

6rd PARTNERSHIP MEETING

(02/05-06/05)

Geel, Belgium

Leonardo da Vinci Partnership Project:

Education Schemes as an Integration Tool - A European Comparison (ESIT)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Participants:

- Belgium: Aleidis Devillé, Pauline Claessen (student), Sofie Ruts (student);
Esther Van Gorp (student); Joke Druyts (student); Sofia Sarens
(student) Marie Vanwing (student)
- France: Agathe Defretin, Vincent Cruder
- Italy: Alessia Folcio, Chiara Cavagnini, Shafali Mathur-Migliorati,
Stefano Mombelli, Daniele Migliorati
- Germany: Dagmar Golla, Uwe Schulte, Lene Luboch, Luciana Ferrando,
Bigna Fink, Kyrylo Kolomiets, Duska Roth, Henri Zeiseler,
Nadine Meyer, Dennis Thieme, Shpetim Shabani, Oliver Völling
- Portugal: Helena Vicente
- UK: Liva Snike, Matthias Noeker, Ramona Klein

Monday, 2th May

Arrival of participants to Geel.

Tuesday, 3th May

1. Welcome by Aleidis Devillé & distributions of wallets. Train travel to Brussels (together)

2. Visit to 'Foyer' in Brussels

Children of immigrants, most often Roma, are offered two kinds of education: classroom trainings on the one hand and practical hands-on trainings on the other hand.

Foyer is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1969. Situated in Molenbeek, it is active on the municipal, regional and international levels, focusing on the global integration problems of ethnic minorities. Foyer started up different activities, some of which became autonomous later on (CNM, INTEC, Compas).

Foyer wants to play an influential part in all social sectors for people of all social classes, all ages and all population groups. Foyer is a pluralistic organization with respect for diversity at all levels. The voluntary commitment as well as the professional way of working are felt to be of the greatest importance. Foyer has always been able to count on the financial support of some public institutions as well as on that of individuals.

Foyer's most important Foyer are:

Initiatives to improve the integration of children and youngsters

- Activities with children and youngsters (with many accomplishments in art, theatre and sports)
- Activities preparing underprivileged youngsters for the labour market

Initiatives that lead towards a better emancipation

- Activities for the emancipation of women of all population groups and ages
- District activities for men and fathers
- Key-activities dealing with intercultural and multilingual education, and strengthening the language awareness

Initiatives to improve the civic spirit

- Activities related to mediation and prevention in health care
- Social Services
- Protection of the rights of individuals, refugees, undocumented persons, travellers, gypsies; receiving newcomers, etc.
- Respect for diversity (Gewoon vreemd Paleis)
- Acceptance of cultures and languages of the countries of origin
- Interreligious dialogue
- Housing projects

3. Lunch in restaurant 'De Harmonie'

'De Harmonie' is a Social Restaurant targeting at poor people living in Brussels. Social workers run the restaurant with the aim to improve social interaction between local inhabitants.

4. Visit to 'Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen' (= 'Flemish Refugee Action')

'Flemish Refugee Action' supports asylum seekers and refugees. They put pressure on policy makers and increase awareness about the situation of refugees. They strive for humane protection of asylum seekers and refugees and promote integration.

They highlight the different basic concepts about asylum and explain you in an easy and accessible way how the asylum procedure in Belgium works. The training was very interactive.

What is the difference between asylum seekers, refugees and people with subsidiary protection?

What is the role of the Immigration Office or of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless people?

5. Walk through Brussels towards the railway station; sight-seeing of a few high-lights:

- Grand Place / Grote markt: A unique mix of beautiful 17th century architecture and modern social life;
- 'Manneken Pis': The infamous statue serves as an symbol of the spirit and humor of Brussels;
- Dansaertstraat: We take a walk along the 'Antoine Dansaertstraat' to discover Brussels' fashion and design with the best concentration of 'avant garde' designers and fashion boutiques.

Wednesday, 4th May

1. International days Social Work

The programme today PM consist of sessions, lectures and workshops of international guests, which may be taught a number of times to different groups. Sessions are open to students, colleagues and interested representatives from the field. The theme of this international days is connected to the 'North South' with a focus on how sustainable well-being of people can be improved in the challenging times of today. During the whole programme, there are many networking possibilities with lectures, administrative and research colleagues, representatives from companies and organisations we work with, and of course students.

