



## NAME OF THE ACTIVITY: LOTUS BLOSSOM

### Activity 3 / Applying creativity techniques

Content	Skills	Competencies
Lotus blossom creative technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of Lotus Blossom</li> <li>- Teamwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brainstorming</li> <li>- Critical thinking</li> <li>- Creating patterns</li> </ul>

LOTUS BLOSSOM	
Overall description of the activity	<p>This activity focuses on using the Lotus Blossom technique to encourage teams to stretch their thinking, go beyond the most obvious ideas and create a well-developed and structured idea space.</p> <p>Starting with a specific and randomly selected challenge/problem that is placed in the central square of a three-by-three grid, participants in groups will have to brainstorm and fill out the remaining 8 boxes (known as ‘petals’) with an aspect/idea related to the problem/challenge. Then they have to transfer the eight words from the center square as the core concept of the corresponding outer grids and repeat the process.</p> <p>At the end, a large quantity of 64 ideas will be generated and participants have to filter the information, select the most valuable ideas, prioritise them and share their best ideas with peers.</p>
Material	<p>For onsite delivery: printed lotus blossom grids, pen/pencil, marker</p> <p>For online delivery: Lotus Blossom grids on Miro, or similar.</p>
Duration	<p>A brief explanation of the model: 10’</p> <p>Groups’ brainstorming and completion of grids: 40’</p> <p>Groups’ presentations and feedback: 5’ per group</p> <p>Total duration: Approximately 1 h 15 min, depending on the number of groups</p>
Feasibility	<p>Onsite: in groups of 3-4 people</p> <p>Online: via an online meeting platform using breakout rooms to form groups and use of online whiteboard e.g. Miro.</p>



## Activity

Before starting, write on pieces of paper challenges/problems/concepts that your participants can choose from randomly. You may think of some problems related to a specific topic (in line with learning objectives of the training) or some open-ended well-known issues.

Topic examples: boost sales of a new product, develop a community, climate change, poverty etc.

Explain the Lotus Blossom technique to participants, to get a good grasp of how to use the grids. Find an example here: <https://online.visual-paradigm.com/knowledge/brainstorming/lotus-blossom-technique/>

Distribute the Lotus Blossom grids, one to each group and ask them to follow these steps:

### Step 1

Write your core theme or challenge in the central box of the Lotus Blossom grid, phrased as a question, e.g. “How might we fight unemployment?”/ “How might we increase the traffic on our website?”

### Step 2

The centre box has eight boxes known as *petals* – stemming from it. Write some different aspects that relate to your central question in each of these eight boxes. You can either place the words directly on the petals or pick the most provocative eight answers from a larger group of words to place on the eight boxes.

### Step 3

Transfer the eight words from the centre square to the first ring of outer petals. Complete the surrounding eight petals with items that go into greater depth describing the theme in the central core.

### Step 4

The process can be repeated with each petal, opening further into more petals. Your participants can go as far as they can within the time available.

### Step 5

As the Lotus Blossom expands, what new ideas or concepts are triggered or suggested? Ask participants to select the most valuable ideas, circle them using the marker and prioritise them.

### Step 6

Participants need to pick their top three and present them in class.



## Tips/suggestions for the activity

- o Always do a demo of the technique – some participants will get it straight away, but because we all have different learning styles, others will need to see it in action first before they can get started with confidence.
- o There is no such thing as a bad idea. Even something seemingly unrelated or far-fetched can spark an innovative thought.
- o It's a good idea to mix groups up, so people are looking at ideas that aren't their own. We sometimes get too attached to our own creations, so shuffling the group removes the possibility of favouritism.