

# Short Courses (SCs) on Qualitative Interviewing

December 2022 – January 2023



**appear**  
Austrian Partnership Programme  
in Higher Education and Research  
for Development

Strengthening Research and Educational Competences of HEIs for **G**ender sensitive Urban  
(**I**nfo**R**mal Settlement) **T**ransformation

When we were applying for funding for the GIRT project, we envisaged a workshop in which all team members from different partner universities and scientific disciplines would come together and work on the details of our research approach.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

Furthermore, there was civil war in Ethiopia.

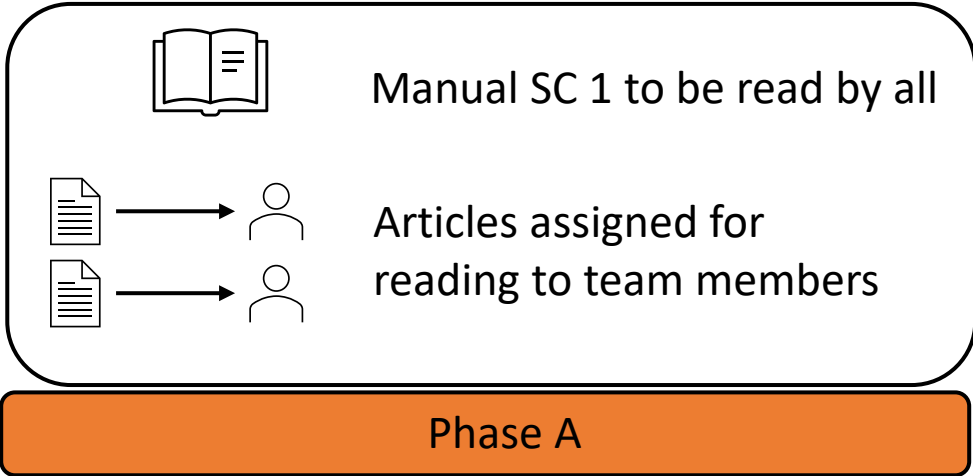
We could not travel to meet and do a joint workshop in physical presence.

So, we racked our brains on how to do this virtually.

The following slides describe the design of a sequence of virtual Short Courses (SC) on Qualitative Interviewing, with which we came up.



## Pre-Reading SC 1



We started with a **Pre-reading phase A** : Some days in advance of each short course, pre-readings were made available for all participants



The pre-readings consisted of

**1)** A preliminary **manual** consisting of four chapters

corresponding to four SCs (*here you see the procedure for SC 1*)

- SC 1: General considerations
- SC 2: Interview guide
- SC 3: Interview techniques
- SC 4: Postprocessing

All team members were requested to read the corresponding chapter of the manual for each SC.


**2)** selected scientific **journal articles and book chapters**: these pre-readings were assigned to different participants of each university team - they were to give oral summaries to their team colleagues during the SC team phase B.

Generally, the **manual** contained 3 distinct elements:

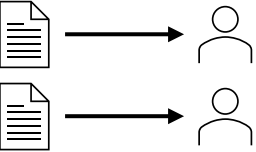
- Extracts of two seminal guidebooks on qualitative interviewing
- General recommendations for qualitative interviewing
- **GIRT Questions**: questions regarding the application of this general knowledge to the specificities of the GIRT project.

Pre-Reading SC 1

SC 1 General considerations  
Dec 2, 2022




Manual SC 1 to be read by all




Articles assigned for reading to team members

Phase A



Team members give summaries of articles

Discussions of GIRT questions



Phase B

**Techniquilities:**  
For phase B, all team members were logged into Mural and made themselves familiar with its functionalities. They logged on to the GIRT Mural and inserted their discussion results.

**B SC team phase**

In the morning of the SC, team members of each university met physically in a place with good internet connection.

Team members gave oral summaries to their colleagues of the scientific journal articles which they had been assigned to read during the pre-reading phase.

This ignited discussion in the team about how to do the interviewing in the specific case of the selected informal settlement in their region.

