

Reflection on Bordeaux, France Project Meeting - UK Team

Introduction

The final project meeting for EVIVE was organized by Cap Ulysse the French partner and took place from the 19 to 21 May 2015. The meeting was hosted at Cap Ulysse offices in Bordeaux, 5 Rue Marengo.

Day 1: Tuesday, May 19th 2015

As usual the first meeting started in the afternoon at 14:30 in order that all participants could arrive on time from various countries. The meeting was opened by our project coordinator – Prof. Dr. Marc Beutner from the University of Paderborn who presented the agenda for the following days.

After the introductory part, Marilou Breda from Cap Ulysse, the French partner and her assistant Brandon Bodie kick-started the meeting with an interactive presentation of how Values in the French education system are continuously discussed and debated. All participants were asked to respond to several statements related to the Value system in France with a short phrase I agree / I disagree which led to a lively debate among the EVIVE partnership.

Later Mr. Doignes, Vocational Training Manager, GRETA shared the reforms that took place in France since March 2014. The reforms were brought in by the government to promote social democracy and equality via both business and individual responsibility. The reforms, it was mentioned, would also help France achieve some competitiveness and also encourage development of employability skills. The training of the individuals can be co-financed by job centres, ESF or ERDF.

Day 2: Wednesday, May 20th 2015

The second day was very dynamic and started with a welcome speech by Marc Beutner. This was quickly followed by Sebastian Rohde who engaged the partners with detailed information about the curriculum and ideas and issues discussed so far and where the project Results & Outcomes stand.

Detailed work plans from the original application were discussed and checked which items has been completed and if there was still any additional information needed to finish the project by July 2015. Almost all work has been completed and some items that were missing were discussed which were to be completed within the next week. Completed national reports were also mentioned and they all were useful in completing the overall bigger picture of the European Framework for Values Curriculum. A list of Didactical materials has also been compiled and more would be discussed by Skype and email in the coming weeks.

While the EVIVE coordinators discussed project issues, the learners were sent out to reflect on a number of issues related to Values Education and their experiences of:

- (a) *Topics of future work and interesting aspects of the European value discussion*
- (b) *How can we foster the use of the European value curriculum?*
- (c) *Lessons learned*

The EVIVE team had the chance to listen to the learners' presentation just before a buffet lunch organised by Cap Ulysse.

After lunch and the results and outcomes discussion the EVIVE team visited a Vocational School Lycee Professionel Les Menuts. At the school, we had the chance to hear about the successes of the school and the various activities and subjects learnt at the school. The students are all aged between 15 and 18 and on completion of their diploma at this school they then have a chance to go to university or a higher technical college within their professional area. The school mainly focuses on Office Administration and Hair Dressing subjects. The entire presentation was organized by the students themselves who also took the EVIVE on a tour of the school.

The visit completed, EVIVE team had the chance to relax and socialize further over French cuisine and carry on their discussions about Values education in their respective countries.

Day 3: Thursday, May 21st 2015

The last day was dedicated to administrative issues and strategic planning of the next project steps. It was decided that each country would conduct in depth discussion in their own institutions and check how the EVIVE concept could further be promoted both as an existing project (i.e. dissemination activities) and also as a future Erasmus+ KA2 project. Details about the EST were also shared by the German team so everyone is aware of how to fill the EST portal over the next 1-2 month. Publication strategy was also discussed and what items could be further added to the common website. The German team also reminded all the delegates about the BCSW server managed by Paderborn University and how items could be uploaded to the server which is only open to the partners. Those who would have difficulty accessing the server were asked to send items and work via emails to Sebastian Rohde who would then upload all the items.

While the EVIVE team discussed next steps the learners were asked to reflect on free movement on travel and for work across the EU.

Conclusions

The final meeting was a very interesting experience and contributed to the fulfillment and conclusion of the EVIVE project, both for the coordinator and the project partners. Dates for the final tasks to be completed were set at 15 June 2015 so that the German team would have time to compile the final report EST. This report would be circulated with the partners after 15 June 2015 who have a chance to add or comment on the results and outcomes. Soon it was time to say goodbyes and bon voyage.