

3. General description/portrait of the group:

1. Group history

- Phases: beginning, growth, maturation, decay, stagnation, ups and downs
- Decisive fluctuation of membership
- Decisive breaks, new-orientations, conflicts

2. Explicit role of deliberation and participation as an group aim

3. Visions of democracy in the group

- concept of internal and external democracy
- references to new institutional practices of deliberation such as “participatory budget”, “municipal democracy”

4. Institutionalized meta-talk

- For example, regular meetings to discuss the work and communication of the group.

5. Relation of intra- and inter-group communication

- Do groups differ in their practices of intra- and inter-groups communication? Do they separate concepts applied to the group or movement from concepts applied to society as a whole?

6. Ideology/frame/identity/goals/conflicts

- What is the political goal of the group? What is its political role?
- How important is the group to its members (“like family” or “just interesting”).
- What are group boundaries, bonds and group norms?
- Dominant group ideology/ cultural values like: “we-feeling”, “self-realization”, postmaterialism, power concepts, means-end-relation, anti-hierarchic vs. hierarchic values, radicalism vs. reformism
- Heterogeneous vs. homogenous frames
- Multiple vs. single issues
- Emphasis upon mobilization vs. lobbying
- Are group internal affairs political (“private is political”)
- Level of conflict (local, supra-local)
- Perception of political opportunity structures

7. Group structures:

- Size of the group
- Main group functions (multiple functions possible): e.g. self-help/self-awareness raising group, task-group, discursive space, evaluative committee, coordinating group, network node, strategic decision-making, brainstorming workshop, identity building, problem identification, help-desk, media group, culture group etc..
- How self-organizing/-regulating is the group? Unpaid or paid participants? Voluntary group?
- How formalized is the group?
- Membership rules
- “First order group”, group of individuals, micromobilization context or “second order group”, group of delegates/networkers, mesomobilization context
- Joint session description (How often, how regular, how many of the formal members do attend, has the group an own room, a fixed but borrowed place or changing rooms, spatial context of the session room, what is the function of sessions)
- Preparation of session, invitation to session, agenda setting, action/session calendar
- Seating order
- Other discursive spaces, partial spaces (preparatory meetings, implementing meetings, mailing list, websites)
- Leadership, coordination, responsibility, moderation, facilitation, keeper of minutes/ note taker
- Rules of internal communication/decision, participation, roles, functions, competencies
- Relation between newbies and oldtimers
- Gender composition
- Age composition
- Ethnicity
- Socio-economic position (e.g.: mobile, middle class intellectuals)
- Parallel agendas (for example: projects developed outside joint sessions)
- Central figures, cliques, outsiders, fellowship, tutelage, friendship, authority, factions, coalitions (Who speaks most with whom? Who is most asked by whom? Who always decides with(out) whom? Who works most with(out) whom?)
- General atmosphere (respect, use of slang or highly intellectual terminology, aggression, harmony, identity politics)
- Social/emotional homogeneity/heterogeneity of the group,
- Cohesion, integration into the work, group part of the identity of members

8. Environment of the group

- Parent organizations and networks
- Other affiliations with social movements
- Competitors/“other”
- Adversaries/partners outside movements (political parties, trade unions, own organization..)
- Fluctuation, instability due to socio-economic constraints (“I can not participate, I have to work”, “we can not discuss today, we have no room”)
- Degree of autonomy from the environment

9. Action repertoire

- Creative vs. non creative tactics
- Use of new technologies for outbound activities
- How outward-oriented is the group?
- Protest, lobbying, intellectual work, education...
- Violence
- Develops actions on its own or joins pre-structured actions (like urgent actions of amnesty international)
- How dependent are group activities from parent organisations or joint group decisions?