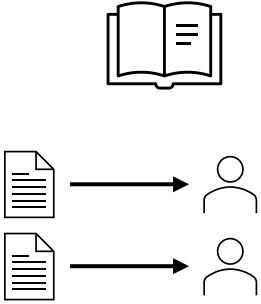


# Pre-Reading SC 1

# SC 1 General considerations Dec 2, 2022

Manual SC 1 to be read by all

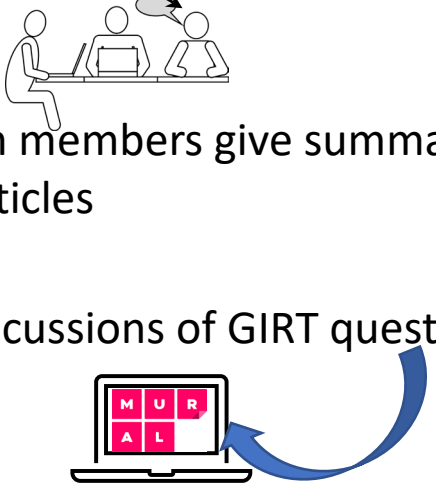
Articles assigned for reading to team members



Phase A

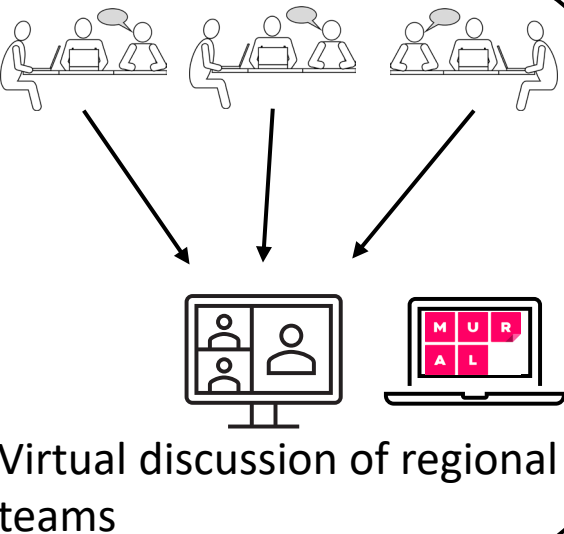
Team members give summaries of articles

Discussions of GIRT questions



Phase B

Virtual discussion of regional teams



Phase C

**Techniquilities:**  
For phase C, everyone was equipped with a laptop connected to the internet and able to run both Zoom and Mural simultaneously.  
beforehand Check for potential echo if the entire team sits in the same room (which proofed difficult during breakout sessions).

### C SC virtual phase

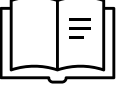
In the afternoon of the short course, teams from all project regions met virtually in Zoom. They discussed questions that came up in phase B to see which points are of concern in all regions and which are more specific to some regions only.



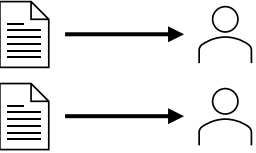
Pre-Reading SC 1

SC 1 General considerations  
Dec 2, 2022

Pre-Reading SC 2




Manual SC 1 to be read by all




Articles assigned for reading to team members

Phase A




Team members give summaries of articles

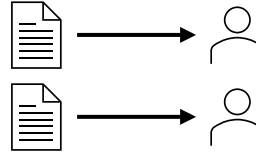
Discussions of GIRT questions



Phase B





Manual SC 2



Articles assigned for reading to team members

Phase A

Virtual discussion of regional teams

Phase C

Then the procedure started all over again for the next SC.



These were the dates of all SCs:

SC 1	Dec 2, 2022
SC 2	Dec 16, 2022
SC 3	Jan 20, 2023
SC 4	Jan 21, 2023

## Our organisational learnings with this workshop design:

- Fix the **dates** for the SCs well in advance, make sure they do not coincide with local holidays etc, check that they are doable for most of the team member
- Consider going to a **seperate venue** with the teams so they don't get distracted by other duties and can fully concentrate on the topic
- Secure good **internet connection**;
- if Phase C contains break out sessions, avoid team members sitting together in the same physical room (while joining different virtual break out rooms): this may cause a lot of **background noise** in the respective virtual sessions.

