

Vignette 2 - The Ebb app

We developed an electronic application (app) named Ebb (<https://ebb.works>). Ebb can be found for free in the App Store and in Google Play. Ebb contains a database with photos and with drawings from the Drawing Lab and can be enriched with the participant's own drawings and with photos. We used the Ebb portfolio to catalyse reflection on 'Who am I?' and 'What do I find important in life and work?'. The app creates a failure-free environment (with images) in which people feel safe (at home, in their own time, on their own device, by themselves) and facilitates belonging through the opportunity to share with others during training.

Inspired by the work of Wang and Burris (1997) on PhotoVoice, we agree that the lesson a picture tells us is not in its physical structure, but rather in the way people interpret the image. We found that most people elaborated on their pictures with enthusiasm. Of course, some people with an intellectual disability were not able to speak about their drawings. For people who are non-verbal, the app is also a methodology that understands images as a data source in their own right (Black & Warhurst, in Saunders & Tosey, 2015).

Ebb is based on PhotoVoice, photo-elicitation and graphic elicitation. These visual methods enable participants (1) to record and reflect on their lives, (2) to advocate for changes in their lives and (3) to participate in research (Overmars-Marx, Thomése & Moonen, 2016; Fullana, Pallisera & Vilà, 2014; Sergeant & Verreyt, 2016).

However, for people with visual impairments, Ebb is not a very helpful way of reflecting and sharing on identity and talents. Also, some (older) people had no device to download it to or found it difficult to work with. Some people needed assistance to use the app. When the method seemed inappropriate, we presented other means, such as printed photos, or objects that can be touched, felt and collected in a box.