

If you're organising sport or leisure activities that include refugees or asylum seekers, conducting focus groups can help you connect with your target group and find out what they need BEFORE you start. Visit the Integration of Refugees Through Sport website irts.isca.org to download our full how-to guide, including tips on how to conduct your focus group, what to ask and how to follow up.

WHY CONDUCT FOCUS GROUPS?

"Moving beyond" in integration means working with refugees, not just for them. So listening to refugees' voices is critical. But focus groups are not just about learning from refugees – they can also empower refugees to choose how they participate in sport and even design their own activities.

WHO SHOULD YOU RECRUIT FOR YOUR FOCUS GROUP?

Focus groups aim at a certain degree of homogeneity among the participants – simply because people with similar backgrounds often have an easier time talking openly to each other. Consider conducting several focus groups including people from different ages, backgrounds, genders, etc.

WHERE AND HOW SHOULD YOU APPROACH THE PARTICIPANTS?

If you work directly with asylum seekers or refugees, personal contacts can help, as these will often be based on some degree of trust. If you don't, you may need a mediating link. This could be other sports or social organisations, refugee organisations, language schools and municipalities.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CONDUCT THE FOCUS GROUP?

Think about the refugees' schedules. If they are attending language school, have a job or have small children, certain times may be difficult. It is always a good idea to simply ask.

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WHEN SHOULD YOU NOT CONDUCT FOCUS GROUPS?

Focus groups take time and require commitment from the organiser to ensure that the results are taken seriously and are reflected in practice. If you don't have the time, don't rush it! Find the right moment, create an open forum for your participants and LISTEN.

HOW MANY SHOULD YOU RECRUIT?

Aim for 6-8 participants. This may mean trying to recruit 10 in case not all can make it on the day.

WHAT KIND OF VENUE SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR?

Try to find a large space that is private and removed from view of the authorities, so that the refugees feel free to express themselves. Provide drinks and snacks to support an informal, relaxed atmosphere.

HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE THE REFUGEES TO ACTUALLY ATTEND, ONCE THEY HAVE SIGNED UP?

Remember to get contact details (e.g. phone, email, WhatsApp or Facebook) so that you can send out reminders. Arrange for transportation (e.g. cars, public transport, bicycle) and consider picking your participants up and arriving together. Arrange other logistics like meals or childcare if relevant.

Learn more at irts.isca.org/movebeyond