

Circling around the approach

In short

Working method to collectively determine what the research proposal will look like and, if applicable, set the outlines of the intervention to be developed.

Outcome

Specification of the research proposal by all participants.

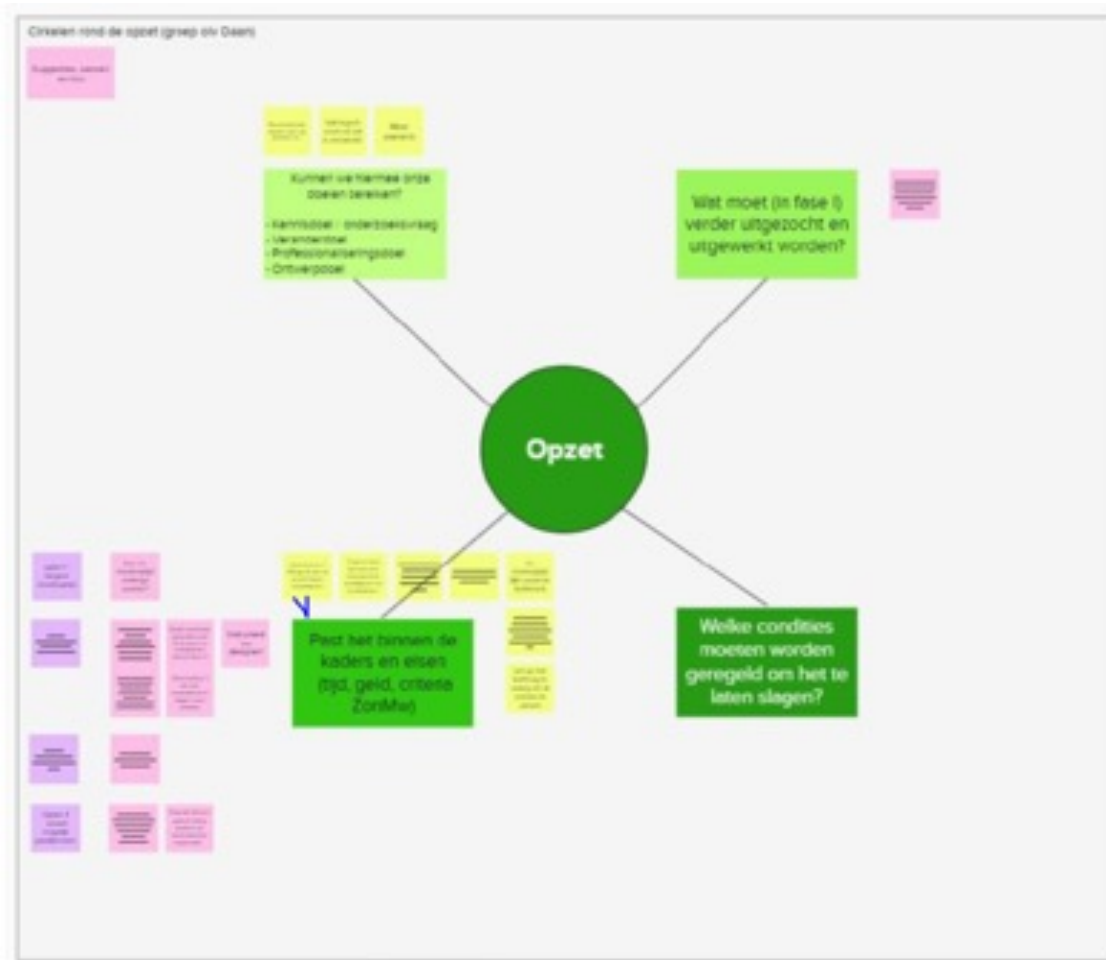
Approach

This working method consists of five steps:

1. The core team presents the first preliminary ideas on the research approach. When doing so, the project team emphasises that this is a first draft that still allows for a lot of input. The facilitator asks participants to write down clarifying questions while listening. The facilitator then goes around the room, asking participants about their questions. The minutes secretary notes down the questions and the core team answers these whenever possible.
2. Following the presentation, the facilitator asks participants to think about the following five questions (7 minutes):
 - a. Can we achieve our chosen objectives via this approach?
 - b. Does the approach fit within the frameworks and requirements: time, money, criteria, and so on?
 - c. What practical conditions have to be arranged for this to succeed?
 - d. What needs further investigation and detailing at this stage?
 - e. Do you have any suggestions?
3. The project group is then divided into two or three sub-groups, with the minutes secretary and the facilitator both joining one of the groups to record the results of the conversation (25 minutes).
4. The output from both groups is presented and, collectively, the similarities and differences are considered (10 minutes).
5. Final feedback (13 minutes): The core team collectively discusses what the input means for the approach, what bottlenecks they identify, and on what topics they'd like more information from the project group. The rest listen and write down their questions, comments and suggestions along the way. Finally, the facilitator goes around the room to gather this information.

Examples

Step three of this working method can look as follows:



Bases

This working method assumes that stakeholders can help in preparing a realistic research plan, because they are aware of all practical bottlenecks and opportunities. By discussing this in groups, everyone is given the opportunity to name obstacles and conditions for success.

Materials

- Post-it notes
- Pens