IMPROVISED PROCEEDINGS FROM EVENING GARDEN DISCUSSION, Cologne, 9-5-2008

(We discussed informally the difference between the systemic and SF approaches, problem vs. solution talk and many other things)

Thanks to Björn Johansson, Eva Persson, Ingrid and Horst Reischs for their contributions! (I apologize, if I missed somebody)

The most important thing I have learned from systemic approach (and that could be possibly useful to SF practitioners) is that <u>it is not a quality of system to have a problem, it is a quality of problem to create a system</u> (!) - The same way, like a lost candy in pocket of small child will attract any possible rubish, or the snow-ball effect can create an avalanche, anybody being in touch with problem will be "wrapped up" by it to create "problem system".

<u>That implies</u>:

Talking about problem will produce only more of problem talk, whilst talking about solution can produce solution.

How it can be useful to SF practice:

You can be either a part of "problem system" or "system seeking for solution". The choice is up to you!

HOW TO AVOID TOO MUCH OF PROBLEM TALK (IF ANY):

Professional approach

Problem oriented

Solution oriented

THE PROBLEM (OR THE CAUSE) ANALYSIS



Leads to more of the same

(talking about the problem creates more of problem-focused talk)



No hope for change



THE PLATFORM



Problem description as a way of looking for agreement on the "point of departure"



Well managed: Seeds of hope



Poor managed

Contract for change

LOOKING FOR THE NEAREST MEETING POINT



Jumping directly to solution oriented conversation



"We are only looking for the neares meeting point to 'give a lift' to our clients in the desired direction."

> Q1: Does it make sense? Q2: Is it possible? Q3: Is it enough?

Comments and further contributions are warmly welcomed!

Kamila