TMC - QUALITATIVE RESEARCH - ONE ON ONE INTERVIEWS

TMC proposed an ethical code of conduct for the research work package in July 2016. Here it is:

1. PROJECT PURPOSE

"RC entails interacting with different target audiences especially to build connectivity between new coming migrants and settled inhabitants of multicultural communities..."
(RC PROJECT DESCRIPTION)

2. DEFINITION OF MIGRATION AND MIGRANTS

Migration is an important factor in the erosion of traditional boundaries between languages, cultures, ethnic group, and nation- states. Even those who do not migrate are affected by movements of people in or out of their communities, and by the resulting changes. Migration is not a single act of crossing a border, but rather a lifelong process that affects all aspects of the lives of those involved. (UNESCO)

The term migrant is defined by UNESCO as "any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country. According to some states' policies, a person can be considered as a migrant even when s/he is born in the country.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants defines a migrant worker as a "person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national." From this a broader definition of migrants follows:

"The term 'migrant' in article 1.1 (a) should be understood as covering all cases where the decision to migrate is taken freely by the individual concerned, for reasons of 'personal convenience' and without intervention of an external compelling factor."

This definition indicates that migrant does not only refer to refugees, displaced or others forced or compelled to leave their homes. Migrants are also people who make choices about when to leave and where to go, even though these choices are sometimes extremely constrained.

The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights has proposed that the following people should be considered as migrants:

(a) People who are outside the territory of the State of which they are nationals or citizens, are not subject to its legal protection and are in the territory of another State;
(b) People who do not enjoy the general legal recognition of rights which is inherent in the granting by the host State of the status of refugee, naturalized person or of similar status;

(c) People who do not enjoy either general legal protection of their fundamental rights by virtue of diplomatic agreements, visas or other agreements.

The dominant forms of migration can be distinguished according to the motives (economic, family reunion, refugees) or legal status (irregular migration, controlled emigration / immigration, free emigration / immigration) of those concerned.

Most countries distinguish between a number of categories in their migration policies and statistics. The variations existing between countries means that there are no objective definitions of migration: what follows is a more common categorisation of international migrants:

a) **Temporary labour migrants** also known as guest workers or overseas contract workers: people who migrate for a limited period of time in order to take up employment and send money home;

b)Highly skilled and business migrants people with qualifications as managers, executives, professionals, technicians or similar, who move within the internal labour markets of trans-national corporations and international organisations, or who seek employment through international labour markets for scarce skills;

c) **Irregular migrants** or undocumented / illegal migrants: people who enter a country, usually in search of employment, without the necessary documents and permits;

d) **Forced migration** in a broader sense, this includes not only refugees and asylum seekers but also people forced to move due to external factors, such as environmental catastrophes or development projects. This form of migration has similar characteristics to displacement;

e) **Family members** or family reunion / family reunification migrants: people sharing family ties joining people who have already entered an immigration country under one of the above mentioned categories;

f) **Return migrants** people who return to their countries of origin after a period in another country.

We propose that RC Partners use these six definitions for the purpose of the programme's research activity and wider project programme.

3. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL PRACTICE

Ethical issues arise as an everyday part of participatory research work with vulnerable groups. If these issues are not given due consideration, prior to as well as during a project, there is the potential for the project to do more harm than good. The purpose of this section is to:

- highlight the full range of potential issues that might arise in the project;

- make others, particularly funders, facilitators and partner organisations, aware of the typical ethical issues that arise;
- demonstrate the standards that we regard as responsible practice;
- create a framework for discussing and agreeing procedures for managing ethical issues.

We believe that being open and alert to these issues and allowing time for discussion and reflection is the best starting point for good practice. This document outlines five broad core principles of good practice which will span work.

It then sets out seven further areas of concern, detailing related guiding standards of practice that we will use.

