



## MINUTES of the 4th Project Meeting in Ghent/ Belgium

### PRESENT:

Margit Kreikenbom	- Thüringer Volkshochschulverband e.V.
Kristin Adam	- Thüringer Volkshochschulverband e.V.
Stefanie Schuldes	- Volkshochschule Jena
Alfred Lang	- Research Society Burgenland
Gert Tschögl	- Research Society Burgenland
Ulli Klaum	- VNB Göttingen
Volker Weiss	- VNB Göttingen
Stephan Mertens	- VNB Göttingen
Håvard Lund	- Oppland fylkesbibliotek
Berit Strømshoved	- Oppland fylkesbibliotek
Hanne Gihleengen	- Oppland fylkesbibliotek
Mina Watz	- Oppland fylkesbibliotek
Mark Costello	- Variety Town
Tony Brown	- Variety Town
Andrew Story	- Variety Town
Nadia Srasra	- Vereniging voor Ontwikeling en Emancipatie van Moslims

### TOP 1 WELCOME OF PARTNERS AND WARM UP

Welcome of partners by Nadia and Margit.

#### 1. Presentation of AGORA

In order to enable the present project partners to have a better understanding of the system and services concerning migration and integration in Ghent Nadia invited a representative (Nele) from Ghent integration office.

- Approx. 15% of the population in Ghent are migrants (total No. of population in Ghent = 250.000)
- Biggest group of migrants are Turkish
- Within the last years quite a lot of people from East Europe came to Ghent
- Up to 600 local associations for Turkish, Islamic, mixed etc. groups of migrants are running in Ghent
- Agora is part of the Ghent integration office
- Agora is a platform to embrace all groups working with migrants and integration matters in Ghent
- VOEM is a member of Agora
- Agora aims at improving and stimulating the involvement of ethnic and cultural minorities in city life and policy.



- Agora has 2 organs:
  - Forum Agora: Migrant NGO's meet the local council every two months for exchange, to discuss and solve problems and to plan and carry out joint projects.
  - Advisory Board: is the formal body; gives advice to policy concerning migration and integration
- Agora aims for a close work with the local council - try's to have open discussions with all groups
- That's why a close work connection exists, which is unique in Belgium.

## 2. Warm up "organize a social campaign"

"Organize a social campaign" has been carried out as warm up. The aim of the game was small group work on a given scenario to plan a social campaign. Partners had time to discuss social campaign work in their countries and to work creative together. Thus shall further improve the team work within the project.

The following scenarios' where given:

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**The national democratic party (right wing party) plans to organize a demonstration to avert the building of a mosque in your town. You belong to a group who supports the idea of building a mosque. What will you do against the planned right wing action?**

**There are not enough parking lots available in your neighborhood. People are unsatisfied and pressure the city council to do something. After lots of discussions the city council comes up with the idea to knock down the adventure play ground in order to build a car park. You belong to a parents association who build up the adventure play ground. What action would you take in order to protest against the building of the car park.**

**The city council agrees to knock down the old historic train station in order to build a new modern train station. The old train station is of historic value. Besides tearing the old train station it is also necessary to cut down some old oaks in the surrounding area. You belong to a group that says that the new train station is not necessary. It's too pricy and would not fit in the city view.**

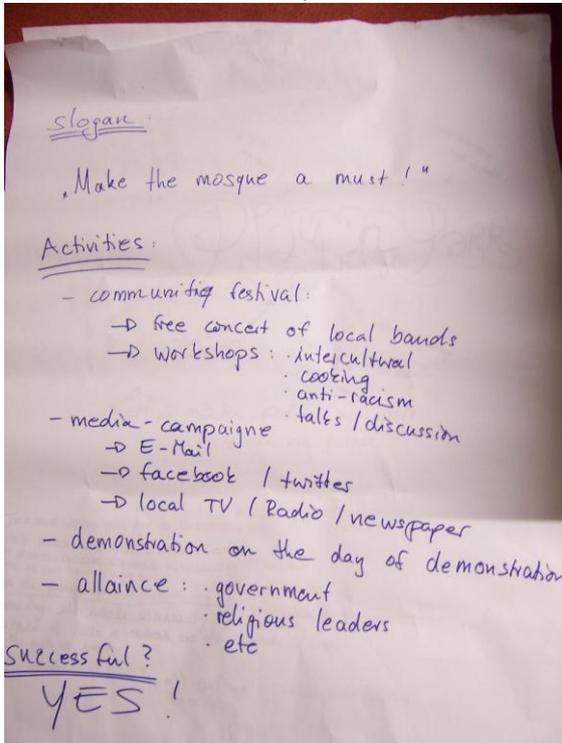
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Please think about an action/ campaign against one of the given scenarios. You have half an hour to create and write down your idea. Think about:

