

DIY² Lab – Summary Report

The Mobile Studio

An easy, accessible way to
create short videos



IjAB

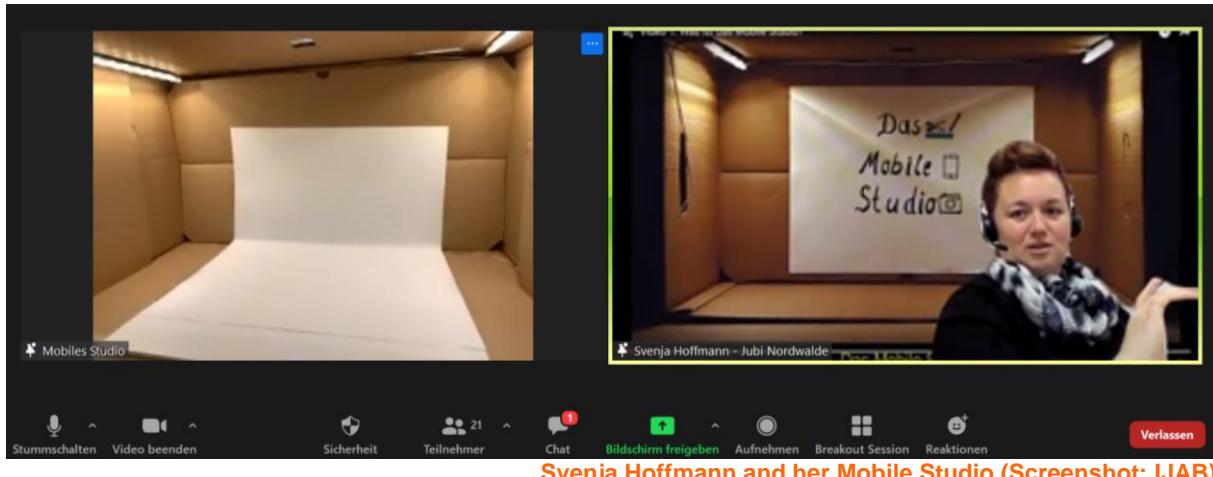
January 2022

In March 2021, IJAB launched its new project DIY² Lab: Do-it-Yourself in Digital International Youth Work for experts, project managers and team leaders who want to explore the possibilities afforded by digital international youth work. The DIY² Labs are an opportunity for experts and team leaders to try out digital tools and methods and discuss practical as well as more fundamental issues associated with digital international youth work in the group. The events were all held on [Zoom](#).

Making short home videos is a fun way to work creatively, inclusively and thematically and opens up lots of opportunities in international youth work, especially in the digital space. With the help of the Mobile Studio, professional short films can be created using a smartphone.

The DIY² Lab on 11 November 2021 looked at how the Mobile Studio is set up and how it can be used hands-on for educational purposes. Our focus was on the subject of accessibility.

The facilitator of this Lab was Svenja Hoffmann, Head of Inclusion at Evangelische Jugendbildungsstätte Nordwalde. She developed the Mobile Studio in early 2021 with a group of students from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at TU Dortmund University. In a series of seminars, she carried out various projects using the Mobile Studio with participants with cognitive disabilities.



Svenja Hoffmann and her Mobile Studio (Screenshot: IJAB)

DIY² Lab

From January 2022, further DIY² Labs will take place monthly, one month in English, the next in German.

10 January 2022 (English)
10 February 2022 (German)
20 March 2022 (English)
7 April 2022 (German)

Preparation

1. Make and set up the Mobile Studio

List of materials

- Cardboard box: approx. 35 cm high, 50 cm wide and 35 cm deep
- Pencil
- Rubber/eraser
- Ruler and yardstick
- Empty matchbox
- Large pair of scissors
- Small pair of scissors or craft knife
- Two rolls of Velcro: one rough, one soft
- Two light strips with a plug for the power socket

Velcro rolls and light strips are available from DIY stores; the approximate cost per Mobile Studio is EUR 10. If you want to try out a simpler version of the studio, you can also make one or two more holes on the top of the box next to your smartphone and fix a torch over the holes. Depending on light conditions, the picture may then not be fully illuminated or have shadows.