3.1 Terminology We are committed to working with groups who are excluded from mainstream provision, policies and opportunities. We use the terms *vulnerable* and *marginalised* as a planning concept rather than as a means to engage participants. We acknowledge that these terms are politically charged, and that it's important to understand the wider causes of vulnerability as well as the individual symptoms. Equally important, we recognise that no group is homogenous in its needs.

3.2. Representation We will aim to allow project participants to define and represent themselves and to frame the issues that affect them. We will acknowledge and support individual voices and recognise that a person's situation will affect the nature of their participation.

3.3. *Flexibility* We will work flexibly and adapt project design and methodology as required in order to suit the needs of participants and the project context. The guiding ethos of our work is to use arts and culture to build skills and confidence, and to act as a platform for participants to represent themselves and document their views and ideas to others.

3.4. *Labelling* We recognise that participation in projects can have contradictory effects. Like most social interventions, this project uses social categories of need to define the groups we work with. This helps us to identify and reach communities and to adapt our methodology appropriately. However, for the participant this can bring an unwanted social label. We will aim to support groups to challenge traditional/negative representations and put forward alternatives.

3.5. The project process The research process centres around the involvement of participants in cultural activity – but it is also more than that. It involves learning to express opinions, to interpret and discuss cultural form, to work as part of a group, to listen to others, to develop ideas and a voice, to edit, to identify and define audience and message. All these elements are an equally important part of the process and the route to self-expression and advocacy.

4. CORE PRINCIPLES

I. *CHOICE* We will always provide participants with clear choices about the content of their work including the right to withdraw from part or all of project activities, at all times.

II. CREATIVITY We believe that creativity is the lifeblood of participatory research projects. The creative space needs to be protected and respected for

projects to flourish.

III. *PARTNERSHIP* We will always work in partnership with a local organisation that is engaged in long-term development work with the participant group; that understands its needs; can provide ongoing support to participants throughout the project; and that is committed to the participatory process.

IV. *SUSTAINABILITY* We aim to build projects that are sustainable and have long-term impact beyond our direct involvement. This is achieved by for example training and building the capacity of locally based staff and facilitators, building localised project networks and supporters, ensuring equipment continues to be available, and building sustainability measures into project design and activities.

V. *CULTURAL SENSITIVITY* We aim to ensure that all the project is culturally sensitive and appropriate. We aim to work with and train local cutural facilitators where possible; use locally-relevant datas; use culturally sensitive codes of behaviour and language in research activities; and be sensitive to local customs around for example, data collection and content.

5. KEY AREAS OF ETHICAL CONCERN

5.1. PROTECTION

The protection of participants' best interests is of paramount importance throughout all phases of the project.

5.1.1. *Risk* Participation in a project can entail a level of risk for participants. The risk varies depending on individuals and circumstances, and can be emotional, psychological, political, economic, cultural, social or physical. We aim to provide a research space which is sensitive to these factors, and which can be enjoyed as a safe space by participants.

5. 1.2. *Ground rules* All our research activities will begin by setting project ground rules. These rules reflect expectations and standards from all sides around behaviour and participation. This process involves RiskChange, the partner, facilitators, support workers and participants.

5.1.3. *Choices* Our research activities, based on consultation with the partner organisation and project participants, are likely to follow broad themes. The themes act as a framework for participants to explore ideas and develop a personal creative voice. In the case of advocacy- based projects, the themes are often issue-based. We will support participants to express their feelings, ideas, opinions and experiences in relation to these issues. No participant will ever experience pressure to produce particular content or reveal material that they would prefer to remain private and no participant will ever be required or obliged to create work based on events in their lives. Choices over content will be regularly reviewed and discussed.

5.1.4. *Caution*. When working with individuals who have experienced trauma or mental illness, caution is exercised to ensure participants are emotionally protected, particularly if they are producing research data based on personal experiences. There should be a trained support worker available at all times, to provide participants with professional guidance if needed.

5.1.5. *Confidentiality* All projects should be undertaken in the spirit of confidentiality with the understanding that anything discussed in the workshop is private to the group. It should be noted that in practice it is not realistic to *guarantee* confidentiality to participants.

