



Creating Spaces of Experience
Transnational Event

BASTIA – FRANCE
OCTOBER, 13TH – 16TH 2011

Venue:

**ID Formation,
Les Terrasses du Fango – Bâtiment D
20200 Bastia**

**Site telephone: 0033 495 31 36 41
Beatrice's Office: 0033 495 10 64 00**

PROGRAMME

Thursday 13th October

| | |
|--------|--|
| 4:35pm | Arrival |
| 7:45pm | <u>Picking up at the Best Western hotel</u> Dinner - Restaurant l'Algua route Marine, 20200 BASTIA Tel. : 0033 495 38 43 71 |

Friday 14th October

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8.30am | <u>Picking up at the Best Western hotel</u> |
| 8.30am – 09.30am | Driving to Soriu, village 50 km West from Bastia |
| 10.00am – 12.00am | Presentation /visit of the "Heritage Trail" and of the work done by the trainees (walk outside) |
| 12.00am – 2.00 pm | Lunch (picnic – outside if nice weather - Saint Antoine, Sorio di Tenda) |
| 2.00 – 5.00 pm | Lab dry stone wall ¹ : creative spaces for people facing difficulties of insertion (hands-on workshop - scenario) |
| 4.30 – 17.30 pm | Driving back to Bastia |
| 8.00 pm | Dinner- restaurant " Le Bouchon " Vieux Port, 20200 BASTIA Tel : 0033 495 58 14 22 |

¹ (and initiation caladage if we'll have enough time)

Saturday 15th October

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8.45am | <u>Picking up at the Best Western hotel</u> |
| 8.45am-9.00am | Driving to ID Formation Villa Ker Maria, Route du Cap, Chemin des Minelli 20200 VILLE DI PIETRABUGNO |
| 9.00am –11.30am | Workshop on learning postulates - PPP |
| 11.30 – 1.00 pm | BGE approach/work |
| 1.00 – 2.00pm | Lunch – restaurant “Café del Mare” Port Toga 20200 VILLE DI PIETRABUGNO Tel.: 0033 495 58 18 14 www.cafedelmare-bastia.com |
| 2.00-5.00pm | Discussing roles, tasks, activity plan; planning next meeting |
| 5.00pm | Sightseeing tour |
| 8.00 pm | Free Dinner |

Sunday 16th October

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| 9.30am | Departure |
|--------|-----------|

Report on the meeting

The consortium arrived on Thursday afternoon/night and we all met for a dinner and exchanged news.

On the sunny Friday morning all partners were picked up at our common hotel in Bastia by our Corsican hosts. We went on an excursion to a small village in the hinterland where the Corsican partners, IDF Corse, are working with inhabitants of this rural area. We knew that our trip was about learning how to build walls in a traditional way and all partners were pretty excited how this would turn out. We split on two cars and had the opportunity to see the various landscapes that Corsica has to offer. During the journey our hosts told us about Corsica. After an hours drive and after gaining several hundreds metres of height we arrived at the top of the mountain and enjoyed a stunning view from the mountaintop to the sea. What a place to work! A bit of jealousy was recognizable among the partners. We walked for about 15 minutes (still going up), leaving the village and there we met the rest of the Corsican team. After a short introduction one of the employees of IDF told us about their work with the people from this rural area. First he told us about their work in general: they build walls made of stones which are found in the nature in this area in a very special, ancient way: there is no grout used in putting the walls together. During the process of dryly laying bricks absolutely no substance is used to fix the walls, the walls stick together only by adhesion a very stable result is achieved. Because of this construction principle each stone has to be chosen carefully, because it needs to fit perfectly to the other stones around it. Because of the pressure and the elapsing of time the stones cant and become a wall which can last for several hundreds of years. Very fascinating was the simplicity of this construction yet achieving such an impressive product, if the walls are built correctly.

Our guide emphasized especially two reasons why IDF chose to work with these walls: first the walls are a part of the cultural heritage and therefore it is a possibility to preserve this precious knowledge. IDF work s a lot with youth at risk and especially for this target group building the walls and learning on the ancient construction techniques is a great way of getting young people in an applicatory contact with their culture. The second reason to apply dryly laying bricks is the degree of perfection you have to achieve to successfully build a wall. You cannot put stones on the top of others and expect them to stay in position. Each stone is a decision you have to make and effects all the following stones – so you need several people to work together as a team for being successful. So the construction work is a very communicative and team-based process where you need to apply and develop also social competencies. The walls make a good example for the necessity to live and work in a social context.

After finishing a wall successfully, something was created that lasts and fulfils a benefit – these results help to improve the confidence of those people working there. After the lecture we went on a walk to get an impression of all the walls which have been



constructed yet. The host organisation told us a lot of stories that happened during their work with several groups of people, f.e. that some of the youth at risk continued working in the wintertime or how steps between the walls are constructed to prevent erosion and mud avalanches.

After a beautiful and delicious regional lunch we got a short tour to see a waterfall and experience the beauty of the Corsican landscape. In the afternoon it was our turn to build a dry stone wall. We were separated into three groups and each group was told to continue constructing a distinct part of a stone wall. The only utilities were gloves for not getting cut on the sharp edges of the stones and hammers for fitting in stones. For building the walls we used stones which were found on site and some of them were dug out of the ground. Thanks to our Corsican partner we had excellent support and guidance. It is an exhausting work and we quickly realized that we could not make it without close cooperation when carrying the stones or fitting them into our walls. After two hours of hard working all three groups had finished their part of the wall and we headed back to Bastia, for a well-deserved dinner.

On Saturday we worked on the learning postulates and approaches the partner organisations apply in their daily work. First the partners from PPP presented their framework which is the base of all their support offers. PPP 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, 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.

Following the workshop by PPP, Julien from BGE Guyana held a presentation of their work in this rather remote part of France. Therefore Julien told us about his organisation, which was founded as an association in 1996 and is part of national network. In Guyana there are 30 employees working in 4 branches: Entrepreneurship (to help people set up a business), .Integration (to help people find a job), Training and a branch for unusual or one-shot projects (mainly development programs).

The training is especially for low-qualified workers and aims at providing basic skills, e.g. in language training and ICT-skills. Also there is a program for employed workers to develop their professional skills, e.g. for people working in fishery, where they can learn on navigation.



BGE provides roughly 15 000 hours training per year for about 150 learners. There are 50% unemployed learners, 40% employed learners and about 10 percent are self-employed. Only one out of ten learners is a native French speaker.

The origin of BGE's training unit dates back to 1996 when a « Permanent Taskforce Against Illiteracy » was set up in French Guiana. The learning approach has the backbone to concentrate on persons rather than on training contents. In other words, trainers had to pay greater attention to the cultural diversity even if it was at the expense of certain goals. The training unit adopted this model and thus developed a multicultural approach to abandon « cultural deficit » model. This model leads to evaluate a learner's needs by comparing the cultural norm of the learner to the cultural norm of the trainer. Instead of singling out the gaps, it is thus preferred to recognize and value learners' skills and inner strength so that their true potential can emerge. For the trainer to de-focus on his/her own cultural norm, values and customs to let true dialogue happen between cultural communities. As a result, vernacular and traditional lore, folklore, knowledge stemming from experience and oral tradition, the many languages and dialects spoken in French Guiana, have all their place at our training unit.

It means, identifying, valuing and managing the cultural diversity are compulsory skills for our trainers. This goes hand in hand with a professional behaviour engineered towards collaborative learning (which favors the expression of all participants), and a mindset that considers people, languages and cultural traits as interactive dynamic phenomena rather than fixed frozen inheritances or blocks.