



Activity N°20: Field work!

Production / Encounter
Romania / Belgium

Key words: *Terrain / Rencontre / Communauté*



Target groups:

- Journalism students
- Professional journalists

Duration:

- Introductory session: 60 minutes
- Investigation and production phase: timing to be determined according to context
- Closing session: 30 to 45 minutes

Context: Investigative activities like this one are perceived as an essential step in the media production process, encouraging journalists, whether students or professionals, to get out in the field and learn more about the communities that are the subject of their productions. This simple activity could be part of a broader media production series.

Objectives:

- **To get to know the social, cultural and political relations of groups or communities which suffer discrimination**
- **To gather documentation and establish a database of contacts in order to organise appropriate coverage of these groups**
- **To practise other methods of investigative journalism**

Equipment: As chosen by the participants.

Media Resources: By way of an introduction, some media items on the communities targeted during this activity could be collected.

Observations: Participants could be allowed to choose for themselves which groups or communities to investigate.

Organisation:

Class configuration	Time in minutes	Sequence of activities
GR	20'	Introduce the activity with a collective discussion about the target groups to be investigated (a Muslim women's football club, a local disabled sports club section, etc). Divide participants into sub-groups to deal with the different target groups.
PRS	20'	Identification by participants of their own individual and collective representations of the target group.
GR	15'	Finalise the timeframe and expectations of the phase involving the investigation of and meetings with the target groups.
PRS	No set time	Field investigation and production of a report: using investigative journalism methods and techniques, the various working groups get out in the field to investigate their target groups' social, cultural and political relations. They produce a report from an angle of their own choice.
PRS	No set time	Meet the target group again and present the report produced in order to obtain feedback from it (optional).
GR	30'	Close this investigative process with a debriefing session on the opportunities and obstacles encountered during this experience. Discuss potential changes in the representations conveyed.

Variants: For journalism students, the introductory session could include a methodological part on investigative journalism techniques. The whole process could also be organised entirely with the identified partner (meeting phase, production phase and evaluation phase).

Suggested follow-up activities:

Journalism's our job Unit: Activity n°18. *Behind the scenes*