the event, help to open the mind and spark curiosity, invite different opinions and reflection, lead to co-creation and emergence. All hosting formats use powerful questions, especially in the beginning, some formats such as World Café or Open Space use powerful questions at every round of conversations. A powerful question is short, open-ended, invites people into the conversation, invites reflection and different personal perspectives or contributions.

***"Questions are more transforming than answers"***

***Peter Block***, author of *Community: The Structure of Belonging*

Whenever we invite people into an online hosted space we need to spend some time in designing the questions, starting with the questions for the invitation. The entire design of a hosted event can be done using questions such as: *What is the purpose of this event? What would be meaningful for people in this event?* You can find an example of designing a hosted event using powerful questions [here](#).

Other resources on powerful questions:

- an article on How to design powerful questions by David Gurteen  
<https://conversational-leadership.net/powerful-questions/>
- an article on powerful questions in coaching by Alain Cardon <https://www.metasysteme-coaching.eu> or his e-book SYSTEMIC COACHING POWERFUL QUESTIONS
- e-book The Art of Powerful Questions: Catalyzing Insight, Innovation, and Action by David Isaacs Eric E. Vogt and Juanita Brown

## Circle

A circle is the simplest form of hosting online, inviting people to join a meaningful conversation as peers. The components of this format are: intention and invitation from the caller/calling team, an introductory space of welcoming participants, establishing the center, check-in and agreements or framing, 3 principles (leadership rotates among circle members, shared responsibility, reliance on wholeness), 3 practices (speak with intention, listen with attention and tend to the well-being of the circle), a guardian of the process, check-out and closing.

For hosting circle format events see this 2 page resource with [Basic Guidelines for Calling a Circle](#) from PeerSpirit and a video resource [The Art of Hosting - PeerSpirit Circle Process](#)

## Conversations in breakout rooms

In online spaces on several platforms ([Zoom](#), [Google Meet](#), [Teams](#)) we can have smaller group conversations using breakout rooms, allowing people, especially in larger groups, to connect deeper, share and co-create. In many cases it is not possible for each break-out room to have a host, so we need to help people with a script or format for conversations: 1-2 questions, a time frame, what do we invite them to harvest or share from break-out rooms.

We can assign people randomly in break-out rooms or invite them to choose or join a specific room by creating rooms in advance. If the event is larger than 20 people or longer than an hour please consider using breakout rooms conversations to allow all people to participate and engage.





## **Guests in hosted events: interviews, Knowledge Café, plenary conversations & panels**

If in the design phase of the event we realise it would be meaningful to have one or more guests we can choose different formats depending on need and purpose, time, number of guests, number of participants. With one guest we can have an interview format, usually started by the host and inviting participants to ask their questions. A similar flow can be done with a few guests in a plenary conversation or panel, almost the same as in an offline event.

If we want to invite more voices from guests or from the group we can use **Knowledge Café** “*a conversational process that brings a group of people together to share experiences, learn from each other, build relationships and make a better sense of a rapidly changing, complex, less predictable world to improve decision making, innovation and the ways in which we work together.*”

Resource on what is and how to run a Knowledge Café:

<http://knowledge.cafe/knowledge-cafe-concept/>

In more complex events we can mix methods from different levels of evolution of education, an example is a conference where we could need both spaces for teaching/learning from experts and spaces where participants co-create based on what they have learned. If the group is new to hosting it helps to start the event with more structure, have the guests more in the first part and the co-creative/ sharing/ innovation spaces from the middle, after a short presencing space.



## Presencing Spaces

Maybe you already use such tools, but if you have not experienced yet. It could be counter-intuitive that silence and reflection are powerful tools for hosting, especially if your practice is in more structured formats (order or control, such as public speaking or creating educational videos or managing educational projects). I invite you to experience as a participant or to practice with an experienced host or coach or with a community of practice.

- **Silence.** After asking a powerful question allow a few moments of silence. The more powerful the question, the more time people need to stay with it before answering.

