

BALANCE WHEEL

In teaching profession, we are facing complex settings, which are addressed by diverse methods and approaches to professional learning. Learning needs to be intentional focused and shared. It is about stopping for a moment and thinking about our professional path in different stages of one's career.

In our workshop, we will look upon different views on professional learning and try to identify some crucial processes, which influence our learning. We will put special emphasis on different approaches to encourage and facilitate professional learning in school context.

Goals:

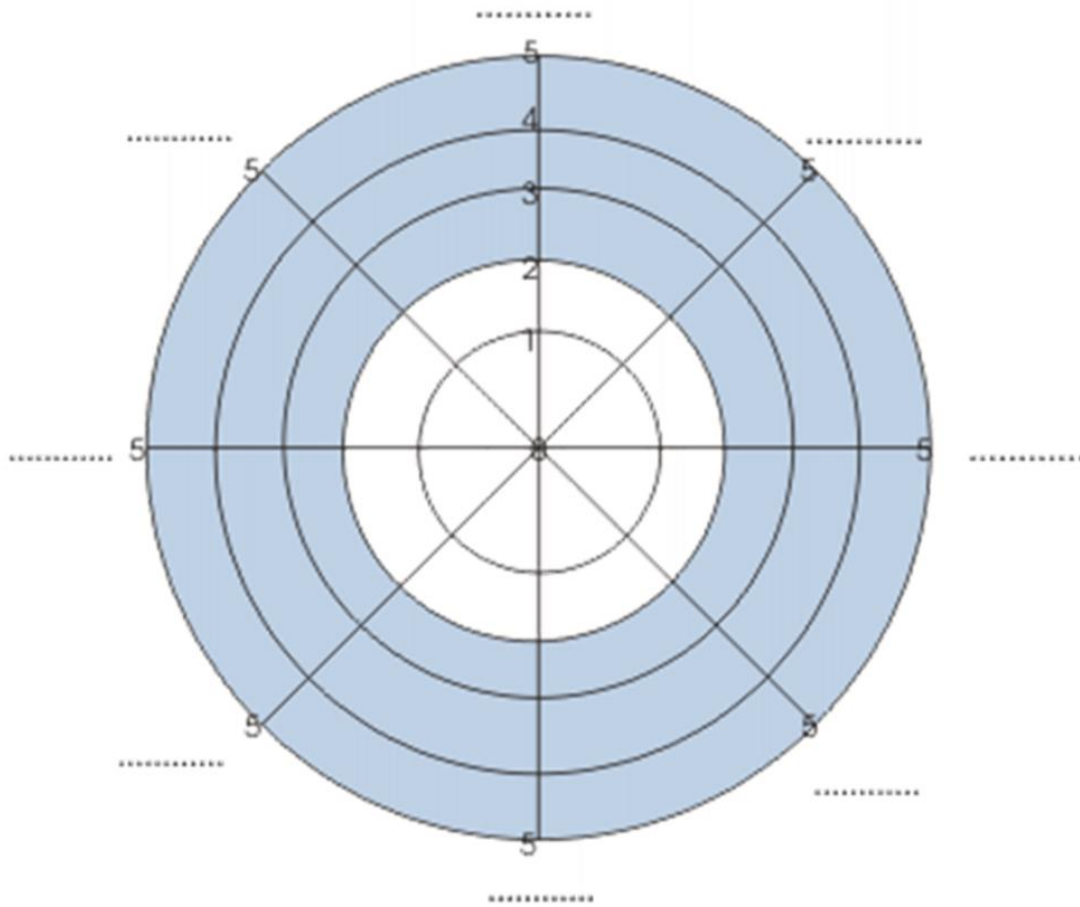
1. To identify key elements of professional learning in school context
2. To map and evaluate the elements necessary for professional learning in your own context
3. To explore possible solutions to improve the weak areas

Process:

Balance wheel is a diagnostic tool to negotiate and assess common elements, which are needed for professional development in schools to work. Think about situation in your school.

1. Form random groups of 5 or 6.
2. **In a group, decide and label the wheel with the eight major elements of your PROFESSIONAL life.** (for example: teaching, relationship with colleagues, management, parents, own wellbeing, professional learning, relationship with students, networking with professionals from other schools)
3. **Rank every element in order of importance, from 1 to 8.** This is very hard but necessary in order to reveal your priorities. Write the numbers next to each of the labels.
4. **Rate from 1-5, how you feel each element is going.** For example, are you happy with the way your professional development is going? Are you happy with the amount of time you're spending on your relationships with colleagues? How much can you learn from teachers from other schools? Mark the dots on the life wheel at the relevant level, and then connect all of the dots. You are then likely to spot some 'dents' in your wheel, which reveal opportunities for improvement.
5. **Rate from 1-5 how much time and effort you have recently been putting into each element.** From the center of the wheel, colour up to the appropriate level for each element. Colour the segment directly next to the element, in a clockwise direction.

Discuss it as a group on the basis of following questions:



1. What do you notice on your wheel?
2. What wedges need your immediate attention? What do you suggest?
3. What would happen if you change that part?
 - a. Think about possible suggestion how to improve the weak wedge?
 - b. Present it to other groups and listen to their comments.