Video tutorials

<https://youtu.be/0uBRuYWmhhU>
<https://youtu.be/wnG4XSvRYYI>

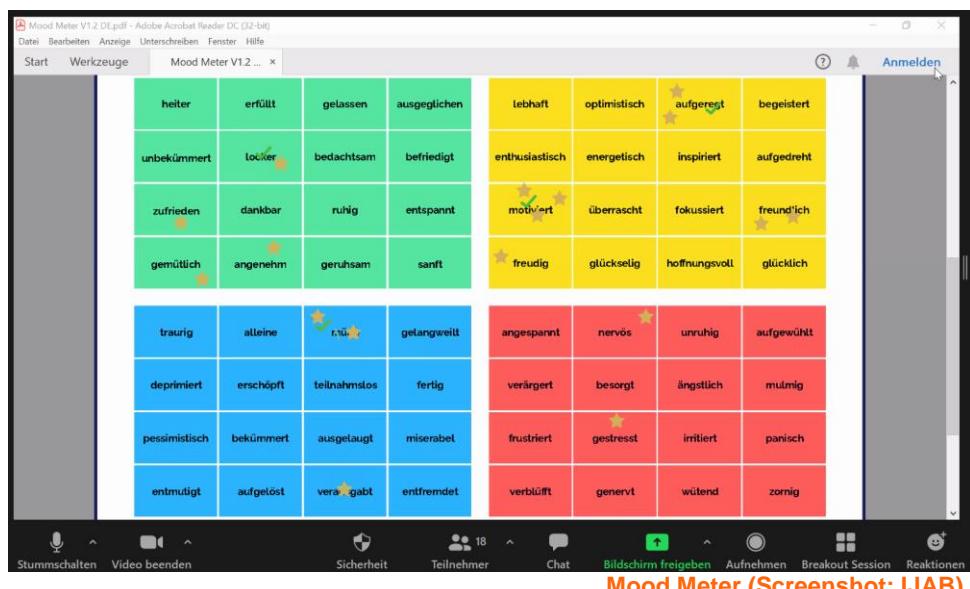
<https://youtu.be/A3OaqH8uqoM>
https://youtu.be/qkPp_mAjEtY

2. Install the Stop Motion Studio app in your smart phone

Programme

Check-in activity: Mood Meter

The Mood Meter is shared in presentation mode. From a collection of adjectives, participants choose the one that best describes their mood. They place a stamp on a word in the Zoom presentation that best matches their mood.



Mood Meter (Screenshot: IJAB)

Click here for more information on the Mood Meter and download versions of it in German, English and French:
<https://meeting-time.de/das-stimmungsbarometer-der-perfekte-abschluss-fuer-online-meetings/>

Reporting on working with the Mobile Studio

Svenja Hoffmann described how the Mobile Studio was created and reported on the experiences she gained working with it.

The Mobile Studio was developed in early 2021 together with a group of students from the Rehabilitation Sciences Department at TU Dortmund as part of [Get Online Week 2021](#). In a series of seminars, she carried out various tests using the Mobile Studio with participants with cognitive disabilities.



YouTube channel (Screenshot: IJAB)

On the Get Online Week YouTube channel, various video tutorials demonstrate how to build the Mobile Studio [15 November 2021]:

- Video 1: What is the Mobile Studio?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2eFTfUhSU8>
- Video 2: Materials for the Mobile Studio
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uBRuYWmhU>
- Video 3: Light strips for the Mobile Studio
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3OaqH8uqoM>

Other videos demonstrate how to use the Mobile Studio (last updated 15 November 2021):

- Video 5: Taking photos with a smartphone
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmxWY9_8Y9E
- Video 6: Making videos with a smartphone
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbK8B_0gQDk

The video tutorials were sent to the participants. The special thing about them is that they are a low-threshold introduction to the subject and each step is shown in detail, from switching on a smartphone to shooting a film.

The studio itself is highly accessible. Users can

- place something inside it,
- move things around,
- paint and write something,
- tell a story,
- make videos,
- take individual photos,
- create a stop-motion film.



Introduction using pictograms (Screenshot: IJAB)

Explanatory videos should be no longer than 90 seconds.

Films can be shot from two perspectives:

- from above – by placing the phone on the Mobile Studio as shown in the instructions,
- from in front – for example, using a tripod.

Example: Introduction using pictograms

The Mobile Studio can be used as an ice-breaker. The Get Online Week participants were sent pictograms beforehand. They could choose appropriate motifs which they could use to introduce themselves.

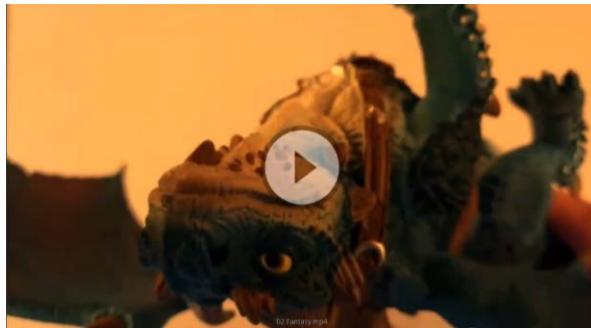
After this, some sample videos made by participants were shown.



