

SPEED DATING AND DESIGN THINKING TOOLS

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Content



Introduction



Understanding the Concepts



Lesson Learned



Recommendations



Speed Dating

>>>>> definition

Speed Dating is an innovative consultation tool designed to facilitate open and inclusive dialogue between decision-makers and diverse community members in small groups.

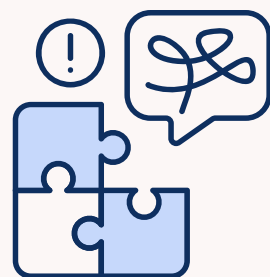
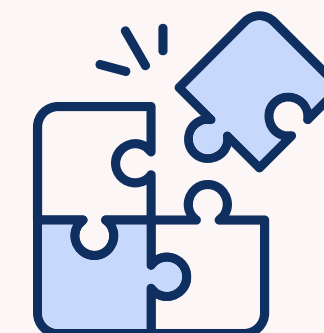
It enables rapid identification of **local problems and co-creation of solutions** with active participation from the community. This format can be effectively used during village gatherings or local meetings to strengthen engagement and responsiveness at the grassroots level.



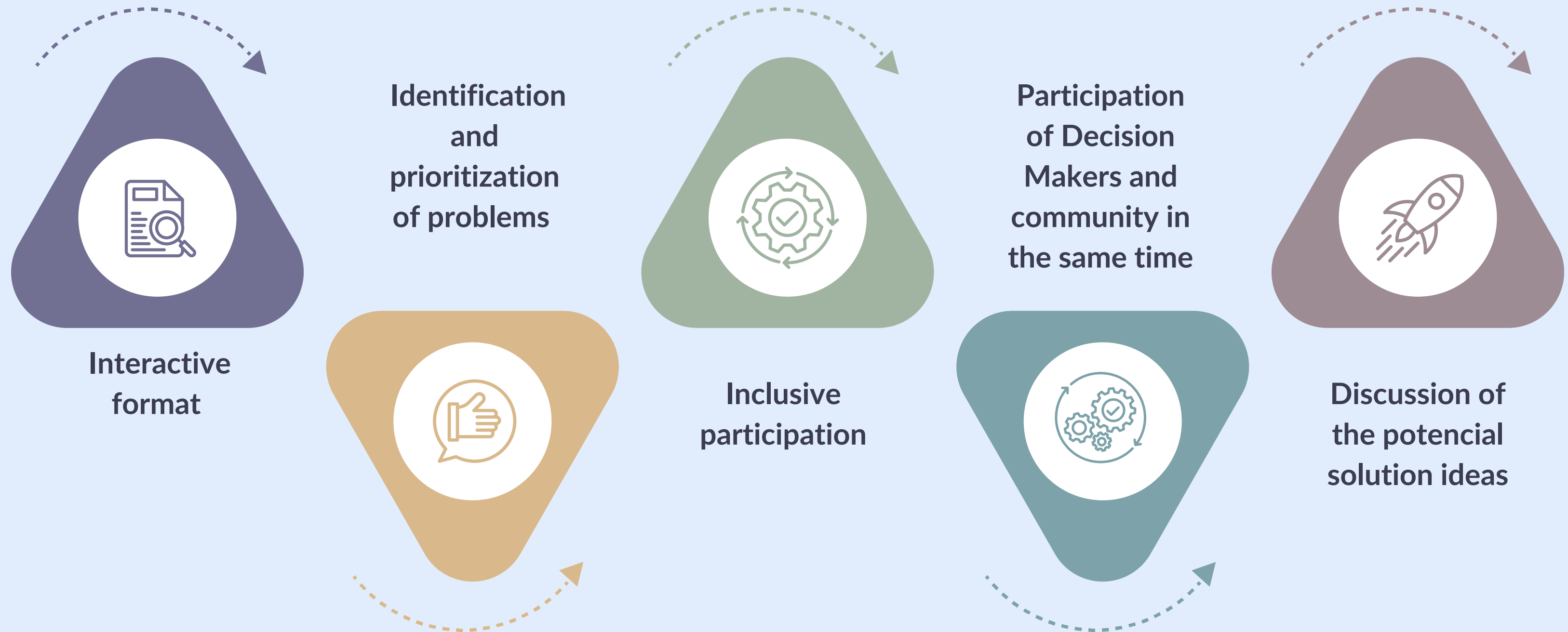


Main goal of the Speed Dating

Bring together diverse participants to share their ideas and, in a short amount of time, collectively identify key issues and potential solutions.



