

MEETING ENTRY PRACTICES

While working, an invisible bond and empathy formed between us. The loose structure of meetings, the fluidity of roles, the openness to changes - these are a few associations that come to my mind when I think about how our zooms used to begin.

The first practice for starting meetings that I recall were rounds (I like the name "emorounds"). They've helped me to understand the energy of the group and what the dynamics of our work would be that day.

We are from different cities, from different worlds. **A few words at the beginning of a meeting allowed us to look behind the scenes of each other's daily lives,** to get to know "what's up". In the first weeks of our work it also helped us to get to know each other better. I remember very well my stress related to new acquaintances made on zoom. Talking about everyday life and our mood brought us closer together.

The second practice was working with imagination. Perhaps it came up because of the artistic background of some of us? Or maybe it was needed in order to overcome the difficulty of describing feminist terms only verbally. We looked for metaphors, images appeared, visualisations, exercises that I associate with "starting". First, it was often simple tasks that sparked creative imagination which then activated the next stages of work.

The third practice was the assignment of variable roles - the rotation of who runs the meeting, who takes notes, who moderates. I felt that our way of working was slipping out from the rules of classical work organisation. There was something empathetic about it, not task-based. "Checking" who could take care of particular activities today brought something inclusive and democratising our process.

When I think about how I start meetings in many teams/collectives, my first association is stress. How's it going to be? What's going to happen? Have I forgotten something? **The understanding and gentleness of our practices were giving me peace.**