

## LEARNER'S DIARY FROM EMMANUEL



### 1) ATHENS, GREECE – February 2010

This meeting has offered to me a great pleasure to see again the partners I have previously met in Paris in October. After the visit of migrants businesses' places and quarters of Paris, I was impatient to discover the migrants' aspect of Greece and especially in Athens. For a French like me, Athens is associated to history, tourism, holidays and sun. This other side of Athens was really new for me.



What has made me really impressed was the critical issue of the local immigration issue in the recent year and especially now. I felt impressed by the fact that nearly 90% of immigrants, who are wanted to come in the European Union, are now arriving in Greece at first, due the geographical position of this country.

During our meeting in Athens, I have also seen lots of migrants. I have in mind the migrants policy is a burning European issue, which will be difficult to deal with, as the history of a migrant is the history of a man or a woman person, a family and a country outside from Europe.



During the meeting, we had a meeting in a business place created to help some migrants to create a local business in Greece in order to received a legal existence and a local support. Furthermore, we, all the participants, have made a visit of some quarters, in which some businesses were managed by migrants. I was strongly impressed by a African woman, who has had the will to create a small business with the help of an local association and a national support from Greece. The African woman looked like so proud of her integration in the local economical quarter. This example makes me more conscious about the issue of our European program and all its human considerations.

Emmanuel