

Leonardo Partnership - 2009-1-DE2-LEO04-01694 1**“IBP – The immigrant’s business plan“****Participation in a meeting in Paris from the 18th till 21st February 2010 at NOSTOS
in Athens, Greece****Learning diary - Medoune Diop**

The immigrant concept is in my opinion very large. For example if I refer to the Belgium situation I note that most of the immigrants who have an independent jobs come from Congo, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey. Generally, before coming to Brussels, they have some experience in doing business, but their business is not formalized. They speak French or English in general. The main difficulty is to obtain the documents which permit to open offices, shops and services.

If you deal with national administration procedures, you might face difficulties to be successful. That is why most of the people who have a diploma can't continue their studies and have to change their profession and might consider being a business person to be an option.

If you go e.g. to the Matongé, the African quarter in Brussels, you will see mainly all the coiffeur-shops, the night shops, the restaurants, the call centers and internet cafés run by immigrants. Most of them are received a training at ACTIRIS, VDAB, CAP EMPLOI... .

In the Athens meeting I was very intrigued about the coaching concept(s) presented, which I consider to be very valuable and useful, as it allows a man or a woman to exploit their personal potential to its fullest.

I hope we will also continue with that in Cosica.

These were my main impressions of the project and I feel happy to participate.

Medoune DIOP