5.1.6 *Anonymity* Some participants want their identity in the project to remain anonymous. We will offer participants a range of options to protect their identities. However, it isn't possible to *guarantee* anonymity as other participants can disclose participant identities.

1.7. *Child protection* Full child protection policies and procedures will be followed at all times. All facilitators on the project will have received a full CRB check (in the UK), and training in protection procedures.

5.2. WELL-BEING

The promotion of participants' well-being is the principal concern of all projects.

5.2.1. *Managing expectations* It is important that a project doesn't unrealistically raise participants' expectations. From the outset participants need to know the timetable, the end point, and what the project is likely to mean for them in concrete terms. They should never to be led to believe that their circumstances will be dramatically or immediately changed by being involved.

5.2.2. *Closure* It is important to provide a sense of closure to a project. Group bonds can become strong and the sense of group identity important. Projects should provide activities that are specifically geared towards preparing participants for the end of the project.

5.2.3. *Exit strategies*. There will be planned exit strategies for all participants who are interested in continuing their involvement, and opportunities for them to participate in any appropriate/ available support networks.

5.2.4. *Equal Opportunities* Projects can contribute to uneven access to resources at a community level. This can create tensions, when some people have access to project benefits and others don't. While such problems can't necessarily be avoided, it is important that they are not over-looked.

5.3. CONTROL AND DECISION-MAKING

Participatory research projects are a meeting point for multiple agendas including those of participants, facilitators, funders and partner organisations. It is important that key project decisions are discussed, that decision-making is transparent, and that the interests of participants are prioritised at all times.

5.3.1. *Information*. Participants should be provided with clear and regular information about the project, its purpose, key activities and about data use. Any pre-agreed objectives should be communicated simply and clearly to participants from the outset.

5.3.2. *Ownership*. Many projects culminate in a public or targeted exhibition of

participants' work. This is an exciting time in a project, when participants feel a sense of pride and validation. But it can also bring tensions and pressure. There are natural anxieties about public exposure; detailed decisions around editing and data use; protection considerations; and wider issues about communications and public messages. It is important that participants remain informed, engaged in the decision making process, and retain a sense of ownership over their work.

5.3.3. *Informed consent* Participants are required to give their informed consent around data use. We will view consent as a process rather than a one-off decision or paper exercise and acknowledge that a notion of 'informed' consent is complex. One-to-one sessions with participants are a key part of this process.

5.3.4. *Copyright* Copyright is owned exclusively by the participants. All our project participants are asked to sign a consent agreement, which states in simple language the different options for consent around data use. Participants will be given guidance in their choices by the partner organisation, and where appropriate by an external party with relevant expertise, to ensure that due consideration is given to protection issues. Consent is also sought from parents / guardians for participants under the age of 18. There will be cases in which individuals are not able to give appropriately informed consent. In these cases their data will not be shown publicly. Participants have the right to withdraw their usage permissions and their data from our archive at any point.

5.3.5. *Income* Clear guidelines for income generated through the sales of participant's datas and the procedure for remittance of income must be established at the onset of a project.

5. 4. PUBLIC EXPOSURE

Projects which have a public element to them bring rewards as well as risks. It is the responsibility of our partners to put participants' well-being and safety first.

5.4.1. *Protection* It is vital that participants are given an understanding of the public environment in which their work will be displayed, as well as the potential consequences and impact – positive and negative – of their work being seen in public. All participants need to be provided with clear choices about whether and how their work is seen in public. There are cases where public exposure can jeopardise a person's safety, well-being, or entitlement to privacy. We will offer participants a range of options and methods of protection. We always work closely with the partner organisation in advising participants in their decisions.

5.4.2. *Media* A project with a public dimension often attracts media attention. The media may have its own agenda and ideas about how to represent a project and the participants. Engaging with the media requires a very careful and sensitive approach. It is important to allow time to discuss media work with participants, and to explore the risks and benefits. Participants should never experience pressure to do media work or interviews. A participant who is interviewed by the press needs to always be appropriately prepared and supported.

