<table>
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<th><strong>Open Space</strong></th>
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| **Purposes and results** | The creation of self-managed meetings that generate high levels of ownership  
  Exploration of plans and possibilities  
  Initiation of new networks/taskforces/actiongroups around topics |
| **When to use** | Resolving complex or conflict-ridden issues in a short period of time  
  When innovation and ownership are the desired outcomes  
  Creating community spirit  
  Exploring and planning new possibilities for action |
| **Group size** | 10 - > 1000 (limited only by the size of venue) |
| **Participants** | All stakeholders interested, whoever comes are the right people |
| **Length** | 1 – 3 days |
| **Preparation time** | As long as it takes to invite and get people into the venue (1 day - ....) |
| **Elements** | Central theme is predefined  
  Plenary session in a circle  
  Facilitator lays out format and ground rules  
  Generation of themes and making an agenda  
  Working in self-organising small groups  
  Marketplace to share results  
  Plenary session for prioritizing issues and developing action plans |
| **Characteristics** | Minimal structure, simple rules, emerging contents  
  Maximum self-organisation of participants  
  Facilitator is as much as possible “invisible”  
  Set of reports is ready for all participants at the end of the event |
| **Conditions for success** | Voluntary self-selection for participation  
  People are able to self-organise; whatever happens is the only thing that could happen  
  Keep it simple |
| **Developer** | Harrison Owen |

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