THE MAIN ADVANTAGES OF SPEED DATING



Participants of the Speed Dating



Decision-makers (authorities and institutions responsible for solving community problems)



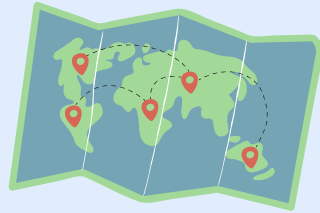
Community representatives (including those directly affected and usually excluded from decision-making).



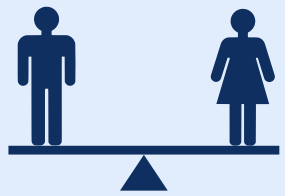
It is essential to invite specific community members to ensure accurate understanding of local issues.



Composition of participants



Before Speed Dating, map all relevant stakeholders.



Ensure diverse and gender-balanced participation (50% women and 50% men), including youth, persons with disabilities, minorities, and other community members.



Each rural district should involve 80–120 people, with proportional representation from all villages within it.



Basic rules for organizing a meeting

Prepare one main moderator and several facilitators (one per small group) for the speed dating consultations.

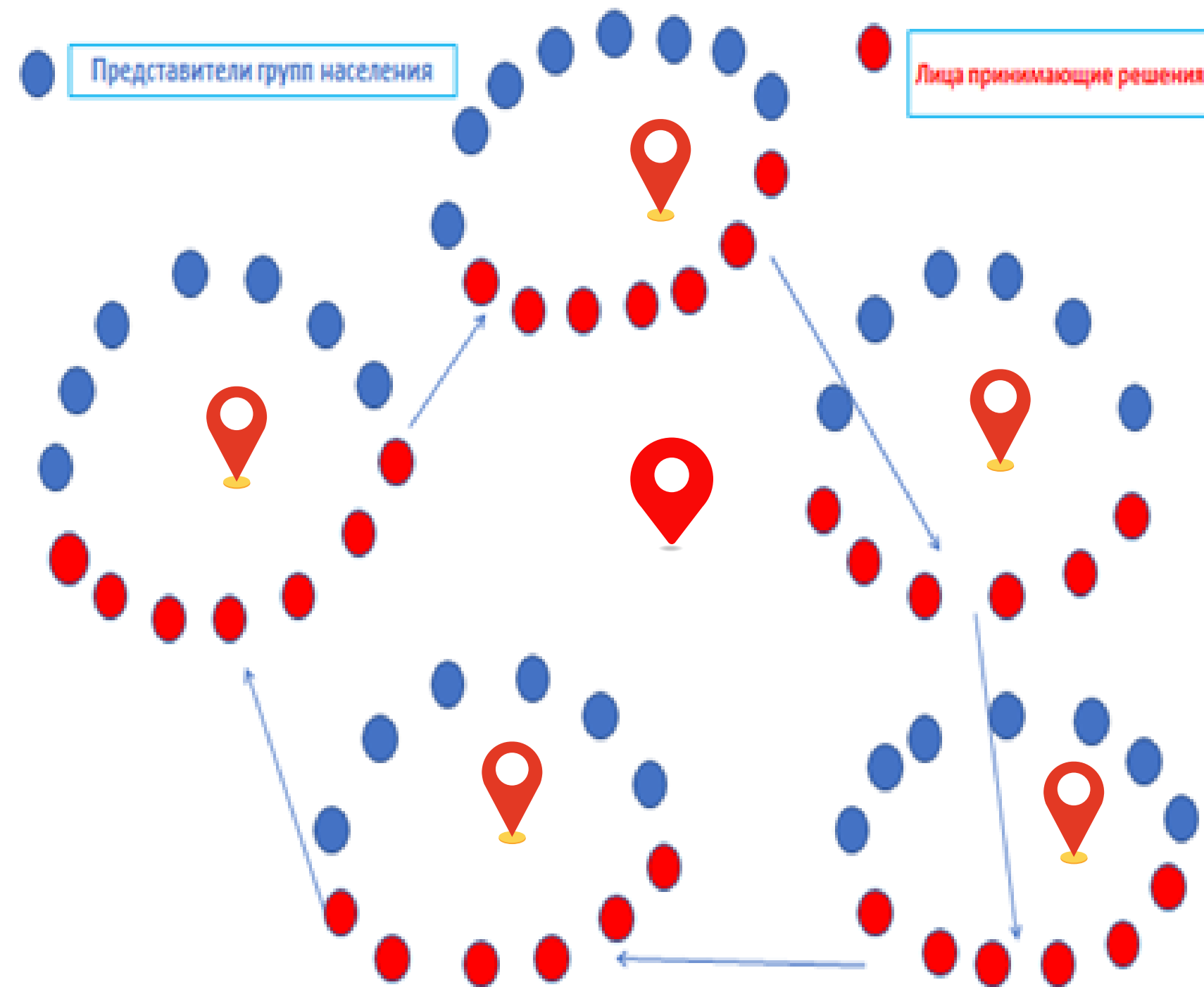
Moderator responsibilities:

