

Learner's diary IBP Leonardo Partnership

Meeting 6 in Tübingen, 2nd to 5th June 2011

The last project meeting in Tübingen: Our aim was to finalise the project successfully by reviewing the last two years and the products we have produced as well as focusing once again especially on marginalized business founders. Therefore we started our meeting with a trip to Reutlingen, a city close to Tübingen, and visited a project called Startnetz Reutlingen. Startnetz Reutlingen is a project from the city of Reutlingen to support especially "small business foundations" from e.g. unemployed people. We could talk with one of the founders of the project and with a Greek female business founder who participates in the project. The main idea of the project is to offer workshops for business founders and the opportunity of building networks. Through networking the project intends to trigger mutual support. Especially marginalised people suffer from less self-confidence and fewer contacts to other people. In addition the project offers cheap office space for business foundations. One female business founder from Greece took the opportunity and opened her travel agency in the building of "Startnetz Reutlingen". She told us about her experiences and the support through the project. After the visit we discussed the project as one best practice example for ethnic minority and marginalised business founders. The overall feedback was very positive.



In the afternoon we continued our meeting with a presentation about the situation of ethnic minority business founders in Czech Republic and a workshop on Franchising as one possibility for marginalized business founders. During the preparations for the meeting we had the idea to discuss with our project partners if the Franchise system is a good possibility to create a business for marginalized people like migrants, elderly, single parents, unemployed,... since many Franchise companies offer special training and support for franchisees. We prepared case studies and divided the group in three working groups. The results surprised us: In the project partner countries the Franchise system is not as common as in Germany and therefore the partners couldn't really compare it. Nevertheless we carved out some advantages but for people with less money (like very often marginalized people) it's not a real option through very high costs at the beginning. On Saturday we had a presentation about the situation for ethnic minority business founders in Germany and compared it with the other countries. Finally we had a look on our website and thought about how we would like to include our web-based guideline. We made a final evaluation of the project and started with the preparations of the final report.