



Creating Spaces of Experience Learning Diary Corsica Meeting (13th – 16th October 2011)

Three PPP staff members (Gill, Dwaine and Laida), attending the meeting in Corsica in October. Two of us were new to the project although we had met some of the partners in London at the earlier meeting in April. Our initial impressions on the Thursday evening when we all went out for dinner together was of how welcoming all the partners were and how quickly the group bonded.

On this project, some of the partners have sent different people on each trip. We feel that this is a great way of using the Mobilities, as it gives a wider range of people the opportunity to experience the development of the project and in doing so meet its aims.

The overall impression that we had of this meeting was of the willingness and enthusiasm amongst the partnership to learn and participate. The lead partner, Team Training in particular, was always willing to take risks within the group, both in the UK meetings in April and again in Corsica. By modelling this risk taking and being so accepting of new members, it helped us to feel safe and comfortable and able to take risks also.

The diversity of the group and of the approach to working was a great learning experience in itself and provided the space for effective cultural exchange. The first day in particular was a great lesson in teamwork as we learnt about one of the ID Formation in Corsica's projects where vulnerable young people and those that are unemployed work together to build dry stone walls, thus learning a dying traditional skill, contribute to their cultural heritage, be part of a team and be able to raise self-esteem. We were able to experience this first hand and understand (on some level), how the young people involved in the project would feel. By working together, reflecting on the task at hand and succeeding in it, we definitely felt part of a strong and effective team.

On the next day, we carried out a workshop for the rest of the partners. We wanted to follow on from the meeting in the UK that focused on learning styles and blocks to learning, and decided to involve the partners in a game where they would have to play different roles of the professionals involved in a case meeting for a young person. Our aim was to show the work that we do with our young people and the way in which we work (by using the framework). All the partners were again very keen to take part in the game and really threw themselves into it (in another language!), showing the range of human qualities necessary to be able to best support the young person. This made us



contemplate on what it is about this group that makes it so effective? If we could capture the essence of the group and transfer it to other projects, we believe we would have the ideal recipe for a strong partnership! Through the ability to embody the human qualities and model risk taking in a wide range of situations, we felt safe within the group and able to explore and learn.

One suggestion that we would make for the next session, would be to have the admin meeting at the start rather than at the end, when everyone's energy levels are higher and then re-adjust it at the end. As it is quite an intense couple of days it might be more useful to get the administrative work out of the way at the start and then re-cap on it at the end in case any adjustments need to be made.

Thank you!

Gill, Dwaine and Laida