Example: Video made by young participants (Screenshot: IJAB)



Video made by young participants; example of different lighting effects (Screenshot: IJAB)



Video made by young participants; example of different perspectives (Screenshot: IJAB)

Videos made with the Stop Motion Studio app

The basic version of the Stop Motion Studio app is available for free for Android and Apple devices. The app can be used to create stop motion videos, such as explainer videos for baking recipes.

The app has the following features:

- Takes multiple photos which can be stitched together to make a video (flipbook effect)
- Transparency effect so that you can see the set-up of the previous frame
- Editing function for individual frames
- Setting that determines how many frames per second are played
- Sound recording
- Title and credits can be inserted
- Automatic recording function with timer
- (Alternatively, you can connect headphones and release the camera shutter using the volume up/down function. Otherwise, the perspective could shift slightly when you release the shutter, causing “jerks” in the video.

The free version does not enable changing the order of the frames or importing image files.

It may be necessary to allow the app to access the camera in phone settings (as was the case for one of the Lab participants).

A YouTube tutorial explains how to use the app in detail: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS8PMnAKJL4> [15 November 2021]



Video made by young participants; example of stop motion (Screenshot: IJAB)



Video made by students; example of stop motion (Screenshot: IJAB)

Questions and answers

Does the cardboard box have to measure 35 x 50 x 35 cm exactly?

No, it can be a smaller box. However, this size has proven practical, and it offers enough space. Objects can be placed, ready for use, at the edge of the box without being visible in the filmed area. It is also big enough to accommodate a tray, which can be used for the video.

How should the instructions deal with different smartphone models (e.g., with different symbols or camera settings)?

It is important to adapt the instructions to individual target groups and to find out which type of phone is being used. Pictograms can be more abstract, but screenshots should correspond to the phone models used. Plain language services or online tools can be used to check the wording of texts. TU Dortmund is always on the lookout for practical projects and is interested in collaboration.

Where are the videos uploaded or where can they be shared (keyword: data privacy)?

Sciebo was used for the explainer videos because this is what TU Dortmund works with.

Most of the participants of Get Online Week used WhatsApp and were familiar with it, so it was agreed beforehand that videos would be shared via WhatsApp. This is also a good opportunity to discuss with participants the subject of data privacy and data security: What can they upload? What shouldn't they upload?

Alternatively, the videos can be sent to the team leader and then watched and discussed jointly via "share screen". Uploading and showing videos can be very challenging for participants.

How was the time-lapse effect created in one of the videos shown?

This was possible using the app.

What are the advantages of using the Mobile Studio when making videos?

The smartphone can rest securely over the hole in the top of the box; it can also be secured with adhesive tape. This is very important, especially for stop-motion films. The bottom of the box can also be used to design a backdrop for the video.

What video format can be created with the *Stop Motion Studio* app?

The videos are made in mp4 format. Another (editing) app can then be used to stitch together the different sequences. If photos or videos for a project are going to be stitched together at a later stage, it is important that participants agree on the format (portrait or landscape) and on a uniform background.

Can tripods be used to keep the camera still when filming in the box?

Yes, for example https://www.amazon.de/Smartphone-Halterung-Android-Smartphone-Bluetooth-Fernsteuerung/dp/B07Q21SKZW/ref=sr_1_8?encoding=UTF8&c=ts&keywords=Klemmstativ+&26+Mini-Stativ&qid=1636984475&s=photo&sr=1-8&ts_id=332051031

But music stands and upturned egg boxes also make stable props.

Discussion about ways to use the Mobile Studio in international youth work

Positive results were achieved with:

- Different materials (e.g., natural materials or modelling clay)
- Holes in the box instead of lighting
- Large-format calendar pictures as backdrop.

As ice-breakers before a meeting: Stop-motion films with a collage of photos of participants and name labels can be used to introduce partner groups. This has the advantage that participants don't have to overcome inhibitions about having to stand in front of the camera in a video themselves. Participants can also work with images and symbols, so that they need little or no knowledge of their partner's language.

For language preparation: In videos with sound, participants can try out the partner language.

In a bilingual encounter, small mixed groups made subtitles in the language of the other group.

Subtitles cannot be added in the Stop Motion Studio app, but they can be uploaded or automatically inserted in YouTube. However, automatically generated YouTube subtitles often contain errors. It's best to upload a text file with subtitles the participants have created themselves.

In school settings or walk-in youth clubs: By working together to produce a script and getting involved in different areas, the young participants can try their hand at negotiating and discussing who gets which roles. In a collaborative project like this, even difficult issues can be addressed in a playful and attractive way.

Participants can also build and design the studio together and, for example, create a miniature television studio in a shoebox.

Making explainer videos:

- With information about international mobility
- Cooking tutorials with European volunteers
- Videos for children and young people so that they take a close look at a certain subject and understand it better.

Digital Tools

Zoom (Videokonferenz-Tool): <https://zoom.us>

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