

# Fishbowl in Teaching

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# Fishbowl Method

## What and Why?

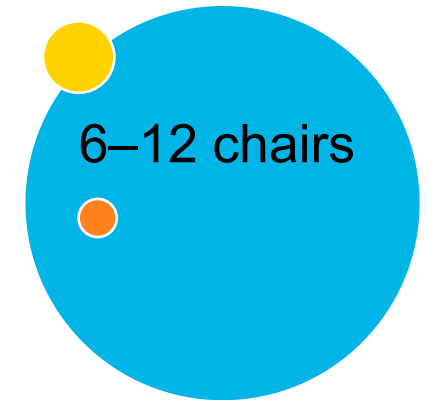
- ❑ It's a different way of doing a discussion with a group of people, richer, allows for group dynamics
- ❑ Its suitable for many topics, especially those accommodating many perspectives and opinions
- ❑ Hence, its eminently suitable for aspects of sustainable food systems
- ❑ Can be very useful as a pre-assignment activity



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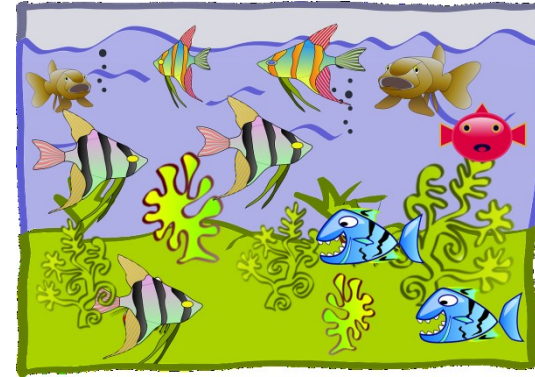
## How, Who and Where?

- Set up a circle of chairs inward-facing in a room (the fishbowl) and enough room outside of the circle for the observers to stand (they „look into the fishbowl“)
- Part of the group enter the fishbowl (the “fish”) and only they actively discuss the topic with each other
- The other part of the group (the “observers”) actively listen
- Debrief after the discussion



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## Guidelines and Rules



- Prepare ideas and questions in advance (students)
- Structure by „switching“: All „fish“ leave the fishbowl and become „observers“ and vice versa [closed fishbowl]
- Structure by „tapping“: „observers“ can enter the fishbowl at any time by tapping a „fish“ on the shoulder to take his/her place [open fishbowl]
- Structure by „tapping“: Additionally, you can start with 1-2 empty chairs
- Structure by „feeding“: the „observers“ can ask also questions but only the „fish“ can answer and discuss



# How to use the Fishbowl Method in tertiary education



# Fishbowl Method

**So now let's try it out in this Session ...**



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# Thank you!

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The image shows the TEFSI logo, which features a green brain icon composed of leaf-like shapes above the text "tefsi" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text "Transformation of European Food Systems towards Sustainability by Transnational, Innovative Teaching" is written in a smaller green font. To the right of this text is the European Union flag, a blue rectangle with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. Below the flag, the text "Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union" is written in a blue font. The entire graphic is set against a white background with blue diagonal stripes and a blue hatched pattern at the bottom.

# Resource and Reference List

Resources when using the Fishbowl Method:

- RMIT University in Australia has a Learning Design Pattern Collection which includes “Fishbowl” and is available here: <https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learningpatterns/content/discussion-structure-fishbowl>
- The entry is part of a comprehensive library of methods about learning – visit it and look around for many more approaches: <https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/learningpatterns/content/design-patterns>
- Wageningen University in the Netherlands describes this tool and offers an own and a UNHR version downloads here: <http://www.mspguide.org/tool/fish-bowl> - you can find more methods at this site too
- Another easy explanation can be found on this teachers’ site: Fishbowl Discussions: from Setting up the ,Basic Bowl‘ to creating a ,Fancy Aquarium‘ <https://rpscriculumandinstruction.weebly.com/tools-tips--tricks/fishbowls>