


## Virtual Mind Map

 **Step:** Three - Explore more!

 **Time:** 1 hour

 **Space and materials:**

- Access to devices (computers, laptops or smartphones) and the Internet;
- Alternatively, big poster and markers, pencils, post-its.

 **Description of the tool**

The participants have collected a lot of information during their own research (in the activity *Online and Offline Research*) in advance. Now it needs to be structured and analysed.

1. Introduce the participants what a mind map is – a visual way to organise information around a central issue. The main issue is put in the centre, and sub-topics are identified and put around. Then each sub-topic is further developed under smaller topics/issues. Some levels might be presented as causes to the issue or factors influencing it. The mind maps need to be illustrated with different colours or connections. Show some existing mind maps to the participants, so they get an idea of how it looks and works.
2. Ask the participants to draw a common mind map, structuring the information they have collected in previous exercises. It can happen in two ways:

**Option 1:** *If participants have access to devices and the Internet, introduce free mind-mapping virtual platforms (we recommend <https://coggle.it/>, [www.mindmup.com](http://www.mindmup.com), [www.stormboard.com](http://www.stormboard.com)). You can also propose another online tool, but make sure it is free, and it allows real-time collaboration for multiple users. Another option is to let the participants research, propose and decide on the online tool they would like to use. If you go for this option, you can only start the process (it will take time to get to know the tool and set up the mind map), and the participants can work on it from a distance.*

**Option 2:** *Make it the old-fashioned way on paper with marker, post-its and pencils.*

3. When the map is ready, take time for everybody to review it carefully and debrief with exemplary questions:
  - Are you happy with the mind map and why?
  - How do you feel about the research now? Is it different than before the mind map was created and how?
  - Did you make any connections through the mind map that you didn't recognise before? What?
  - How is the mind map different from – let's say – a written report? What are the positives and negatives of each?
  - How do you feel about the collaboration of different people in one process? What are the positives of that? Are there negatives and what?
  - Do you understand the issue better now? How and why?
  - If you are to do it again, would it be different? How and why?

 **Additional remarks**

If you work on a virtual mind map which is recommended, you can include the following specific questions for debriefing:

- How do you feel about a collaborative online process?
- Technology can bring very positive tools that allow us to think, work and decide together. Do we use them enough and why?
- What other opportunities technological advances might give us to work on social issues?