



3 | Zine-making

Creative Expression

AT A GLANCE

This zine making experience is the second of a two-stage workshop sequence where young people are invited to reflect on their life and career aspirations through a hands-on creative and playful approach. It follows a session for generating or gathering visual materials through participatory photography and concentrates on using these materials for creating personal aspirations zines. At the end of the workshop, each participant will have created their personal aspiration zine.

AIMS

- Engage participants in a creative and reflexive process around life and career aspirations, influencing factors and support networks

SPACE AND MATERIALS

The workshop would ideally be held in a location (indoors or outdoors) that provides participants the space and freedom to both work on their own zines and exchange views and ideas with the other participants. Circled arrangements are preferred, so that all participants can face each other. Materials include:

1. **Aspirations zine printed on cardboard:** Each participant is provided with an aspirations zine template printed on A2 (ideally) or A3. [Download and print from [Connect2Aspire website](#)]
2. **Facilitator cards:** These are used by the facilitator and can also be spread on tables for inspiration, following the main landmarks in the aspirations zine. [Download and print from [Connect2Aspire website](#)]
3. **Personal visual materials** – these are specific to each participant and can include printed pictures from the previous participatory photography session, pics from their personal archives, interesting snippets of visuals from illustrated magazines.
4. **Comments & questions board:** A large board visible for everyone, where during the workshop young people can go and pin questions, comments, thoughts, ideas. These will be discussed in the *Participants' feedback & wrap-up* session at the end.

5. **Creative DIY** materials - additional papers (white and coloured), pencils, markers, scissors, glue and a selection of illustrated magazines that are no longer needed (as material for collages), stickers

ZINE MAKING PROCESS

The zine making process will follow the steps on the aspirations zine. The facilitator can take inspiration from the cards which are also numbered to help keep track of the sequence; cards can be printed in several versions and spread around tables.

[Page 1] Self-portrait: The upper side of the zine focuses on the social roles performed by participants. Young people are asked to reflect on the roles that they play in their social milieu and rank them according to time spent in each; and then according to personal importance. The facilitator can probe the gaps between the first and second columns. The focus is then on the lower side of the first page, which invites participants to reflect on their inner feelings, preferences and qualities.

[Page 2] My social life: Asks participants to reflect on the role model that inspires them in life, and then on spaces and communities of belonging and not belonging. Bottom page focuses on social life online and enquires about fav media platforms, groups and activities.

[Page 3] Career aspiration pathway: First, young people are encouraged to think of their **dream profession** and the outcomes and rewards they associate with this. The facilitator should encourage them to be open about what they genuinely like to become, not yet about how achievable that might feel.

The next hotspots then focus young people's attention on achievable goals, starting with a key **Professional goal** that they feel able to reach out to. After defining that goal, participants think of the **Support** and sustenance they have available; and then on challenges and what they need in order to overcome challenges - **Support I need**.

[Page 4] My action plan: Invites young people to be proactive about their next steps. First, they are asked to picture a realistic landmark, an achievement threshold where they feel reinsured they are firmly on the path towards targeted aspirations. And then asked to track this back in time, first through some stepping stones leading to that outcome such as a specific set of skills, or education degree, or their first job. The page closes with the invitation to sketch or write the very next action they plan to do and put a date on it.

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK & WRAP-UP

At the end, the facilitator invites young people to share their impressions and take aways from this exercise, and any other comments on the experience. The post its or notes on the *Comments & questions* board can be used to stimulate discussion.