

Personal reflection: Intensive Program 2013 in Barcelona



At the end of this Intensive Program in Barcelona, I can say that this experience was very profitable, not just in a professional way, but also in a personal and intercultural way.

There have been so many interesting workshops, that I don't know where to begin to describe which one has meant the most to me. I think that the flashmob was one of the most impressive things we have done with the group in these two weeks. It was amazing to see how everybody, after just one hour of practice in the monastery, was able to do such a performance. Everybody was enthusiastic as we walked through the city as one big group. People on the street were looking at us and taking pictures, some people were even following us on our tour through the city. It was a very unique experience, that left a great impression. I never thought I would dare to do a thing like that, so I am very happy that I got the chance to do this.

Another workshop which I enjoyed a lot was the body percussion workshop we got from Dietlinde. First of all because I prefer the more active workshops, in which I can dance and sing and move, but also because making music in a group creates a great dynamic vibe and it brings the group members closer together. Above that, I think this workshop will be very useful in my class and I will definitely make use of it later.

Maybe not as impressive as the workshops I just described, but definitely a workshop from which I've learned a lot was the blindfolded tour in the city, because, when you walk around with your eyes closed, you notice so much more sounds and smells than when you see everything. You have to use other senses to get aware of the surroundings and it was a very intense experience. This is definitely something I will remember and try to do with the children in my class as well later.



But it was not only the interesting workshops that left a great impression, also the intercultural relations with the students from different countries has been very exciting. I've talked to so many nice people here and learned a lot about all different kinds of lifestyles. Although we all live relatively close to each other, there are so many differences, f.e. in educational systems, way of living, habits, ... It has given me a broader view on all the different countries and people and I think it will be very helpful in my professional career as well, because I will come in contact with all kinds of different nationalities in my class as well.

Another part of being together with so many different people from so many different countries, is that you are forced to communicate in a way that everybody understands you. I was a little bit insecure about my English speaking skills, but I've realized here that it doesn't really matter, because if everybody tries to understand each other in a respectful way, communication is always possible: with a little bit of English, some French, a few words of Spanish and a lot of gestures and expression I managed to say and understand (almost) everything. Not only in our group of students I experienced this, but also in the Spanish class with the children.

In these two weeks I've made a lot of new friends from different countries. I've improved my English but also my French. I've learned to express myself in a different way than only with words. My point

of view on different school systems also improved. I was surprised by the presentations. I thought that it would be different but some things really came as a surprise. Especially the opinion of the Danish people. I knew that they often play outside but I didn't know that the kids also sleep outside. That was really a surprise for me. I think after these two weeks I received a lot of experience. There certainly are a lot of workshop that I'm going to try in my own class. But I also want to try some visions in my own teaching method.

I think I'll remember these two weeks for the rest of my carrier. They were the best ever and I hope that the contact between all the students can be kept. Because they were all amazing people and I hope I'll see them again.