Resources about using silence: [THE ART OF ONLINE HOSTING: FROM POWERPOINT TO POWERFUL](#) , and [Silence in Professional Coaching](#)- The most underdeveloped coaching technique is also the most central: Silence

- **Journaling.** Invite people in a silent/reflective space to answer question(s) and allow insights and crystalizing of ideas. It can be as little as one question or it can be a longer process, here is an example of an extended version of [Guided Journaling](#).

- **Movement & embodiment practices are more than** icebreakers, they help participants to have more energy and be more present, especially in a virtual space where we sit a lot, but they also help the group to go easier in a reflective space. Here is a short [Embodiment Practice](#) with Arawana Hayashi from Presencing Institute.

- **Mindfulness moments:** if you already have any personal mindfulness practice you can choose a small exercise, maybe a breathing practice or create one for your groups. If you want to experience as a participant there are many free resources and apps (like [Insight Timer](#)). Since 2020 I have seen embodiment practices and mindfulness moments in more and more online learning spaces, as educators and hosts around the world have searched for tools to help their groups to fight online fatigue. Here is an example of a [Mindfulness Practice](#) with Jon Kabat-Zinn within a multiple weeks online learning journey.

- **Music, poetry & other art forms.** I have often experienced as a participant or as a host the power of using small moments of presencing using art forms, such as different songs, drawings or paintings or poetry that we invite participants to reflect on. My favourites are poems from [David Whyte](#), whose work is, in his own words, about The Conversational Nature of Reality, I found a lot of inspiration for hosting in his TED video [A lyrical bridge between past, present and future](#).



To practice the power of presencing spaces using art I invite you to read the next short poem by [Nora Bateson](#) and reflect for a few minutes on what insights are you having from it.

.....

One  
thing  
I  
will  
share  
with  
you  
is  
that  
I  
don't  
ever  
want  
or  
need  
to  
change  
you  
or  
anyone

else.  
Your  
changing  
is  
yours,  
&  
is  
particular  
to  
you  
in  
your  
complexity.  
I will tend the  
conditions in which  
we are in  
relationship.  
Opening  
unimagined  
Possibility...

.....

What am I learning about myself or about hosting from this poem?





After silence or reflection we can invite the group to co-create, crystalize ideas, prototype or other forms of collective action. From all the formats two have been practiced extendedly offline and online and are already known by a lot of facilitators and educators and have many online resources available: Open Space and World Café.

### Open Space (Technology)

If you already have experience in hosting offline OST check the last resource on OST and Zoom.

If it's the first time you hear about this method it is important to know that it can be used with groups from 5-10 to more than 2000 people, is useful for participatory processes, the format has four Rules/Principles and One Law.

#### The 4 rules/principles:

- *Whoever comes is the right people*
- *Whenever it starts is the right time*
- *Whatever happens is the only thing that could have*
- *When it's over it's over*

**The Law of 2 feet states that:** *"If, during the course of the gathering, any person finds themselves in a situation where they are neither learning nor contributing, they can go to some more productive place."*

OST works very well online if the invitation/theme is meaningful for participants and the group is committed to participate and contribute. If people participate because "they have to" it's not going to work very well, we need to think of a more structured format.

### Resources

- explore Open Space in different languages  
<https://openspaceworld.org/wp2/explore/>
- [HOW TO RUN AN OPEN SPACE EVENT](#)
- [Open Space Technology and Zoom – flexible online spaces](#)

### World Café

A "[simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue](#)", World Café is a very versatile method that can be adapted to smaller and larger groups, to different topics and different time in the agenda. On the World Café website you can find a [Hosting Tool Kit](#) and an [Image Bank](#).