5.4.3. *Support.* Public exposure can be a thrilling experience for participants. Once it is all over, there can be a sense of disappointment and frustration if nothing material has changed. It is important that the participants are well supported thorough the

process.

5.5. FACILITATION

A facilitator is many things: educator, motivator, negotiator, guide, artist, role mode and mentor. They are often the lynchpin of a project, acting as the interface between the project management and the participants.

5.5.1. *Professional* A facilitator is skilled in the methodologies of participatory cultural practive, and may have limited knowledge of the issues that affect the participants. A good facilitator will be open, flexible and supportive towards participants, and will always maintain clear professional boundaries. A facilitator should be aware of their professional limits and not adopt the role of a therapist or social worker to participants.

5.5.2. *Skills.* The participatory process requires constant nurturing and support from facilitators. As far as possible, RiskChange will use at least two facilitators per workshop – one of who may be from the partner organisation – so that they can provide support to each other and to the group. We will always employs a lead facilitator with proven experience of using participatory cultural practice with vulnerable groups.

5.5.3. *Training.* A professional facilitator will be unbiased in their relationships with the group, sensitive to group dynamics, and aware of his/her own feelings towards the group. We are committed to supporting facilitators throughout the project. We provide pre- project training, which includes techniques for responsible, self-aware practice. We also provide ongoing opportunities for facilitators to reflect on their practice, and discuss any emotional or personal issues arising out of the project.

5.5.4. *Professional Research Conduct* All researchers will protect the integrity and reputation of the research by ensuring they conduct their research to the highest standards. Researchers must therefore not bring research into disrepute by, for example:

- Falsifying research evidence or findings;
- 'Sensationalizing' findings in a manner that sacrifices intellectual capital for maximum public exposure;
- Distorting findings by selectively publishing some aspects and not others;
- Criticizing other researchers in a defamatory or unprofessional manner;
- Exploiting the conditions of work and roles of contract research staff;
- Undertaking work for which they are perceived to have a conflict of interest or where self-interest or commercial gain might be perceived to compromise the objectivity of the research;
- Undertaking work for which they are not competent;
- Using work carried out with co-researchers as the basis of individual outputs without the agreement of the co-researchers concerned;
- Using research for fraudulent or illegal purposes.

5.6. PROJECT PARTNERS

A strong, open partnership between RiskChange and its partner organisation is the foundation for a successful project. RiskChange works with partners that are committed to the participatory ethos and process and that can provide support to project participants throughout the project

and beyond.

5.6.1. *Support* Participation needs support from not just from facilitators but from a project worker who knows the group and whom the group can trust. The partner organisation should designate a member of staff as responsible for the project and there should be a support worker available for workshops and meetings with participants.

5.6.2. *Participants* Facilitators treat participants first and foremost as creative individuals. Facilitators do not generally need to know personal details about participants, but it is useful if they have a broad understanding of the group's needs. The project partner should provide RiskChange with background information about the group before the project begins.

5.6.3. *Follow up* Participation in a project can give rise to a range of new feelings and aspirations. The partner organisation will often lead on planning for any follow-up support needed as a result of participation during the project, including identifying potential suitable support networks.

This was disseminated to the partners management group and all partners for their endorsement. As a result of this,a ll partners agreed to inform the partners management group about the specific migrants group that they would be researching. It became clear through this process, and consultations with our partners at the University of Leicester that the proposed questionnaire presented to partners in July 2016 would be an inappropriate tool for the engagement of certain groups of migrants.

- A delivery partnership with ArtReach was agreed which enabled TMC to deliver its research targets (60 participants who have recently arrived in the region) by 31 August 2017. 20 were delivered by the end of June; 20 will be delivered by the end of July and the final 20 were completed at the end of August.
Transcripts of these intereviews are available if required.