

LEARNING DIARY

Date 16th to 19th September 2010
Organiser Institut pour le Développement et la Formation

We arrived at Ajaccio on the **16th of September**; there was a nice surprise at Nice's airport, where we met the Lithuanian delegation (Ausra, Ausra and Jolanda), so we took the flight to Ajaccio all together. At the arrival we decided to take two taxis and to reach the whole group who was having dinner at "l'Amirauté". It was a pleasure to meet the other delegates, someone again and someone for the first time. We ate something and then we decide to go directly to the hotel because it was a bit late.

The next morning we started the project work.

At the beginning the host partner (**Institut pour le Développement et la Formation**) and the coordinator (**Rhetorik-Verband**) welcome the other partners; then the coordinator gave a short overview of the projects, the reached objectives and the last meetings; there was also the opportunity for everyone to introduce himself/herself to the whole group.



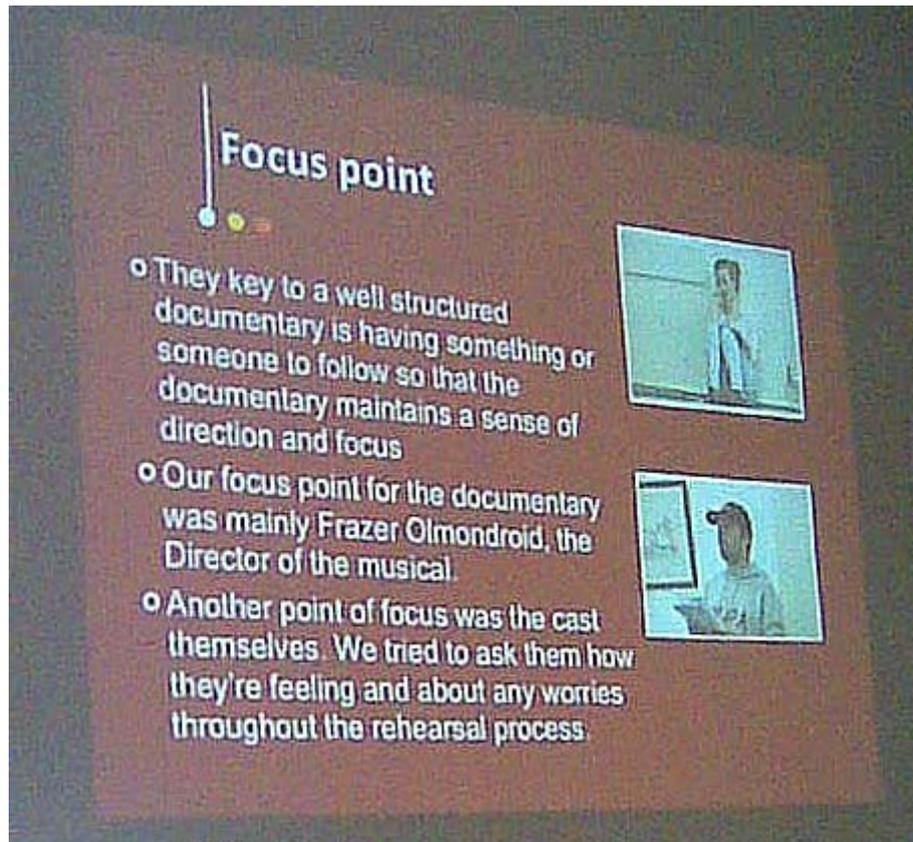
After that, the morning was spent presenting all the project survey's results; during the last meeting in Lithuania infact the partners developed all together a questionnaire useful to gather information from learners, referring to their reading processes/experiences/preferences; every partner had to carry out at least 15 questionnaires; we had a lot of learners in that period, and for this reason at the end we got 86 filled in questionnaires. It was a hard work to record and analyse all data! We presented our results, and so the other partners. It was interesting to find differences and/or similarities between different countries.



At lunch time we went outside and had a little walk in order to reach the "L'Auberge" restaurant; it was a nice day, and most of us decided to have lunch in the terrace.

During the afternoon we joined two workshops from Yale college; in the first one, Martin talked about media competency and significant authors such as R. Schenda, F.R. Leavis, I.A. Richards, E. Schallnort. We were impressed by one of Martin's sentences: "nowadays there are several new media useful not only to communicate but also to know literature". As a matter of fact, someone even says that "education without media competency alienates learners". We have to pay attention to this topic, also because the demands for media competency is increasing exponentially with internet use.

Then Lauren and Jonathan shown a video representing their own experience – *in practical* – of media competency. Nowadays media play an important role in our lives and cultures – in particular for young people: we can say it is somehow impossible to live without them for today's generation. It's media which keeps us up-to-date; it's media that make us known of very important issues in the world (the issues we should know, those are important for us); it's media that let us communicate. As we can easily see, there are a lot of meanings linked to communication/information/learning. We shouldn't forget that the media are also a powerful source of influence on young people; so, if we want to reduce harmful media influence in our life, we must acquire a skill called **media literacy**, that is the ability to identify and evaluate the messages behind news and entertainment. Obtaining media literacy is not difficult, we just have to learn to ask questions about media messages.



At the end of the afternoon we joined an interesting **tour in Ajaccio**.

Then, after a bit of free time, we had a nice dinner all together at "Le Hasard"; having dinner all together was a wonderful opportunity of knowing better each other.

The day after we started with IDF's presentation; Mary Lou welcome again all the participants and presented her organisation (activities, learners, staff and so on), going in depth in the topic of what to teach/how to teach. After a short coffee break, Paul started his workshop on "**Virtual Worlds**", that in his opinion make the knowledge available to a wider range of people. Although much has been written about the ways in which new technology might transform educational practice, particularly in the area of literacy learning, there is relatively little empirical work that explores the possibilities and problems - or even what such a transformation might look like in the classroom. Virtual worlds offer a range of opportunities for learners to use digital literacies, and suggest one way in which we might explore **changing literacy practices** in a playful, yet meaningful context. We had the opportunity to know "little big planet", a play for PS3, that seems really interesting because allows the player to write his own the story.

Then we spent a bit of time collecting proposals about how to optimise learners' integration. At the end the project work plan had been updated in this way:

- Next meetings will take place in Vienna (24/02/2011-27/02/2011) and in Konstanz (30/06/2011-03/07/2011)
- Topics for the next meeting: tandem learning, learning methods, preparation of internal workshop, songs connected to literature

After the end of the work, we had lunch all together and spent all the afternoon visiting Ajaccio. The day after we left from Corsica to Italy.