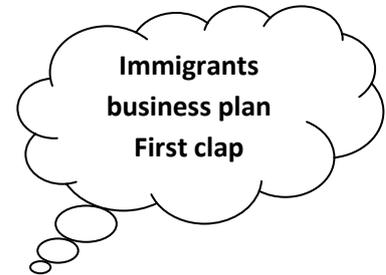


## LEARNER'S DIARY FROM EMMANUEL



### IMMIGRANTS BUSINESS PLAN (LEONARDO)

#### PARIS, FRANCE – October 2009

As a new learner in such an European program, I really enjoy the pleasure of meeting some European partner from Germany, Greece ... It was completely new for me.

The most impressive experience for me as a French was the visit of the immigrants' places of Paris : the Turkish area (Faubourg Saint-Denis), the African place (Mairie du IXème arrondissement), the Indian quarter near Gare du Nord., where we all had a lunch, and then the Saint-Denis quarter, a place for many immigrants from a lot of countries. We all have seen lots and a great variety of businesses created and managed by migrants. And all these businesses are now totally integrated in the local quarters of Paris, even near the center of Paris.

As a French, it was really the first time I have had the opportunity to visit Paris like this, under the migrants' way of life. I realize how Paris has many faces : a face for tourism which is concentrated on some traditional aspects of France (history, monuments, gastronomy, cabarets..) and some other faces, which are in connection with life of people. Paris is a real cosmopolitan place with its positive aspects and also its negative aspects. As a French, and for me, it was quite impressive to realize how France is a multi-cultural country.

But, I have also in mind that the migrants are not always offered some good living and working conditions in Paris due to the economic and social situation.

Other partners of the program were also impressed by the multicultural aspect of Paris and really were happy to visit Paris like this. They have raised a lot of questions and sometimes it was not very easy to give them some answers. With some modesty, I was forced to admit that, as a French, I don't have all information about the history of immigration in France... I have to learn it ... But thanks to the experience of the visit, I now have all the motivations to learn it.

And I personally think that this visit has paved the way for the basis of the program's topic, which is concentrated on immigrants business plan. Thank you very much to my program teacher Cédric for having such an idea to organize such a visit of Paris !

Emmanuel