



Leonardo Partnership - 2009-1-DE2-LEO04-01694 1
“IBP – The immigrant’s business plan“

Participation in a meeting in Paris from the 15th till 18th of October 2009 at ITG Conseil

Learning diary

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Our group has very much enjoyed and profited from the meeting in Paris. Even it is quite close to Brussels, it feels really differently to be there. It was also very nice to see Cedric from ITG back, which I know for quite a long time and collaborated with in my former work. But I guess we hadn’t seen for maybe seven, eight years. For the group it was important to get to know the people and organizations and see in “live”, how a European project works to make use of it for the future IBP-work. The group considered it a special added value to start to work with different groups from different countries to exchange ideas and views.

Well, it is always very exiting to have the kick-off meeting and put faces to all the E-Mail addresses. The group is quite a mixture with a lot of potential. We have organizations working with the topic on meta-level and also organizations who work directly in coaching / or with coaching issues. We will definitely need some solid and considerate project management to work together well and to be able to contribute our specific expertise. The participating organizations have different or no EU-work experience and we really need to take that into consideration, too.

As usual, language is an issue. I always tend to see it from a positive point of view – if being challenged, your language abilities will heighten and you will definitely profit – and this is and should be also a vital part and benefit of a partnership. Anyhow, I think at least sound passive language knowledge is necessary to deal with the meetings and we

should be aware of not creating in / out group because of the very different language levels in the group.

The presentation and discussion of the work-plan, the familiarizing and adapting to the changes (like not all applying partners were funded) were the main work items. We also got an overview on the situation of migrants in France. Discussions on the topics were quite unstructured, for future meetings it will be very important to keep the focus of the project.

The Saturday “cultural visit” was very well appreciated, too. Medoune and the group members stated that the meeting in Paris was very interesting (and / or the first visit ever). It is very different to Brussels, Paris being so huge. We all like very much the lot of shop and the Indian restaurant. Medoune was very impressed by all the black people at the Metro station. Medoune asked: Why are you here? And they said that they play a puzzle game and try to imagine the next colors of the clothes which of the next person coming out the metro. He found this game very funny and he never imagined this scenario in Paris. Medoune: I understand why the problem of immigrants is very difficult to resolve in Paris. About the organization of the meeting: “I think everybody in my team felt very glad to participate in this meeting. The participants are very receptive and very nice, but the discussion is not very profound. The problems of immigrants are very complex and I think it's very important to explain the concept and the difficulties of integration in a new society and the different approaches in the country where you live know.

We also discussed and agreed on the contract regarding our joint web-site. We also worked with an evaluation form, which was filled in by all participants at the end of the meeting to monitor the success of the project.

Awa also did in summary in French:

The immigrants business plan

Dans ce plan d'actions pour une meilleure intégration des immigrants dans la sphère socio économique, le premier séminaire a tourné autour d'éléments de base. En d'autres termes le travail de groupe consistait à définir et à trouver :

- Les groupes cibles parmi les immigrants,
- Les actions a mené dans le but de montrer beaucoup plus de visibilité des immigrants dans la sphère économique (préparation de matériel pédagogique sur leur place dans l'économie au sein des pays d'accueil, leur poids dans l'économie de l'union européenne, etc.)
- Les programmes qui peuvent leur être utiles et qui les intéressent,
- La procédure à suivre afin de bien mener l'objectif de ce plan d'action.

Ainsi pour cela, l'élaboration d'un site internet pour illustrer ceci est nécessaire afin de mieux informer la population, ainsi que les immigrants même.

Par ailleurs, un aspect important demeure le transfert d'argent des immigrants dans leur pays d'origine et la gestion de leur vie dans le pays d'accueil. Beaucoup d'entre eux vivent dans des conditions difficiles, en raison de se transfert d'argent qui reste d'une part nécessaire à la survie des siens au pays, mais qui n'aide pas dans le sens de s'épanouir. Toutefois, ce plan d'action peut contribuer à les aider en apportant un savoir faire en gestion économique à ses immigrants à travers des formations, un service de consultance, etc. Ces actions pourront leur être utiles dans la bonne gestion de leur portefeuille en réalisant des projets communautaires dans leur pays d'origine qui peut bénéfiques à leurs familles, au développement de leur pays. Egalement, permettre aux immigrants de développer un esprit de groupe, c'est-à-dire trouver les bonnes stratégies pour travailler ensemble entre eux, comme aussi en collaboration avec des partenaires du pays d'accueil, tout cela dans le but de mieux s'intégrer et de se faire intégrer facilement, dans l'intérêt de tous.

Enfin, le séminaire à Paris a été très court, mais nous a permis de repartir avec quelques éléments de réflexion qui sans doute pourront être mieux développé dans le prochain séminaire.