INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION AND ADAPTATION

TRAINERS’ TRAINING  8th-12th October 2012 Paris

What does it mean to adapt to a new cultural environment?  What does it feel like to be a stranger? What does it take to reinvent oneself in a new place?  How is it possible to help this process?

GRUNDTVIG COURSE CATALOGUE REFERENCE NUMBER:  FR-2012-400-002

TARGET GROUP
Trainers, adult educators, counsellors, coaches working with multicultural student groups: across cultural borders of nationality, ethnicity, religion but also class, age, gender etc.

OBJECTIVES
Participants will have
ü Gained awareness of the implications of cultural diversity, of personal experiences of interculturality,
ü Get acquainted with basic theories and practices related to collaboration in heterogeneous groups
ü Developed basic competences for intercultural communication applicable in personal encounters as well as in the counselling / training process
ü Adapted tools / practices that help people connect across cultural borders

LOCATION & DURATION
Paris, 11th district (75011)

METHODOLOGY
The workshop is based on a combination of different activities and methodologies, relying on non-formal education.  We invite the participants to participate actively, and share their experiences. Activities include: ü Structured exercises: role plays, simulations to examine the dynamics of cross-cultural experiences. ü Small group tasks, discussions around questions of interest. ü Presentations and discussion of the psycho-social mechanisms involved in cross-cultural adaptation. ü Field exercise in town. ü Getting acquainted with tools of intercultural psychology.

COURSE FEE
660 Euros in total for the 5 days including: course materials, refreshments during course
**PREPARATION**

Preparation 1. Filling out a questionnaire on background and interests linked to interculturality
2. An optional reading list will be proposed for those participants interested to get an introduction before arrival
3. Two pre-course tasks will be proposed:
   a/ Making a short interview with someone who has moved to a new country (more than 3 months ago) to ask him / her about the experiences of cross-cultural transition. The aim is to a) finding out what where the main difficulties, challenges s/he had to face b) in what areas of life there were more difficulties (work life, social life, family etc.) c) collecting concrete situations / incidents that illustrate the difficulties d) finding out what were the resources that helped the adaptation. The interview should be an open interview (no strict order of questions, giving the interviewee as much freedom as possible), no need to transcribe the whole interview, just write down the main points. We will use this material during the course.
   b/ Identify an organization / institution / communities in Paris that could play a role in the adaptation process to Paris. Put yourself in the newcomer’s shoes, and try to think what kind of organisation / community you’d look for to help you enter / connect to the new city. Look for such an organisation via internet. In the afternoon of the third day you’ll have the opportunity to visit this organization and interview one of their members/responsibles, and explore how this organisation / community could facilitate integration to local life.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Day 1. What is culture?**
10.00 - 11.30 Presentation of the course, the participants and the trainers. Expectations.
11.45 - 13.15 We are the others: an intercultural experience
14.30 - 15.45 What is culture? How does it affect us? (group exercise cont)
16.00 - 17.30 An inventory of intercultural situations and their individual consequences

**Day 2. Communicating**
9.30 - 12.45 First contact: obstacles and competences of intercultural communication (contact improvisation and drama games)
14.15-15.45 Introduction to the method of critical incidents: how to use them as a source of learning?
16.00-17.30 Practicing the method of critical incidents

**Day 3. Adapting**
9.30 - 11.00 Challenges of adaptation to a new cultural environment
11.15-12.45 Needs and principles behind identity (individual, pair task)
12.45-13.00 Instructions for field exercise and reporting
14.30-17.30 Field exercise: visiting the organization identified beforehand

9.30-11.00 Presentation of the results of the field trip
11.15-11.45 A model of positive intercultural practices
11.45-12.45 Art as a tool: how art activities can be a catalyst of intercultural dialogue
14.15-15.45 Market of good practices
16.00-17.30 Zoom on trainers’ skills and toolbox

Day 5. Make diversity a resource!

9.30-9.45. Diversity and happiness: how does cultural diversity influence our capacity to experience pleasure, to lead a meaningful and a good life?
9.45-10.30 Constructing intercultural interventions
10.30-12.30 Group task: working on own intercultural intervention projects for own target groups
13.30 -15.15 Presentation and discussion of results
15.30-16.00. Recapitulation, evaluation.