

Fourth mission of transnational experts
to Reutlingen, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Stuttgart and Tübingen from 18th to 25th November, 2012



Draft report

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Summary

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- (3) Tuesday 20th : BBQ Reutlingen (workshop with mentors)
- (4) Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd: Werkhof Ost Schwäbisch Gmünd (group interviews, participating observation with users and workers of the project)
- (5) Friday 23rd: Evaluation, writing of this report and future planning



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1. Week planning resume table

SESSION	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning	1. Planification 2. Reutlingen Jobcenter	1. Preparation 2. Workshop with mentors	1. working breakfast 2. Werkhof Ost: Schwäbisch Gmünd. participating observation	1. Werkhof Ost; Schwäbisch Gmünd. participating observation	1. Evaluation and planification 2. Report writing
Afternoon	3. Preparation of work with mentors	3. Workshop with mentors	3. Werkhof Ost: Group interviews	2. Integration by education	3. The focus on Reutlingen Learning from Europe



2. Monday 19th: Jobcenter Reutlingen (interview social worker)

Resume: The team of international experts from INPUT meets Ms Evmarie MARTIN, with many years of experience as social worker of the JobCenter in Reutlingen. She explains their working system. There are different programs for helping people in their searching for job and even beyond that, for other social needs, like house searching, helping in taken care of children and other services provided by the Jobcenter. Ms Evmarie MARTIN explains the main “mentoring” programme which consists in meetings of the social workers with the “clients” of the Jobcentres twice a week (helping in writing CV, preparing working interviews, counselling with personal or familiar problems, etc.). There are also other specific programs, focused on different group of population as single young parents that receive help and some financial support until the youngest of their children is 3 years old. There are also initiatives aimed to employers and supporting them if they give employment to the Jobcentre’s users.

The international team exchange also the working system of Jobcentres and helping programmes for employment in their own countries, Italy and Spain. The ambiance of the meeting is being very good and productive and both parts are now in contact for further collaboration in the future. In the afternoon, a mentor from BBQ-INPUT, Ms Johanna SEGEBRECHT, joined the international team in order to prepare the Tuesday session: methodology, materials, etc.

Main achievements: the exchange of experiences is being so rich for both parts involved and the preparation of the Tuesday workshop was completely done.

3. Tuesday 20th: BBQ Reutlingen (workshop with mentors)

Resume: The whole day working at BBQ Reutlingen with a group of mentors from the INPUT project. The workshop involves a total of 10 people (international experts, personal of INPUT and mentors) and the methodology is based in different technics in order to achieve different objectives: (1) to give the international team a complete idea of the project (2) to focus on specific stories of users and their relationship with mentors (3) to debate about process, problems and strengths of the mentors work (3) to define main difficulties or questions about the day by day work with users (4) to receive counselling from the international experts and also from the rest of the group (and 5) to plan the future months of the project.

The workshop had two moments of plenary meeting –beginning and end- and also some work divided into groups of three people, when analysing specific stories of users-mentors. One person told the story, another observed and asked questions and the third was writing everything in order to tell afterwards to the other groups was what the discussion about. It was quite interesting to listen different aspects of the work, like intercultural situations, personal problems of users, beyond their lack of job or money, etc. At the end of each story, the international experts gave some advices to mentors.

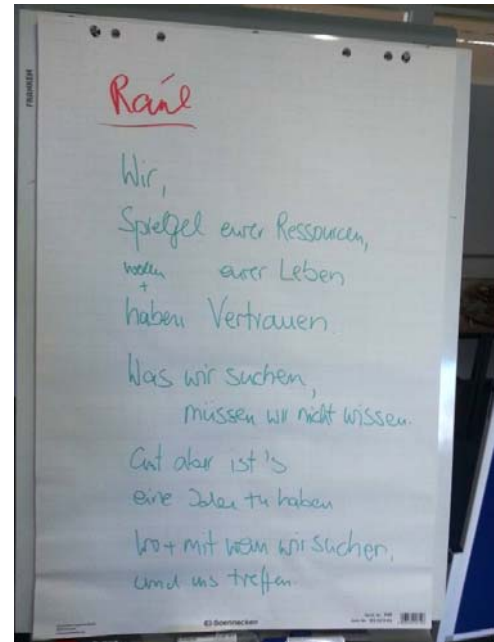
The afternoon was dedicated to talk about the future, the last months forward of INPUT project. The methodology used was “The three wishes”: each participant in the meeting –included project workers and coordinator and the two experts- wrote three wishes about the project in a piece of coloured papers. Then, each participant stands up and fix its papers on a wall under a specific category label: (1) my mentees (2) the structural context of my mentoring work (3) my professional learning opportunities (4) working in group (and 5) miscellanea

After all the participants were already told the rest their “wishes”, a Wishing Committee of volunteers decided to transform the wishes in concrete actions and send their proposals to the rest before 31 of January.

Main achievements: the dynamic of the workshop obtained different results, as to reinforce the group as a team, receive advice from experts and colleagues and to establish a consensus about the close future and actions to be taken.

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4. Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd: Werkhof Ost Schwäbisch Gmünd (group interviews, participating observation with mentees)

Resume: We have expended two complete days of work in the headquarters of Werkhof Ost, in the city of Schwäbisch Gmünd, making participating observation of different aspects of the place, the people and the activities that took place there. As in the other visits we have made there, it's so clear the social function of the project, the self-engagement of all participants (workers and "users"), the good ambiance and the feeling of being a team that makes real things, for them and for the community.

We already knew, from former visits, some of the jobs they are carrying on, like gardening, repairing furniture of playgrounds for children, preparing some community events like the jubilee, etc. and also the recent project of cooking and delivery hot meals every day in different areas of Schwäbisch. So our visit this time had another purpose: to talk with users and workers with enough time and relaxed conditions to have an in depth vision of their opinions, thoughts, proposals and/or critics. We have, then, developed during these two days at least 4 group interviews of more than an hour and a half each of them. In the first group were for users of the projects with different and very interesting backgrounds in their lives and also in their relation with Werkhof Ost (in this first group was a man from Nigeria, another from the former democratic republic of Germany and two from the actual Germany). The same type of interview we repeated with another group (with migrant background from Kazajstan and Ukraine) and with three of the most veteran "users" of the project. Finally, we had another group interview with three direct workers of the project; three women, included Helga, the coordinator. Along the two days we were accompanied by Bernard Bormann as main responsible of the Center.

All the interviews were video recorded for further edition and dissemination of the stories and the good praxis we've seen there.

Main achievements: The information and the interactive dynamics we have had these two days are of so much importance and possibilities of learning that it would be useless trying to tell it in just the space of a report like this one. Specially because the video recording we've made it's so rich that need to be seen directly, instead of writing a brief resume. Watching the eyes, the faces and the expressions of the participants (both workers and "users") explaining the importance of that place in their lives cannot be substituted by a report.

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