



## **2QAB Learner Diary – Bristol Thursday 5- Sunday 8 November 2009**

We had the pleasure of hosting the initial partnership meeting in Bristol based at our offices in Stokes Croft, located in the city centre. We had a busy time leading up to the first get together of Fobo partners – first we did some internet searching to find a reasonably priced hotel for everyone. As we were expecting 14 delegates from 6 countries, a group booking of hotel rooms was arranged at a city centre hotel just 5 minutes walk away from our offices for ease of access to and from the meetings; England in November is not always a good time for long walks through the city!

Once we found the right hotel, we spent some time planning a programme of activities for the visit. This was also our chance to share our thoughts with Susanne and it was good to find that our ideas were very similar. We put together an outline plan, which combined some formal meeting times with plenty of space for more informal things.

On a theme of building friendships and getting to know each other, a group meal was organised at the “Amici” restaurant ([www.amicirestaurant.co.uk](http://www.amicirestaurant.co.uk)) on the Thursday evening which everyone attended and very much enjoyed. We were impressed by how friendly everyone was and how amenable individuals were to sharing experiences.

Workshops began on Friday with organisational introductions and presentations followed by a guided graffiti tour around the Stokes Croft area, renowned for its graffiti on buildings including a Banksy (The Mild, Mild West” [www.banksy.co.uk](http://www.banksy.co.uk)) on the front of the building our offices are located at. Following the graffiti tour we started work on the content, aims and objectives of our partnership and in the evening enjoyed a group meal at Zazu’s Kitchen ([www.zazuskitchen.com](http://www.zazuskitchen.com)) opposite our offices.

Workshops continued throughout Saturday discussing partnership management and planning tasks and responsibilities including agreeing the hosting of the transnational meetings for the duration of the project. A two hour sightseeing break was included after lunch. A final group meal was held at Casa Mexicana ([www.casamexicana.co.uk](http://www.casamexicana.co.uk)) when we all were able to fully relax and enjoy socialising knowing that firm friendships had been made over the course of the previous days work together.

Sunday was left free for individual sightseeing and journeys home.

We were a little nervous about the first meeting, and especially about being the hosts but of course everything was fine. All of the partners were charming, and everyone got along well. It was interesting to hear about each partner's organisation and the work that they do, and to gain some understanding of the similarities and differences of the situations that we all face in working to support people in developing and extending their learning. We are really looking forward to working together with all these interesting people from across Europe – to share our ideas and experiences and to learn as much as we can from each other.