

June, 17th-19th, 2010 : Immigrant's Business Plan (IBP) Project. : **learner's diary from Béatrice**

Last week, I had my first IBP meeting : I was the coordinator for my host organization.

On Thursday evening, all partners went out for a welcome dinner. It was a nice evening with many opportunities to exchange with partners on our different cultures and habits. People were also willing in discovering the city and island I live in as well as sharing their own experience of France.

On Friday, we started by picking people from the hotel and walking to the place the seminar was to be held.

When we were installed, we made an overview of the migrants entrepreneurs' situation in Corsica/France. Then we discussed on similarities and differences among the 5 countries taking part in the project (Belgium, Czech Republic, France (x2), Germany (x2) and Greece) : there were very interesting examples of best practices and thoughts/share of experience at local and/ or national level eventhough sometimes, it was difficult to understand the national framework for each country.

At lunchtime, things came a bit tough for me. Since it was my first experience with Germans and Greeks, I did not know they were not used to eating a lot (of meat) for lunch : we had ordered a Corsican typical menu for all participants, not everybody was happy with that choice. However, the partners were kind enough to taste and they did appreciate the different flavours.

On the afternoon, we went on with the workshops and discussions : lots of point of views and ideas were shared. By the end of the afternoon, things became tougher since partners were not used to the heat and we had still many things to deal with.

On Saturday, everything came down : we were able to carry on with our steering committee and to prepare the forthcoming seminar. Even though, lot of work was done and still much to be done, I did appreciate that working day : every one has a specific role to play to achieve our common goal. Like founders, we will manage achieving it hands in hands despite our differences (culture, thoughts, habits, process, etc.) = that's European projects and I like it!