- Open the session and welcome participants.
- Introduce all participants, including decision-makers (DMs).
- Explain the event's purpose, goals, and discussion rules.
- Keep track of time and ensure the session runs smoothly.

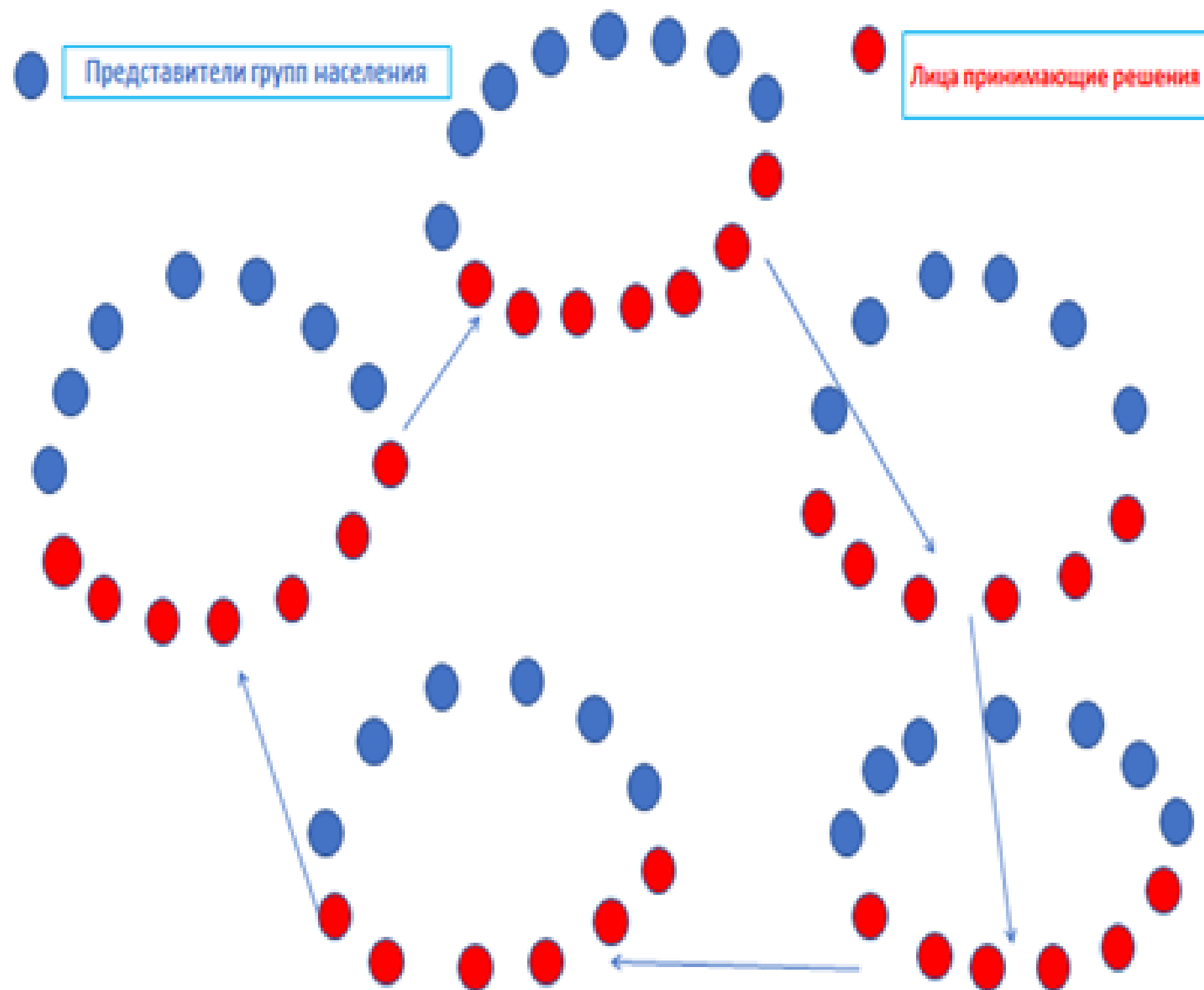
- Facilitators may include: local self-government representatives, local NGOs, community activists, or invited experts.