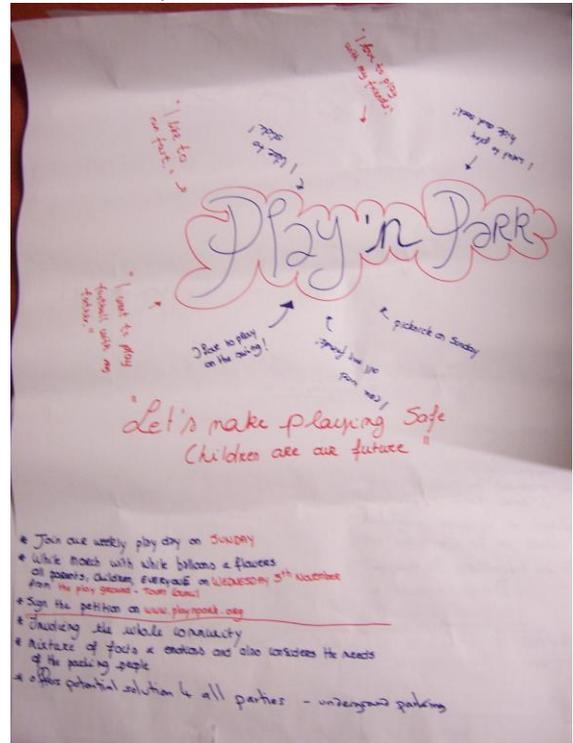
- 1) Logo and Slogan
- 2) What action is planned?
- 3) When and where is it planned?
- 4) Why will your action be successful?

Every group discussed and developed measures against a given scenario; each individual case was presented in a plenum:

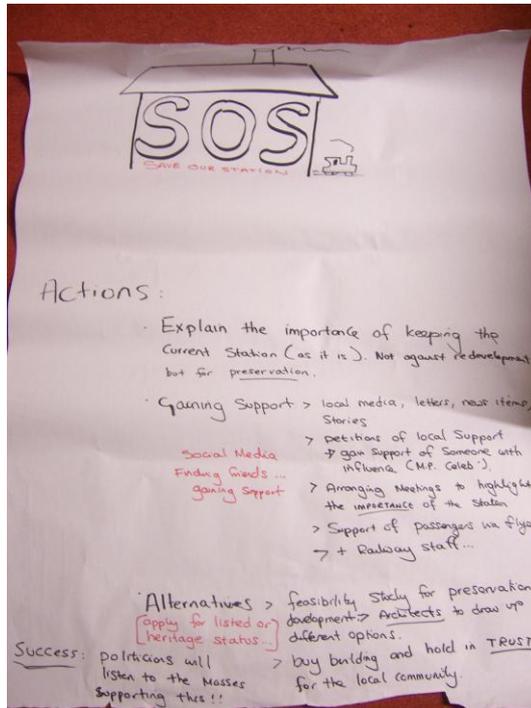
Scenario 1: "Make the mosque a must!"

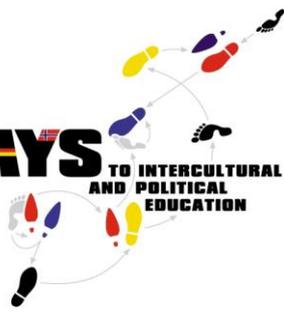


Scenario 2 "Paly'n Park"



Scenario 3 "SOS - Save our Station"





3. Meeting Room was at Trafiek vzw which is situated in an area of Ghent with primarily students, older people, and migrants. Trafiek is an independent organization. The building was renovated by self-initiative, the low rent is guaranteed for 36 years by the city of Ghent. Concept of Trafiek:
- open for everybody, no barriers for example vegetarian food suitable for all kinds of people (Muslims, Vegetarians...), no alcohol is served
  - Trafiek offers room for meetings and get together, courses in yoga, cooking, sewing...
  - low prices for food and rooms (one small meeting room for free, one big meeting for rent depending on possibilities of interested person/ organization)

#### TOP2 WORKSHOP 1 - OPEN MOSQUE: ISLAM IN BELGIUM

Visit to the biggest Arabic Mosque of Ghent including explanation about Islam in Belgium, questions and discussions about experiences.

