

## **“Integration, Volunteerism and Adult Learning, through an Intercultural Pathway” - IVALIP**

1<sup>st</sup> Partnership Meeting Report

**Portugal - Leiria, November 13-17 2008**

The first partnership meeting was hosted by Intercultura-AFS Portugal and held in Lisboa and Leiria, from November 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To present each partner organization;
- To present each partner country volunteerism situation and local minorities and social disadvantaged groups situations;
- To share each partner knowledge and experience in the project main issues;
- To decide about the project’s logo;
- To review the project updating each partner’s tasks;
- To define the evaluation questionnaire;
- To prepare the next phase activities.

Description of the activities, according to the program meeting:

### Thursday, November 13th

Although some of the partners were already in Lisbon since the day before, the partnership (except Slovakia who would arrive that night) officially gathered at 16.00h. The group, lead by Intercultura-AFS Portugal volunteer and member of the Board Mr. Diogo Casal, had the opportunity to visit Castelo de S. Jorge (St. George’s Castle) and a part of the Old Lisbon before joining at the Portuguese partner. There, a presentation was made and the meeting folders were given to partners and the program schedules and contents were discussed and agreed.

### Friday, November 14th

The group departed to Leiria in the morning, arriving there before lunch, in time to know a bit more about local structures for adult education, volunteering and minority integration, and also about the city itself. After a lunch (offered by the municipality and prepared by students from a local vocational school) each partner had a presentation on their own organization, about their countries situation and on their own situation regarding volunteerism.

In these presentations, partners had the opportunity to know more about the partners organizations and it became clear that there is a lack of official information/statistics on this subject.

### Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Taking into account that 2 of the initial partners quit the project before it actually began, the project structure and calendar would have to be revised in this first meeting. After the initial discussion from the previous days, the partnership shared their visions and worries concerning the project restructuring, without compromising the main objectives.

There was also a discussion in small groups regarding needs and potential from each organization, which were then shared with the rest of the group. Besides this, it was asked that everyone would write each one expectation towards this project on a post-it, as we can check below:

#### **Expectations**

*“Cooperation with the other volunteer organizations”*

*“Opening the courses to train volunteers”*

*“New contacts”*

*“Improvement”*

*“New experience”*

*“Learn how to activate elder people in our community”*

*“We expect to learn about the practical issues concerning adult education and volunteering, skills in organizing activities for volunteers”*

*“I expect to share experiences in volunteering. I hope to have new friends!”*

*“How to motivate people to be active community members”*

After reviewing the whole project, the partnership decided that it was possible to maintain all the products originally presented in the original project version, reorganizing the list of tasks as following:

- Training for trainers/Workshop - Portugal
- Newsletter - Poland
- Designing and updating website - Lithuania + Poland
- Virtual game - Portugal + Slovakia or Lithuania
- Theoretical fundamentals - Slovakia
- Brochure + Project final evaluation - Turkey

As to the partnership meetings calendar:

1. Poland - February 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009
2. Lithuania - May 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009
3. Slovakia - December 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009
4. Turkey - May 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

At the next meeting, in Poland, the partnership decided to present:

- Website matrix;
- Newsletter matrix;
- Brochure matrix;
- Training for trainers structure;
- Research results on educational and learning methodologies for adult learners.

Slovakian partner will also work on the workshop theoretical fundamentals and Turkish partner will work on the project’s final evaluation.

It was also suggested that each partner would do a research on the volunteer's life cycle in each partner organization, to be presented at the next meeting, in Poland.

Regarding the project's image, Lithuanian and Portuguese partner presented some logo proposals. The chosen logo is to be the one presented below, possibly with some minor adjustments.



This day ended with a visit to a local fair, at Mosteiro de Alcobaça (Alcobaça Monastery), dedicated to old monastery desserts and sweets recipes.

#### Sunday, November 16th

At this point, the review of the project was complete. On this last day, we took time to go over some practical issues (meeting report, NA orientations, meeting's program structure, arrangements to next meetings). We ended the proceedings with a brief period of questions and filling the meeting evaluation's questionnaire.

In the afternoon, we said goodbye to Portugal taking a ride to Mosteiro da Batalha (Batalha Monastery) and to Nazaré, a small town near the Atlantic Ocean, where we had the chance to end the day with a beautiful sunset.

#### Conclusions:

All the meeting objectives were reached. Partners established a good work relationship and motivation to develop the project.

Next stop: Poland...