Facilitator responsibilities:

- Lead small group discussions in a circle format.
- Foster an open and inclusive discussion environment.



Basic rules for organizing a meeting



- Each small group: **should include 8 to 15 participants.**
- Total number of groups: should not exceed eight.
- Discussion rounds:
 - **Conduct 5–6 rounds.**
 - Each round lasts **15 to 20 minutes**, depending on the number of questions and groups.
- Decision-makers (DMs):
 - Divided into micro-teams, preferably **by functional area.**
 - Rotate between groups each round until they've joined all discussions.
- Facilitator preparation:
 - Have a list of DMs, **a session-specific discussion guide and a voice recorder.**
- Facilitation principles:
 - Ensure active participation.
 - Promote **a positive and trusting environment.**
 - Encourage collaboration between **communities and local/national authorities.**

PREPARATION STAGE OF THE SPEED DATING SESSIONS



SPEED DATING IMPLEMENTATION STAGE



01

Introduction



02

**5-6 rounds of
discussions**



03

**DM changes in
every round**

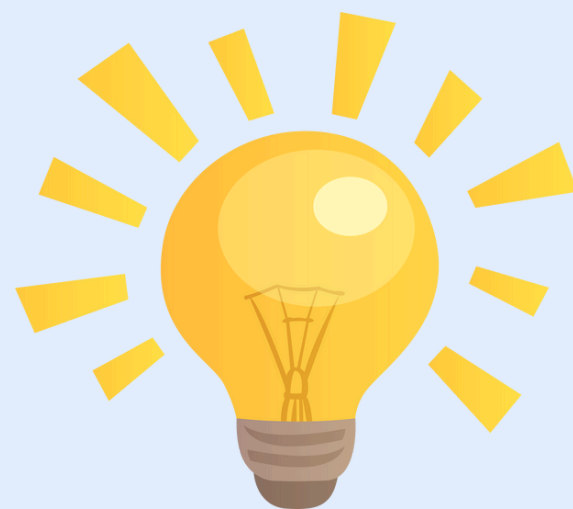


04

**All discussion should
be recorded with
participants consent**

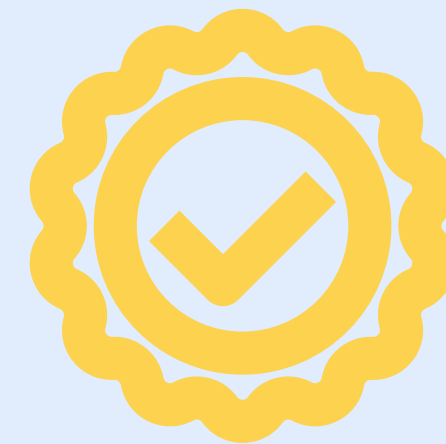
LESSON LEARNED

- **Practice before the event**
- **Appropriate venue**
- **Clear thematic focus**
- **Number of participants**
- **Provide clear instructions for moderators**



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Conduct a trial meeting**
- **Conduct role-playing exercises**
- **Provide sense of ownership**
- **Systematize Speed Dating process**



Design Thinking



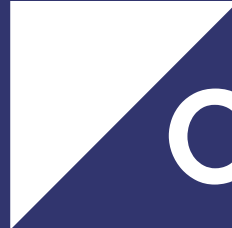
Design thinking is a human-centered approach to problem-solving that focuses on understanding users' needs, generating creative ideas, and rapidly prototyping and testing solutions.





Key characteristics:

- **User-focused:** Starts with empathy and deep understanding of the end-users.
- **Iterative:** Encourages testing and refining ideas through feedback.
- **Collaborative:** Involves cross-disciplinary teamwork.
- **Solution-oriented:** Aims to find innovative and practical solutions.



