



Seminar in France



Map with participants' portraits ©dfi



A group practicing press releases ©dfi

Friday, June 22nd 2018, 17.00. A hotel in the old town area of Lille, in the north of France. 25 representatives from ON Y VA projects, former participants and other interested people. Even though the French rail strike caused a few problems, everyone has arrived. The ON Y VA seminar can begin. Three days of meetings, exchange and practical activities. We begin with a map of Europe, where everyone pins their portrait on the place they live.

The seminar, organized by the dfi, consists of three parts. To start with, the participants meet up in their project teams. After that, they meet the rest of the group and present their projects. There are no formal project presentations and no PowerPoint. Instead, a question and answer game makes it easier for everyone to get to know each other and talk about the projects.

After this, participants meet in groups to consider the central questions of international project management: How can I make my project visible? Which media can I use and how can they be used most effectively? How do we communicate in an international team? How can we plan and manage a budget? Assisted by the dfi and external advisors, the participants are able to share their own experiences, ideas and suggestions.

Sunday, the last day of the seminar, was devoted to three topics relevant to everyone: Europe, social commitment and language. Instead of classical workshops, there was an arts-based approach. With the help of a team of actors, the participants created short plays, which they then performed in front of the whole group.

The seminar is also useful for people considering taking part in ON Y VA in the future. They can find out about the competition rules, make new contacts and – ideally – even find a new project partner. At the same time, they are able to benefit from the experience of the teams already receiving funding and gather ideas for their application and project work.

Plenty of new ideas are born during the three days and the participants use every opportunity, including coffee breaks and meals, for discussions with one another. In Lille, the great atmosphere and synergy were already palpable on the first evening. And everyone, whether they were German or not, shared the elation when the German football team scored a last-minute winning goal.

The ON Y VA – AUF GEHT'S – LET'S GO programme, financed by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, is set to continue. The next closing date for entries is October 4th 2018. The next seminar will take place from 30th November – 2nd December, probably in Ludwigsburg.

Bénédicte King, Susanne Binder – June 2018.

www.auf-gehts-mitmachen.eu