**Pro Action Café:** is a mixture of World Café and Open Space Technology that helps participants to move from ideas, questions and intentions to projects and action. The method can be used with groups from 12 to hundreds of participants, the bigger the group the bigger the hosting team. After the opening part (*connecting with people and invitation/question, announcing topics, explaining the process and Café Etiquette*), there are 3 rounds of conversations of 20-30 minutes each (1. What is the quest behind the question/idea/project? 2. What is missing? 3. What are the next steps? What help do I need? What have I learned?). The technical host will prepare break-out rooms with names of projects/ideas/questions, and invite people to join conversations, so that in each break-out room there are the caller plus 3-4 participants. After each round participants return to the main room and are invited into the next round, with a brief reminder of the question for each round, the time, the maximum number of people in every conversation.

Resources on this method from the Art of Hosting community: [here](#) and [here](#)



## Prototyping

Allows the group to move quickly from an idea to action, by having at least one iteration of practice. You can use almost any project management methodology, here is a resource from Presencing Institute with their format of [prototyping](#).

## Harvesting during online events

Harvesting the learning, ideas, decisions, projects and other elements that are meaningful for a hosted event helps us to make visible the outcome and to move together to next steps. When the team has more hosts usually one of them coordinates the harvesting, collecting elements, proposing the harvesting method, inviting members of the team and participants to contribute. Harvesting is an art in itself and it can take multiple forms: photo or video collage, graphic recording, storytelling, poetry, music.

For harvesting that contains participants' names and images please consider privacy, not only for legal reasons, but also for people to feel safe in the online space. For photo harvesting/print screens: announce in advance when and why, before making the print screens, so that people can have time to open/close their cameras, change their names or even leave the event if they do not feel comfortable with appearing in a print screen. Even if the event was very meaningful people could feel their privacy was not respected because they found online random print screens with their face or name. For video harvesting/recording: announce in advance, ideally from invitation, what will be recorded, how it will be used, where it will be shared.

For harvesting resources or outputs [www.padlet.com](http://www.padlet.com) is a tool that can integrate photos, videos, links, video and audio recording and almost any other uploaded file.

Graphic harvesting or graphic recording is usually done by a visual facilitator, if you want to learn graphic facilitation there are many opensource resources, such as this guide from connector 6 (*Graphic facilitation -author Andreea Buzec*) or this guide from an Erasmus+ project

[Graphic facilitation for better communication](#).

## *The END: Check-out, closing, next steps*

**Check-out:** invite participants to reflect and share on learning, insights, action. For larger groups we can invite all the people to share via chat and a few voices over microphone, depending on the time allocated for this.

**Closing & next steps:** allow time to thank people for participating, announce the follow-up, harvesting or resources, next events, next meeting or other next steps. Just before closing invite people to open their microphones and close together, 30 seconds of space for people to say good-bye or thank you give the end a good energy and is a very powerful space in international groups where people are invited to say goodbye in their own language.



## After the event


**Harvesting & follow-up:** at the end or after the event we share with participants the harvesting that would be useful for them, that we have promised or they have requested: summary, contacts, recordings, resources, paying attention to privacy and copyright.

**Evaluation:** depending on the number of people and the time we have in the event for evaluation we can choose an open sharing space verbally or in the chat, a poll, an online tool (such as [Google Forms](#), [Mentimeter](#), [sli.do](#), [typeform](#)).

**Debriefing/reflecting and improving:** the practice: when we host in a team we schedule a meeting to reflect together on what happened, what feedback/evaluation/sharing we have from participants after the event, what we have learned as hosts, what can we better next time. This space is very powerful in improving the practice.



## Why we use this method? How it can be used in E+/ESC context?



We use online hosting to create meaningful connecting, sharing, reflecting, decision-making and action spaces. The basic principles and formats can be applied from very short meetings to several days online events, with as little as 2 people and as many as thousands. We can use hosting in almost any type of activity or learning event: a project meeting, a training, a conference, a disseminating event, a participatory meeting, a workshop, a conversation with students in the classroom, a community of learning or practice, a meeting with youth in a youth exchange.