#### TOP3 WORKSHOP 2 - TRAINING OF TEACHERS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Presentation by Mark

- learning something about Cumbria and teacher training in a rural county
- challenge for public bodies: to provide high quality services that reflect the needs of local population and offer choice
- council provides opportunities at over 70 locations throughout the country, using 300 tutors
- tutors must be trained to ensure an equitable and equality service
- teachers must have equal access to training opportunities
- causes challenges: staff time, cost, organizing big conferences, getting tutors together, local face to face training, organizing several events
- tutors and teachers needed training in equality and diversity
- Cumbria adult education service decided to look into an e-learning model. They worked with Variety town to establish an e-learning model available all over the country
- outcomes: organized conference of centre managers to demonstrate the resource; distribute resources; upload resource to CAE moodle website

One tool is an equality quiz: How is diversity understood in Cumbria? (because 95% white middle class people living there and some people say there is no diversity in Cumbria)

- Cumbria is diverse (young, old, man, woman, parents, no parents, Welsh, Chinese people...)
- Survey about minorities in Cumbria
- Discussion and questions: was it a success? Face to face is better but its mandatory for the teachers.

#### TOP4 DISCUSSION AND FURTHER STEPS

Presentations for Norway have to be prepared. Task is to “get the learners voices”, for example quotations to the topic what means intercultural to learners and teachers?

Every partner writes a paragraph about the method they present during the meetings.

Additionally every organization gives 2 good practice examples. 1 page per case study, key headings are: title, content, impact, challenges, resources (funding, staff...), contact data

➔ **Date March 2011:**

- questioning learners
- good practice examples

Structure of the E-Brochure was discussed. Marc will edit the draft and focus on the language. Mina will edit in sense of style.

Translation into the mother tongue is up to every organization on its own.

➔ **Date: June 2011**

#### TOP5 DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP – A NEW LP OR A MLP?

Before the meeting all partners had been asked to think about possible ideas as well as their general thoughts about the further collaboration of the partnership.

Margit and Alfred gave a short explanation about the differences between Grundtvig Multilateral Projects (MLP) and Grundtvig Learningpartnerships (LP).

This years priorities for MLP's are:

- 1) Key competences (literacy, ICT skills, math ...)
- 2) Migrants and gender
- 3) Senior learning
- 4) Social cohesion

The deadline for the LP's is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and for MLP's is 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (both dates are not yet official confirmed).

Based on the given information and preparation the partners discussed the “afterlife” of the PATHWAYS partnership.

All partners agreed that without a great idea an MLP would make no sense. Also most of the partners lack the man power as well as resources to apply for and carry out such an MLP. All in all there had been no good idea for a MLP so that for now we won't apply for a MLP.

Besides the VNB all partners would consider to apply for a further LP.



The VNB as well a variety town also see great possibilities within applying for Workshops and individual mobilities in order to facilitate an further exchange.

Mark (variety town) presented his idea for a possible learning partnership:

#### MULTILIFE

- The idea is based on the fact that migrants often migrate from mono-cultural societies to our more or less multicultural societies
- The structure of the host countries bears a lot of new situations/ problems/ settings a migrant has to cope with such as law regulations, social behavior/relationships, attitudes, diverse social life, technical approaches and family settings etc.
- The questions is how to work with/ prepare refugees, newcomers, migrants in order to understand the society of the host country better – to prevent unnecessary difficulties, problems/ anger?
- Human – experience – story telling to understand diversity, make aware of different need, support understanding in order to improve integration
- It would be possible to interview people such as newcomers, migrants who life in the host for quite a while, natives etc. about their life's (How is it to be disabled? How is it to be black?)
- The outcomes could be texts, short videos, radio interviews,
- To understand my own biography and the biography of others
- The outcomes can be use for :
  - A) The training of migrants/ new comers ...
  - B) For teacher/ personal working in settings where cultural understanding and empathy is necessary (schools, language courses, intercultural learning courses...)

Mark will send a more detailed project outline by the mid of November. Partners who are interested to participate are asked to provide mark with all necessary material and support in order to write the application. Also if you know interested partners please ask them if they want to participate.

