

Amount of space needed for Open Space gatherings

The fewer participants in an Open Space gathering, the more space/area is needed proportionately.

For up to 40 participants, the diameter of the circle should be a minimum of 8 meters - enough space for participants and facilitators to move freely.

This means 64m^2 just for the circle of chairs. Add the space for the bulletin board and you reach 80m^2 . And if all the break-out spaces are in the same room it should provide at least 100m^2 .

For a group of 10 participants you will need 10 m^2 per participant.

With 20 participants the same space will still be fine.

With 30 participants it's getting tight and you will rather need a space of 120m^2 - or 4 m^2 per participant.

With 40.....

Not yet included is the space needed for the permanent buffet, the news wall, the office which are usually in separate areas (hallways, extra rooms, etc.).

If the group of participants is larger than 70, the space per participant needed will be 2 to 3m^2 . [The Open Space with 2108 participants in Würzburg had about 2m^2 per participant.]

Here a rule of thumb:

For the number of people that fit into a room using Open Space, divide the maximum number of people permitted by the fire department by three. A space which will hold maximally 1200 people will then be sufficient for an OS event with 400 participants.

And after all: all the above depend on the geometry of the space, the columns in the room, the group, the number of expected issues, etc.