

## An Introduction to Participatory Video

### Planning and training workshop

Participants will come together for a three day workshop that will combine training in basic filming skills (including audio and visual recording, framing shots, etc.) with a participatory planning process. At this workshop, participants will discuss and agree a narrative for the film(s) they want to make. This may involve working in small groups to brainstorm ideas about what they want to communicate and how to communicate this and then negotiating collectively over what to do in their film.

Once the broad narrative is agreed, participants will use a storyboard technique, in which the film is divided into 6-9 squares, and the participants draw or describe the scene for each square. This process should be done carefully, with as much detail as possible. The storyboard can also be used to allocate roles for the filming process (director, camera, sound, actor, etc.). Participants may combine documentary filming (interviews, dialogues, narrations) with dramatization or use them independently.

At this workshop, participants should also discuss how they want to use the films and who they plan to show the films.

Once the film has been conceptualised and planned, participants would have a 3 week period for filming.

### Filming period

During the filming period, participants would work their way through the storyboard (although they can film the storyboard in any order). They will need to agree about who takes responsibility for the cameras and how they will get all of the footage they need. Ideally they will only film each storyboard once, because the storyboard panes should be carefully planned. This will reduce editing time later. If possible, it is useful to film elements of the entire process so that an edited 'the making of...' can be added to the finished films. This can help to contextualise the films for audiences outside of the communities and groups immediately involved in making them.

### Production workshop

The production workshop will involve screening the footage and doing a 'paper edit', in which elements that have been filmed are identified on post-its and then the group agrees on how to order these. Depending on the number of computers, participants would then be

involved (or lead) the actual digital editing of the film(s). Once there is a rough version, the film is screened to the participants for discussion and comment and further changes can be made if necessary.

### **Sharing the films**

Once participants are satisfied with the films, the films can be screened to the wider communities that were involved in their production and to other audiences (for advocacy purposes). All participants should receive a DVD with a copy of the film. Community screenings can lead to significant debates, and there are also important considerations in terms of how policy-makers and others respond to the films. The films can be uploaded to YouTube or other social networking sites.