## Communities of practice and resources

Like any other facilitation methodology we learn hosting by designing and practicing with experienced hosts, by sharing from practice in groups and communities of practice.

The Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversation and Theory U have vibrant international communities and national and local hubs for practice. A lot of resources and practice spaces are online and free, such as:

- Theory U extended course on edX / u.lab

[Leading From the Emerging Future](#)

- Theory U resources

<https://www.presencing.org/resource/tools>

- Theory U hubs/communities

<https://www.presencing.org/community/hubs>

- Art of Hosting online Community

<https://artofhosting.ning.com/>

- Art of Hosting resources

<https://artofhosting.org/resources-2/videos/>

- The World Café community

<http://www.theworldcafe.com/community/>

### *Other hosting resources*

- [A guide to hosting & harvesting](#) meaningful conversations in virtual spaces

- A collection of resources on Chris Corrigan's page

<https://www.chriscorrigan.com>

- Brené Brown with Priya Parker on The Art of Gathering

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast>

These and many other hosting resources are free, but their creation requires a lot of work from practitioners that have so generously shared them online. If it is possible in your own context please consider donating to an international, national or local community of practice to support this work.





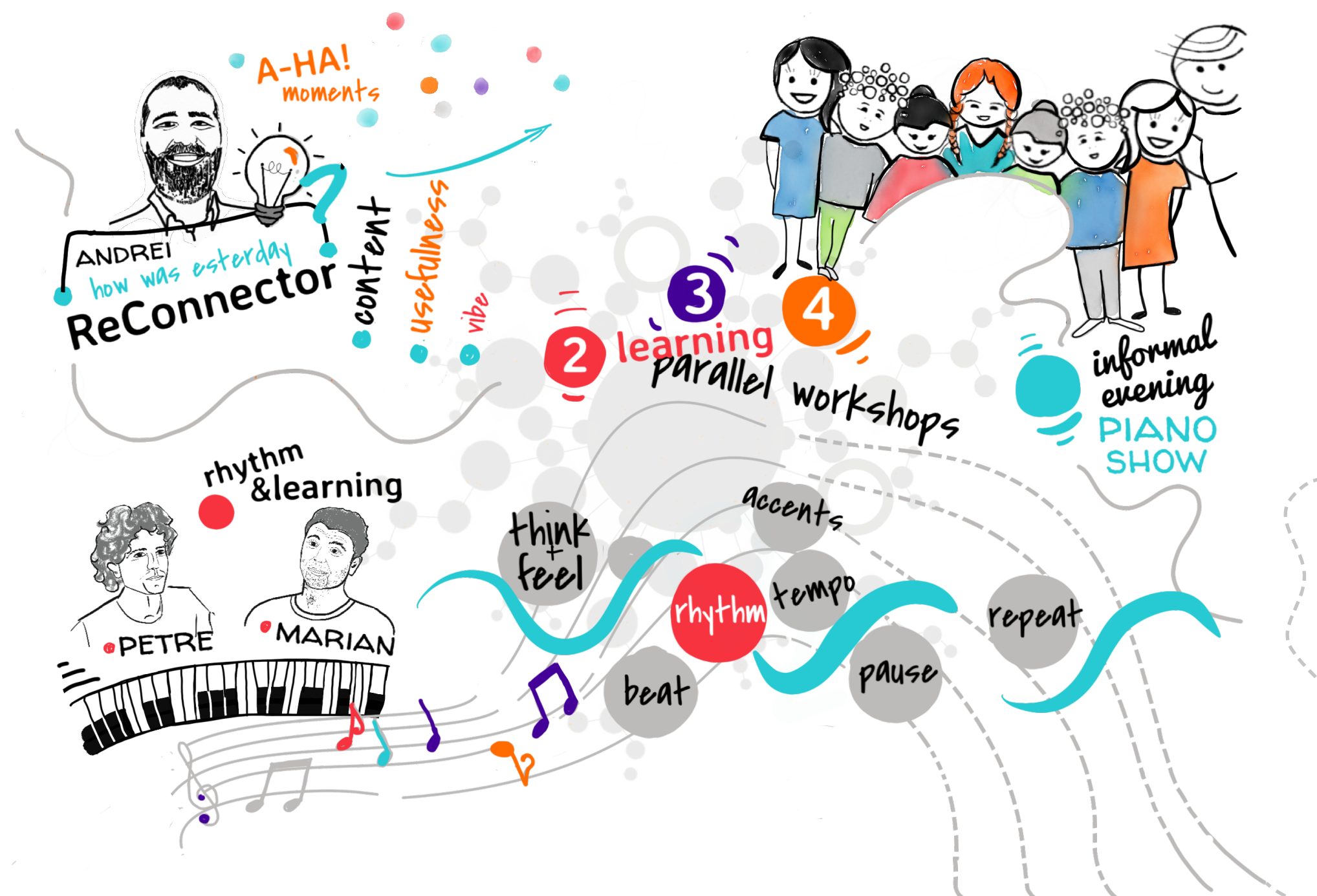
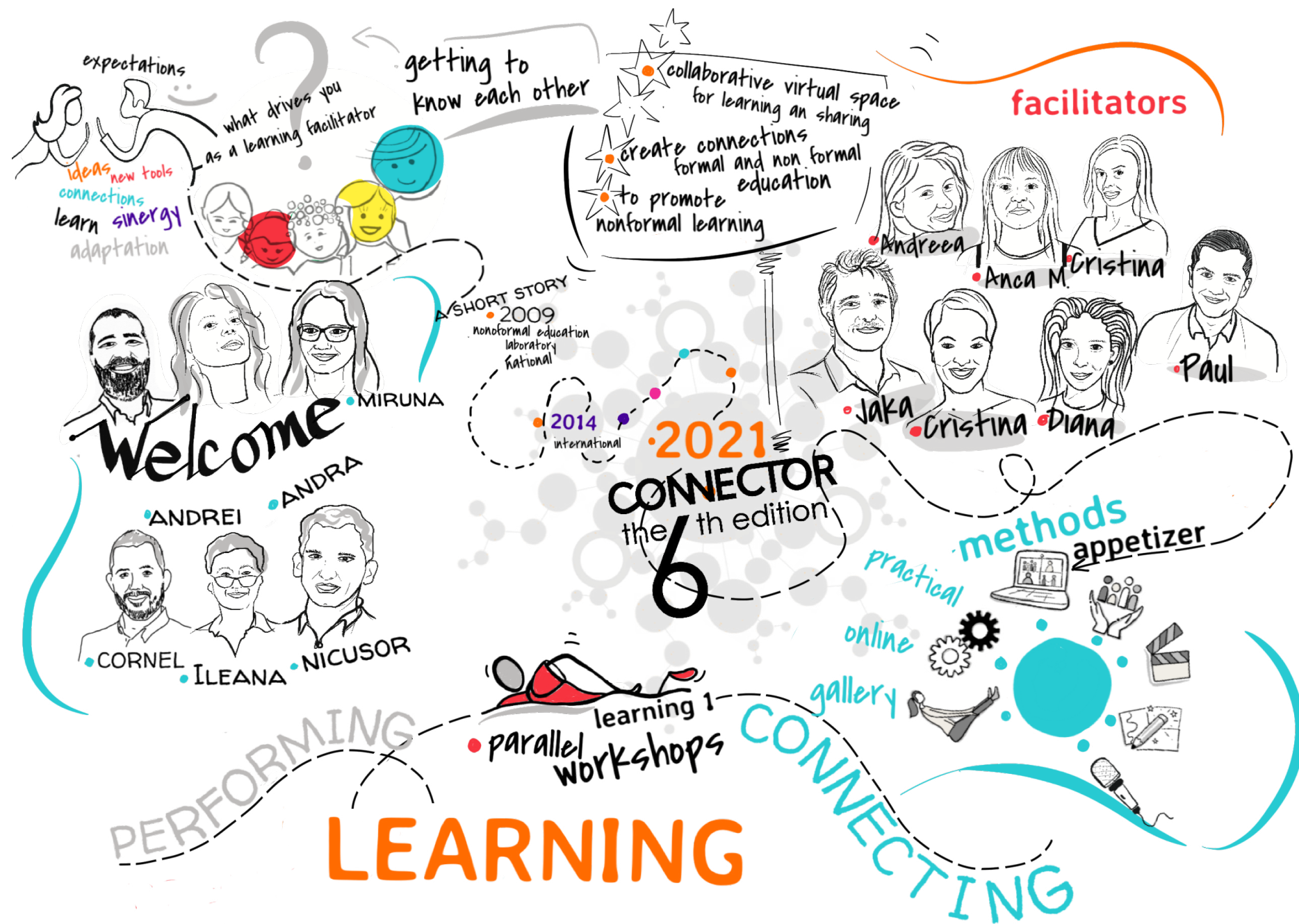
The harvesting from *Connector 6-Hosting online events*,  
inspired by Loredana Popa,  
co-created with the group of workshop participants.

