



# OpenSpace™

**The most important often happens during the break, some of the most important discussions happen during the break! –**

I'm drinking coffee next to a colleague from abroad, who's talking about a research idea and a suggestion of him ultimately led to the right study protocol ... Or: I have a similar idea right now. Perhaps....?

The value of this process of informal discussion away from the main congress platform was first realised in the 1980s.

Thereafter it was scientifically analysed and systematically integrated in congress structures. Since then it has been applied during major business congresses in the form of „**Open Space™ Technology**“, enabling the valuable experiences that every participant brings to the congress to be effectively utilised. Some innovative ideas having been put forward in this way have gone on to break new ground in the world of health.

Congress or workshop in the form of a chat over coffee? The idea of a relaxed chat is part of the Open Space™ concept: an opportunity for everyone to share important experiences and find answers to burning questions. The process itself follows a clearly defined structure that regulates the orderly exchange of information, ensures listeners' free choice, and collects „gems“ in the form of a summary. Trained moderators accompany the process, provide assistance and draw attention to the rules.

Thus the coffee break is turned into a serious, professional, goal-oriented exchange of ideas among colleagues.

## **The Procedure**

- 1. Write your topic on the notice board or choose an existing topic.**
- 2. Join your topic group.**
- 3. Observe the 4 Open Space™ rules and the Law of Two Feet.**
- 4. Participate in summarising the 'Highlights of the Day'.**

## **The Rules**

- 1. Whoever comes are the right people.**
- 2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.**
- 3. Whenever it starts is the right time.**
- 4. When it's over, it's over.**

## **The Law of Two Feet**

**If you are interested in the topic – stay, learn and participate.**

**If you are not or no longer interested – use your two feet and move to another place making a difference.**

The Open Space process is self-organising and promotes individual responsibility: You are the master of your own programme and your own experience. Plus: It ensures that only those who are interested participate in the discussion.