Common stages of design thinking:

- **Empathize** – Understand the needs and experiences of users.
- **Define** – Clearly articulate the problem to be solved.
- **Ideate** – Brainstorm a wide range of creative solutions.
- **Prototype** – Build simple models or versions of solutions.
- **Test** – Try out the prototypes, gather feedback, and refine

DESIGN THINKING FORMAT

Working in groups



Each group works
on different
problems



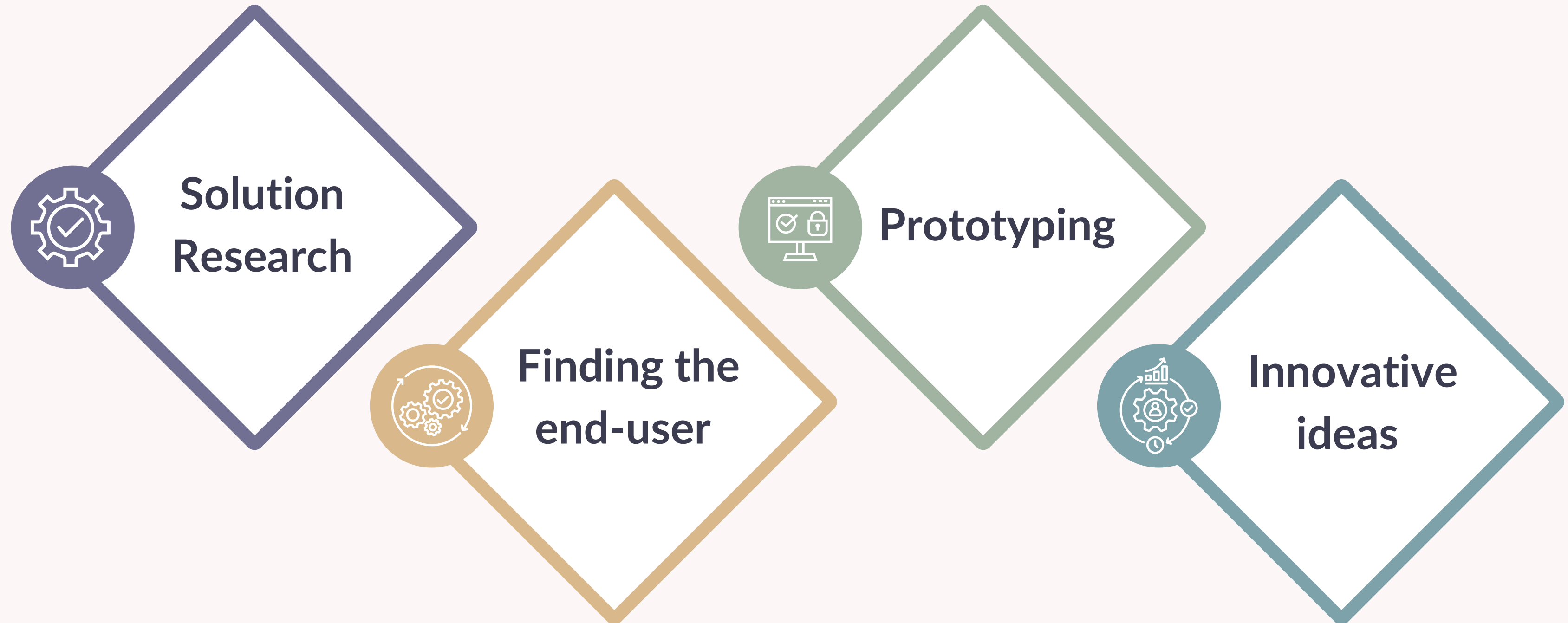
Each groups
studies the
problems in detail



Prototype the
solutions and
presenting ideas,



DESIGN THINKING ADVANTAGES

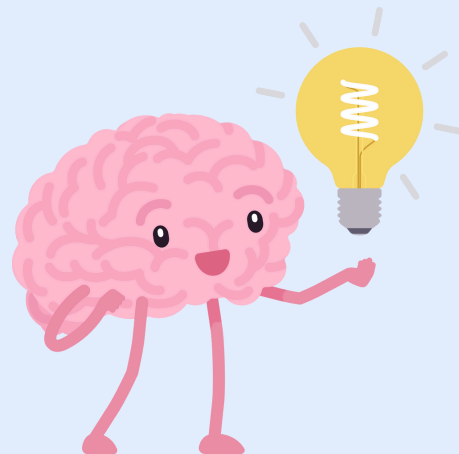


Lesson learned and Recommendations

New topics should be introduced to the audience, such as climate change adaptation and innovative approaches.

More youth should be invited

More real-life stories should be shared.





Thank
you