

AIDS

The Join In Circuit on AIDS, Love & Sexuality

The “Join In Circuit on AIDS, Love & Sexuality” (JIC) is an interactive educative methodology of HIV prevention combining games, role play, discussion and exhibition. Developed, tested and evaluated by the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) the JIC has continually proven its success with groups of young people in Germany since 1995. In 2002/2003 with GTZ’s partners in Ethiopia, El Salvador, Mongolia, Mozambique and the Russian Federation the JIC was adapted to the cultural backgrounds and needs in these countries.

During the circuit groups of maximal 10 participants move through an exhibition of five or more stations each of which addresses a sensitive topic. At each station a facilitator guides the participants using different interactive methods and making sure that discussions take place in a trustful, non-judgemental way. In only 90 minutes at least 50 participants can complete the JIC. The quality of facilitation at each station is the key factor ensuring factual learning as well as an emotionally moving experience. It is the playful atmosphere allowing young people to ask the questions they didn’t dare asking before that makes the JIC so effective in reaching the participants’ attitudes and prompting critical reflection – as opposed to mere information uptake.

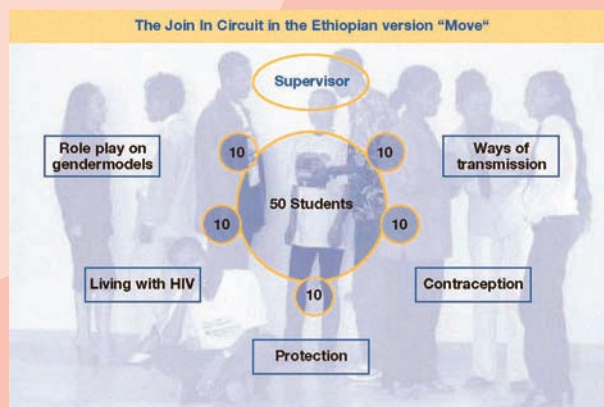
The **Core Stations** of the JIC comprise

- HIV transmission channels
- Love, sexuality and protection from HIV
- Contraception
- Body language
- Living with HIV (Solidarity)

According to the specific needs in different adaptations stations with the following topics were added: Condom use, Gender relations, Sexually transmitted diseases, Values and love.

The JIC should be integrated in a wider HIV prevention strategy and should be complemented and reinforced by coherent messages through mass communication, sex education in and out of school and other media.

The Join In Circuit in the Ethiopian version “Move“



Benefits of the Methodology JIC

- The enthusiastic reception of the JIC by participants and the media convinces decision makers to invest in the extension of the JIC.
- Via training, supervision and experiential learning innovative know-how is passed on to partners.
- The JIC enhances capacity development of partner organisations in facilitation and project management including quality assurance.
- The JIC has a high potential for a positive impact on national HIV prevention strategies and sex education in general.

GTZ’s approaches and their results

After the pilot adaptation in the above mentioned countries, GTZ has supported partners in implementing the Join In Circuit in 13 additional countries with very different cultural settings and audiences. GTZ can draw upon

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an extensive fund of experience in training using participatory methods, institutional strengthening, monitoring & evaluation and facilitation of networks. By now hundreds of thousands of young participants have gone through the JIC, and evaluation results show a very positive response not only by participants but also by implementing organizations, teachers and parents.

In **Mozambique** the JIC is being implemented as **FAÇA COMIGO o PERCURSO** since 2003. It is integrated in the National AIDS Strategy and is appreciated by the National AIDS Council and the Ministry of Education as an effective means of awareness raising. A study showed that the JIC contributes to knowledge transfer and a more realistic risk perception, especially in young women, while still too many young men underestimate their risk and consequently do not take protection seriously enough.

By mid 2007 a total of around **150 thousand young people** have participated in the JIC in Mozambique. Recently it has been extended to companies, especially those that have an HIV Workplace Programme in place.

In the **Russian Federation** the JIC is implemented as **Marshrut Besopasnosti** (Safe Path) in 6 regions and regularly monitored by the Evaluation Institute of the Ministry of Education.



Condom Demonstration in the Mongolian Army

In **Ecuador** the JIC was introduced as **Recorrido Participativo** in the framework of the HIV prevention component funded by the Global Fund Grant. In 2006/07 more than 130,000 adolescents in 216 high schools participated in the programme, showing considerable progress in the post tests not only concerning knowledge but also attitudes. Teachers and parents commented the positive effects of the interactive methodology on the learning process and noted that it facilitated them to talk to their children about sexuality.

GTZ's service package

GTZ offers a service package to public and private clients in governmental and non-governmental organisations, especially those who deal with adolescents and young adults in and out of school. It can also be used with any other social or professional group, e.g. teachers, police, or military recruits.

Once a partner organization has decided to develop an adapted version of the JIC, GTZ's consulting services comprise the preparation of the implementation process through a master trainer including:

- Identification of a local partner organisation who assumes ownership, preferably with an existing team of facilitators experienced in participatory training methods;
- Identification of sustainable funding sources for a medium to long-term project;
- Careful adaptation of the existing JIC to the needs of the respective audience in consultation with all stakeholders involved;
- Design and implementation of ongoing evaluation and quality assurance measures;
- Intensive training of facilitators in participatory methods;
- Ongoing adaptation of the JIC based on supervision and monitoring;
- Refresher training and replacement of facilitators if needed.

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Imprint 11/07

Publishers:

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