About breakout rooms

Some events might include the possibility of having participants break into smaller groups in order to work together.

Breakout rooms can be designed as separate on-site and online groups, or teams with a mix of both on-site and online participants. The following table compares both models.

Model	Pros	Cons	Requirements
On-site and online groups separated	Easier to organise.	Less flexibility in combining participants – segregation effect.	One facilitator for each online group, while on-site groups could have one or more facilitators that move around.
Mixed groups	Better integration of all participants.	Requires more planning and facilitation resources. Requires rooms or spaces that are quiet and have good connectivity.	Requires at least one camera and one speaker per group. Groups have to be small and on-site participants have to use a microphone. Activities have to be online (i.e. notes).

Which model you choose would depend on your group size, resources, event dynamics and objectives.

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