OPEN MIC

WHAT IT IS
A networking element that opens the stage to learners allowing them to promote or ask for help from the community.

IDEAL FOR
Creating a sense of community, especially in sessions that require group collaboration. As learners show their vulnerability, they become more relatable, making it easy to engage with each other.

REQUIREMENTS
Roles:
- 1x moderator
- 1x IT support

Software:
- Video and microphones enabled for learners
- Chat function

INSPIRATION
[1] Video Example (1:07:03):
Survive & Thrive Friday Webinar - May 29 Open Mic

HOW IT WORKS
This method should be used towards the end of an online session. It is a way to slowly end the session by opening up the floor to the learners to ask for help or advice from the community.

The moderator introduces the "open mic" segment, explaining the purpose and the rules of how it works: If a learner has an announcement, an opportunity to share, or needs help or advice, they raise their hand or state that they would like to speak in the chat. IT support gives the learner one minute for them to present their "elevator pitch", whilst enabling their video and microphone. This elevator pitch starts with the person briefly introducing themselves and then stating what's the challenge and what they have tried already. The moderator uses a timer to keep track of the time. Once time is up, everyone will hear the timer go off and the learner's video and microphone will be turned off.

After the one minute is up, the learner puts their contact details in the chat for community members to contact them in case they can help. If you have more time, community members can share their ideas or resources straight away by saying it out loud or typing it in the chat.

CONSIDERATION CHECKLIST
- The moderator should pay close attention to creating a welcoming and nurturing environment.
- Play music in the background to create a relaxing atmosphere.