**Hosting online starts inside,**  
Melody is from **Resistiré**

Slow rhythm in the beginning - as people usually come into  
the space and enjoy the silence and getting to share something  
Rhythm increases as the chaos meets order  
There is a sort of plateau when co-creation starts happening  
Slow again as there is reflection in closing & harvesting  
Different moments will be represented by different stanzas.

a) Hosting an online event takes planning Resonating, listening and space Welcome everyone and all their stories Just remember, it is not a race	b) Please make sure you tell us your intentions Bring in your chaos, sparkling in the dark We order it and turn it into diamonds And it emerges as a net of fireflies.	c) Ideas are born when we come together Co-sensing with an open heart And crystallising all our journey Witness the unfolding of a butterfly
Hosting is always about connecting Sharing, caring, shaping a common space Don't be fooled, there is power in the silence We all need our pace and rhythm too	So host yourself before you host another Know where they're all coming from inside Make it meaningful and spark their interest People need silence and a space to grow.	There's no mistake in seeing how it goes Fragile and strong, co-creating a new world Inspire the whole group to write the story And remember to make it also your own.
So ground yourself, find your own rhythm, Be present there, body mind and soul Don't judge a soul or anyone's ideas We are so different but connected too	So ground yourself, find your own rhythm, Be present there, body mind and soul Don't judge a soul or anyone's ideas We are so different but connected too	So ground yourself, find your own rhythm, (x2) Be present there, body mind and soul Don't judge a soul or anyone's ideas We are so different but connected too.
		d) Slowly walk through the field of action, Harvest products and make them visible Enjoy the wealth that has come to fruition Celebrate IT and share IT with the world.





# DAY 1

Welcome day and connect to the world by non-formal digital learning. This first day was about: getting to know each other - *digitally, but equally interactive, participative and friendly* - finding out Connector's story, presenting the facilitators & methods, appetizer of the methods, ending with 7 parallel workshops about the Connector methods.

