



LEARNING DIARY FROM RHETORIK-VERBAND BA-WÜ E.V.

of the 5th meeting from Folk without Book, Grundtvig Learning Partnership

30th of June – 3rd of July 2011 in Konstanz, Germany

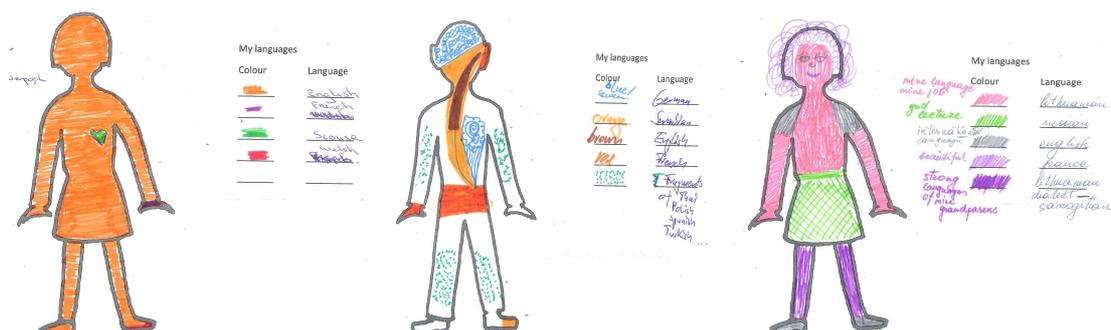
The meeting started with a common dinner at a lakeside restaurant. There we all had the opportunity to catch up with our project partners. The atmosphere was very nice, but all partners were a bit melancholic, because it was the final project meeting. So the dinner was the starting point of informal planning of further projects among the partners.

Because Konstanz is a very popular touristic target, the hosts had decided that we started the meeting on Friday with a guided tour in Konstanz, so that we could escape the touristic masses. It was a nice tour and the guide told all project partners about the most important historic moments, like the council of Konstanz in the 15th century. Thanks to our hosts we finished our tour in the city hall, where a high-ranking city official held a speech where he benevolently gave a feedback on our project. After the speech Martin Thomas from Wrexham College showed a video which was created by two students of his who took part in several project meetings. It was very interesting and emotionally touching, because both of them expressed how they benefitted from taking part in the project.

After lunch we went to the office of Sprachendienst Konstanz where Susanna Gratzl and Maria Hirtenlehner from the International Centre for Cultures and Languages in Vienna held a workshop on “Tandem®: Cross-Cultural Exchange between Police and Migrants”. In Austria, the Tandem® program is part of the obligatory continuing education offers for police officers. The program documented improvements in attitudes of both police and migrant participants. It is an innovative approach and could definitely be implemented in other European countries. So this was the first part of our intercultural focus of this meeting and a very interesting best practice example.

After that we did an exercise to reflect on our language skills and associate these with different body parts.

Here are some examples of our language portraits:



Then the group was split in three, and each group experimented in language training with different methods. The Silent Way is a language teaching method that makes extensive use of silence as a teaching technique. The method emphasizes the autonomy of the learners, the teacher's role is to monitor the students' effort and the students are encouraged to have an active role in the learning process. So we had the chance to improve within one hour our skills in Turkish, Japanese and Chinese.

Our dinner this evening was in a restaurant at the rhine, we had good food and even better conversation.

On Saturday we started with a workshop by our Italian partner. Alberto Morlacchi hold a workshop on "Problem-based-learning". This approach focuses the learners, where students learn about a subject in a complex context. The students are divided in groups and each group has a problem to solve. The students have to identify what they already know, what they need to know, and how and where to access new information that may lead to the resolution of the problem. The role of the trainer is to facilitate learning, by asking probing questions, providing appropriate resources, and leading class discussions, as well as to assess learning success.

After this final input our coordinator divided the partners in groups and these groups should reflect on the course of the project and do a final evaluation. The results were put in form of a collage by each group, using newspapers and photos of the previous meetings. Every group presented his collage and the feedback was very positive.

The final step of the working part was the discussion of the final report, which was rather easy, because there was complete consensus so that this part was done quickly.

The last afternoon we went to UNESCO World Heritage site Insel Reichenau, also with a guide. After the final dinner (which was great), all partners said goodbye, respectively hope to see you soon on the next common project.

We would like to express our gratitude to all partners for contributing to this great project.