- The New African. Pathways to a Real North-South Relationship
Speaker: Peter Verlinden (a well-known journalist in Belgium)
- The National Development Plan - Priorities, Challenges, Plans and Lessons from South-Africa
Speaker: **Alida Herbst** (North West University of South-Africa)
- Panel discussion Sustainable North-South relationships
Gijs Justaert (World Solidarity); Peter Verlinden (journalist); Alida Herbst (North West University of South-Africa); Jannie Goussard; Ashok Gladston Xavier (Professor India); Patricia Joubert
- Everyone chooses one of the following sessions:
 - o Ann-Sophie Blomqvist, Ulla Isosaari and Kati Langsjö (from Finland): North-South relations
 - o Boris Ney (from NL) & Catharina Nickel (Denmark): Educational Landscape 21st Century
 - o Alida Herbst (from South-Africa): Memory Work as Intervention with Immigrants
 - o Shafali Migliorati (from Italy): Social Services and Immigrants- Cultural Mediation
 - o Dagmar Golla (from Germany): BWK BildungsWerk, applied to Social Work
 - o Alessia Folcio (from Italy): Learning Italian, a Simulation
 - o Uwe Schulte (from Germany): Interacting with German Media Students

2. Presentation by the Belgian partner + the French partner

Knowledge & competences teachers

- Create a relationship of trust
- Believe in the potential of the younger
- Creating a positive environment
- Give the opportunity to do new things
- Give the younger responsibility
- Safety and structur

Thursday, 5th May

1. Presentation by speaker Jef de l'Arbre about 'Esperanza', a football club in Geel as an educational means for inclusion of migrants, vulnerable people, students, etc.

What is Esperanza?

- Started +/- 15 years ago
- Lots of young people just hanging around
- Difficult to participate in regular settings like soccer clubs or other organizations
- Need for recreational activities for a "special" group of youth
- Indoor soccer
- Every week
- 3 groups (every group 1 hour)
- 2 teams in regular competition

(Esperanza and t Initiatief)

- Supported by volunteers with social background

Why is Esperanza different?

- Open structure: when you want to play, you're welcome
- It's free
- Everbody's welcome
- No papers needed
- Only a few rules

As a team:

- Diversity of people (young, older, psychiatric, refugees, ..)
- Respect for own team, other team, referee etc.
- Learn how to play together as a team
 - Respect for the rules: for example, only speak dutch during the game.

How does it work?

- When you want to play, you can come to the training for 1 hour
- You can choose which group, every group has different people and level
- If you want to play in the regular team, you just have to say it. If you come to the training you will get your chance.
- You have to respect the rules, if you don't, you can be send out. Next week we will talk and you are very welcome again.

Does it work?

- +/- 50 people every week
- Lots of fun
- Building social network

- People tell people, every week new people
- Room to learn from mistakes
- Streets and parks are empty at soccer night

2. Presentation by the Italian partner + discussion

The main objectives are: comprehension and communication

- Objectives vary in relation to the target needs and are negotiated with the students at the beginning of each course and in itinere
- Activities are aimed at improving the main abilities: reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar analysis (grammar is never the starting point but it is inducted), summarizing, etc.

Simple basic rules to learn a language for immigrants

- Trust the teacher
- Stand in a circle
- Listen carefully
- Repeat words and gestures
- Do not interrupt
- Interruptions are allowed just to ask the teacher to repeat

3. Presentation by speaker Tinne Seyen: shelter house for migrant minors and discussion forum

The poorest classes in a developing country may lack the resources needed to mount an attempt to cross illegally, or the connections to friends or family already in the destination country. Some illegal immigrants seek to live with loved ones, such as a spouse or other family members. Family reunification visas may be applied for by legal residents or naturalized citizens to bring their family members into a destination state legally, but these visas may be limited in number and subject to yearly quotas. This may force their family members to enter illegally to reunify. Due to inability to marry, same-sex couples in which one member has an expiring visa may face an "unpalatable choice between leaving and living with the person they love in violation of Belgian immigration laws".

Problems with illegal immigration can be divided into dangers faced by illegal immigrants and problems faced by the host or receiving country. Illegal immigrants may expose themselves and citizens of the countries they enter to dangers while entering another country. Aside from the possibility that they may be intercepted and deported, illegal immigrants may be trafficked for exploitation including sexual exploitation and some illegal immigrants, are involved in criminal activity.

4. Cultural visit to Touristic Visit: Gasthuis Museum

St. Dimpna lies at the foundation of the *world famous family care of the mentally ill* in Geel. The museum is housed in the building of the old hospital of Geel, which was founded in the thirteenth century. It offers a vivid image of the everyday life in the hospital and the life of the Augustinian nurses who were responsible for the care of the sick until 1552.

Friday, 6th May

Departure of project participants.