**PCST 2016**

**Jack is late. Air pollution and health at a bus stop**

***Instructions***

**Introduction and objectives**

Jack is a young boy at a bus stop. He’s worried: the bus doesn’t arrive and he’s afraid to be late at school. His teacher will be angry. She will call the parents, who will get worried. And his friend Jimmy will be very disappointed not to get back his videogame.

That’s the first scene of an uncompleted theatre script, which develops through other four characters, entering the stage: Jack's teacher, a technician expert of environmental monitoring, a paediatrician, and the Mayor of the city. They all gather at the bus stop, reflecting on the air pollution and its effect on health, each from his/her own perspective.

The theatre script is the base for a 75 minutes laboratory to discuss about this topic in a simple, constructive and friendly way, with groups of people from different backgrounds and ages (max 25 participants), in a few steps: completion of the script by the participants themselves; performance; elaboration of final recommendations to improve the state of the local environment - and consequently of the health of its inhabitants; their dispatch via mail/local newspapers/social networks to the local decision makers.

The overall objective of the laboratory is to stimulate the discussion among people through a concrete action.

We imagine the theatre play to happen in a city, at a bus stop.

**The theatre laboratory in 4 moments**

The laboratory is organized in four moments:

1. **Presentation of the activity and groups organization (20 min)**

Having the draft of the script well in mind (see the script at the end of this explanation), the facilitator explains the laboratory; introduces the topic of environmental health, the characters who will perform and and the way the next hour will be organized.

He/she divides up the group in 5 sub-groups, corresponding to the 5 characters playing in the performance and gives to each group a symbol:

* Jack, a 11 years old Canadian boy (symbol: backpack and hat)
* Jack’s Teacher (symbol: class book)
* A technician expert of environmental monitoring (symbol: safety mask)
* A paediatrician (symbol: stethoscope/white coat)
* The Mayor of the city (symbol: stripe)

All the characters discuss at the bus stop about air pollution.

The facilitator distributes the script regarding each of the characters and explains that each group has 20 minutes to discuss what their character will say to the others, following the instruction on the paper. After completing their script, each group chooses the actor who will play the character.

The ideas discussed and written down in the first sheet will be followed by the suggestions to the Major to improve the environment and health (second sheet: *For these reason, Major, we recommend that…)*

1. **Script writing (30 min)**

The participants, divided into 5 groups, fill the two-pages script.

Each group discusses and fill the first page, starting from a single scene: a character arrives at the bus stop, and starts talking about air pollution.

In the first page, the group has to share and address the ideas in the shape of recommendation for the Mayor, who will arrive as last character on the stage.

1. **Performance (10 min)**

The moderator introduces the scene (see first page of the script) and acts as director, inviting on the scene the other actors in two round: during the first the actors read/play the first pages; in the second they come back on the stage in turns reading/playing the second pages. In this last round, the major stays on the scenes, listen to the recommendation of his/her citizens and reply.

1. **End of the event (10 min)**

The moderator writes the main recommendations on a poster and, in a final plenary session, typically a class, the participants vote their preferences to the best solutions to address the environmental problems linked to air pollution.

The recommendations are therefore ranked.

The performance can finish here, but much more effective is if the proponent of the event shares with the schools or the interest groups which took part of it a summary of the in the shape of a poster, a letter, a message on social media, are sent to the local administration or key-stakeholders to testimony the public engagement in environment and health.