Alfred suggested a preparatory meeting in January (at latest) in order to work on the project application. For this purpose we could either use mobility from the PATHWAYS LP or apply for a preparatory visit grant at the national agencies.

#### TOP6 MISCELLANEOUS

- a) Dates of project meetings:

**Lillehammer/NO: 13<sup>th</sup> March till 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The date for the final meeting in **Jena/DE** has been changed on the request of partners.

The new date is now: **26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2011**

- b) Content of Lillehammer meeting



Workshop carried out by the Norwegian Partner  
Workshop carried out by the VNB  
Meeting with an LGBT contact

TOP 7 EMANCIPATIEPRIJS 2010 in ANTWERP

## TOP 8 EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

What was good?	What was not so good? Improvement necessary	Ideas/ improvements for the next meeting
<b>PRACTICAL ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING</b>		
Food – but too much	Too much food	Less to eat
Lunch at trafiek – great concept	Lack of knowledge concerning the local transport	
Safisafi restaurant is a real highlight	Too much time spent on busses, trams and taxis	
Nadia's engagement/hospitality so that everybody can feel comfortable	Travel arrangement: due to people staying in different hotels-distances etc.	
NADIA!!! Very good organization, I felt very safe and warm welcome by her!		
All the activity program		
Hospitality: Great Thanks for Nadia!!!		
Nadia was very good host!		
Nadia did a great job! Getting us around, serving, helping, always with a smile		
Gent is beautiful! Thanks to Nadia!!		
Organisation of the meeting		
<b>CONTENT / PRESENTATIONS</b>		
Info on trafiek – interesting		LGBT Contact
Visit of the mosque		More interesting case studies
Marks presentation - brilliant		Interesting exercises/ methods, practices
Marks LP idea		Presentations/ shared knowledge/ chat
The workshops carried out by BE and UK – good inspiration for methods/ courses		



	Heading forward: I had the feeling that we were discussing organizational stuff that had been already discussed during the last 2 meetings (turning in a circle)	
Information about local projects/ activities		
Coming to an end: Overview whats coming next and having on mind what product we want		
Discussion about a future collaboration in a “multi” or learning partnership		
To know a foreign organization and its work – presentation		
To learn from each other through practice/ exercise		
<b>PROGRAM OF THE MEETING</b>		
Another idea for possible partnership work	Get more clear what to do for the final product – distribution of tasks	A beginning of our E-Broschure, visual tool
Flexibility of the program	Agenda of meeting: bring in more experience from the partners	Exchange without time pressure
The workshops with relevant topics	Change of methods: not only work in plenum situation	Lots of learning experiences
	To start the working sessions not that early	More space for discussions of country/organization concepts
	Longer break between meeting and socializing activities	A brief meeting on the final product
	Could be more workshops, but still not more time consuming	Group work on E-Broschure (3-4 people on each topic and then presentation that makes it easier to write on that brochure)
	Straight points: On Thursday it took us 1h to start after arriving at trafik (?)	Clear up the tasks for everyone to do for the “products”
Example of good practice		A structure agenda
		Progress
		Trying to get close to an conclusion of the project
		Workshops not to short



SOCIALISING ACTIVITIES		
Long talks/ discussions at meals	The guided tour of gent was very interesting but a little bit too long	A moderated "round table talk" on questions we never dared to ask the other partners 😊
Conversations besides the work sessions		Walks/ hiking through a wintery landscape
Time for informal chatting		Curling competition
		Disco on last night
WORK METHODS		
2 workshops	Could have been more interactive	Open space for methods/ presentations
Work sessions in small groups	More diverse methods	More interactivity
	Getting back to the topic: Learning enough space for everyone to think what he/she learns of intercultural/ political education after a presentation	More flexibility
MEETING PLACE		
Nice place	It was a bit cold in the room	
Interesting authentic place of the seminar	Maybe more effective to hold meetings at hotel	
	Good to be in a different part of the city	
HOTEL FACILITIES		
	No coffee making facilities in hotel	
	Hotel and meeting far away from each other	
PARTNER		
People	More active participation - discussions had been a bit slow/ heavy	Good conversations (beside the work sessions)
Honesty in saying what partners want to do next!	Everyone involved – not everyone is really committed... but fair enough	More time to chat
Group spirit	I missed the attendance of the representatives of VOEM	Honesty - realism
Friendly atmosphere		Prepared partners
Great atmosphere		Good discussions

