

# Balloon



**Step:** Four - Look for solutions!



**Time:** 1 h, 30 min



**Space and materials requirement:**

- Large room;
- A variety of materials – plain and coloured paper, pencils, crayons, newspapers and magazines, string or rope, empty boxes, etc.



**Description of the tool**

1. Divide the participants into small groups and tell them that they have to build a hot air balloon representing their vision of a specific issue related to stuff they use. They should work on an issue they have explored in earlier activities and feel they would like to improve the present situation.
2. Instruct the participants that their balloons should include the following elements:
  - A **basket** representing the current situation of the issue the groups have chosen to solve;*
  - Envelope** representing the ideal situation of the issue;*
  - Burner** (stream of hot air) representing all factors enabling the balloon to fly;*
  - Pegs and ropes**, representing obstacles which hold the balloon on the ground and does not allow it to fly.*
3. Ask the participants to build the balloon out of different used materials: plastic bags, boxes (both paper and plastic), textiles, newspapers and magazines, etc. When all groups complete the task, invite them to show and share their thoughts in a plenary.
4. Invite the participants back to their groups to think of possible solutions to deal with the obstacles they have identified (in the form of pegs and ropes). One proposed solution allows the groups to cut either one rope or take away one peg holding the balloon on the ground. Groups have to think of as many solutions as they need to take out all pegs and cut all ropes, thus enabling their balloon to fly.
5. Ask the participants to present their solutions and symbolically cut ropes or remove pegs. Then discuss using the following questions:
  - What did you learn during the activity?
  - What is mostly needed to cope with the issue you have explored?
  - How do you see yourself in the process of coping with the issue?
  - How can you cooperate with your peers in order to contribute to making a difference towards the issue?