# DAY 2

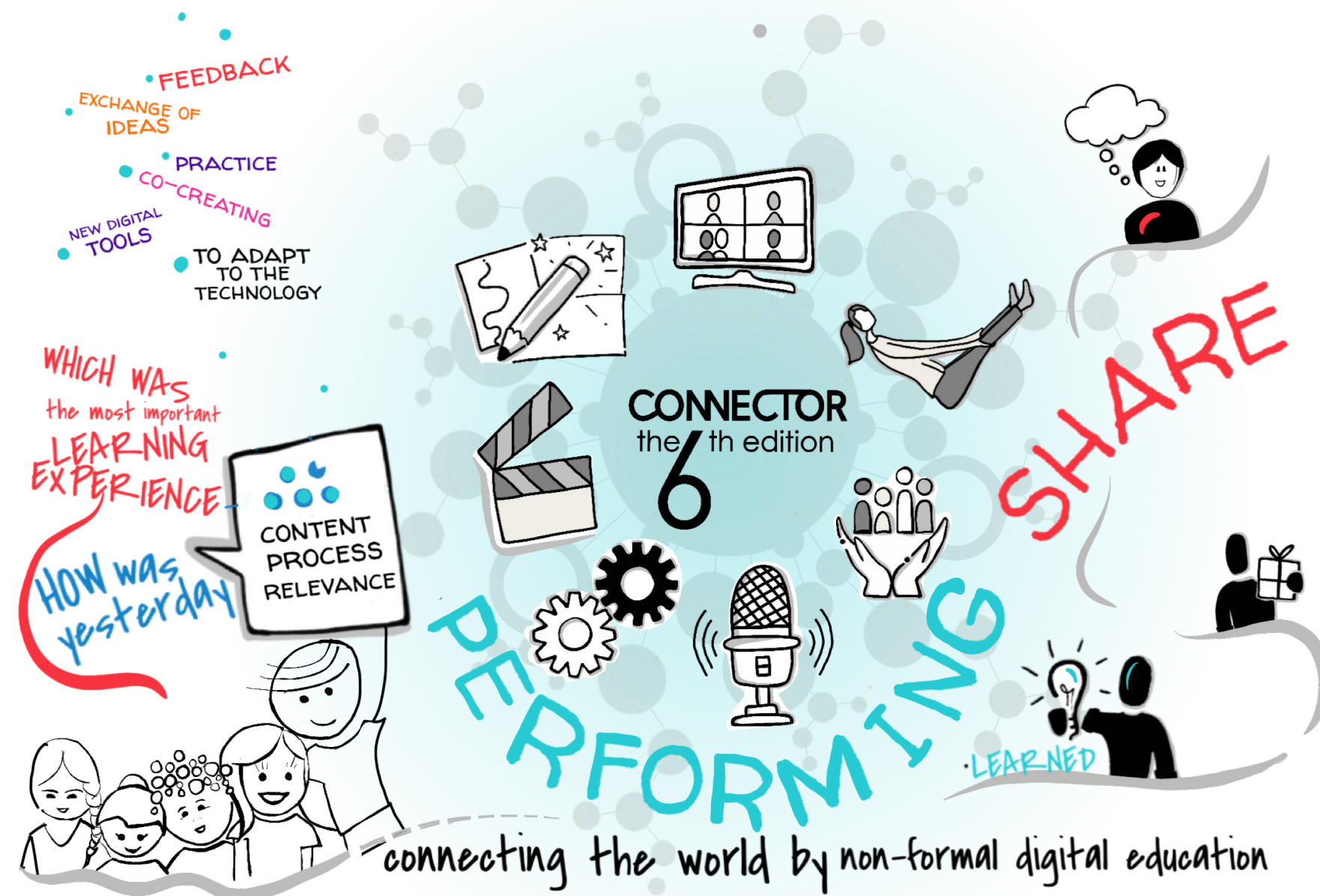
We started reconnecting together in the plenary. Special guests brought some rhythm & learning. And then, together with the facilitators, participants get back to discover Connector methods in the second learning session, dedicated to it. And we enjoyed a nice atmosphere, in the informal evening.





# DAY 3

Reconnected some more in the plenary with a new special guest: this time exercising body and mind together for better learning. The 7 parallel workshops continued.



# DAY 4

Connector 6.0's last day. The best way to start it: together! And since it was a sharing day, it was time to spread nonformal learning methods back to organisations and communities!





## CONNECTOR

is an international event focused on nonformal learning and organised every year by

## ANPCDEF

National Agency for the Community Programmes in the field of Education and Vocational Training  
(Romanian NA for European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+)

[www.anpcdefp.ro](http://www.anpcdefp.ro)