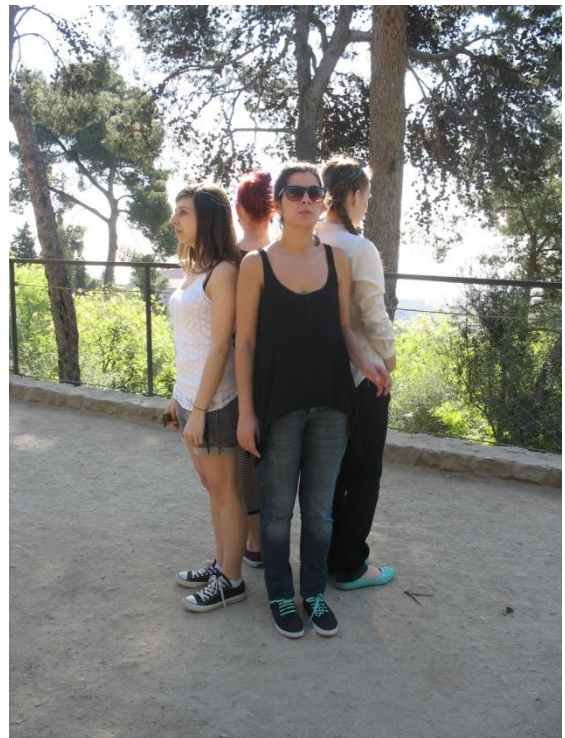


Some reflexions after two weeks of intense training in Barcelona.

When I got back to study, after 6 years **working abroad**, I was a bit afraid to **feel old**, and to have difficulties to connect with my **classmates**. Actually, it was quite hard and at the beginning I didn't feel comfortable with them. By the time, I got used to their ways of thinking and I **appreciate** them a lot even though I still feel a bit « extraterrestrial » in that class.

Then my question was : « Will I feel comfortable with my future **colleagues** ? » I got kind of an answer at my training course as couldn't easily insert myself into conversations that were turning around « tupperware meeting » or « supermarket prices ». For the **professional part**, there was no problem to work with them. Now I'm still pretty sure I want to work with children but I'm still not pretty sure if I'll get along easily with my colleagues, as I like to speak about **travels**, cultural events or books, which is not the average conversations around me... Maybe I should be more simple and get to know how to speak about simple things of life ?

I was at that point of my reflexion when I arrived to **Barcelona**. And basically I had the same **fears**. But I felt comfortable since the beginning, as the people here were very **open and friendly**. I was really surprised by the fact that we could sing together, dance together, play together and even do silly things with people we didn't know at all. So, since I'm here, I feel myself « **at my place** » in the group, even if it's not a central place, even if the people won't put my picture on facebook saying I'm now their new best friend. I've already passed all these steps, and I've lived already a lot of that intercultural experiences so that I actually know that we don't become best friends in two weeks, that we won't write to each other every week, and that



our normal life will take its rights . I'm more **realistic** now. I take the good things that people can give me, I don't bother about the things that upset me, because I know I won't live forever with them, and basically I feel better thinking in that way. I'll

remember for sure all the things we've lived here, they will last in my memory for long, and I'll also use all the tools we've experienced here and all the games we've played. In conclusion, the good things I've received here from the people was to give me the possibility to **speak many languages** and to know better the people of Europe, to **share experiences** and to **work together**.



That Intensive program was really helpful for me to feel more **confident** about my **future work**. I realised that the way I was thinking « my ideal school » was more or less the same as the average people here, I was happy to feel that I was part of the **community of teachers** that are really engaged in their work, very **creative**, very **enthusiastic**, and understanding the children's needs. What was really helpful also was to experience how **Europe** is working, on a much smaller scale of course, but that can be useful for the rest of our lives. We got a lot of **group work** to do and it was so

amazing to see how we could all work together on a same and common project.

About mixing cultures, I think that **multiculturalism** is a fluctuating sensation.

Sometimes you have the feeling that we've the **same way of thinking** and of living because there is a kind of « European culture » in which you can listen to the same music or like the same things, or play the same games. But on the other hand, you can be very **surprised** by one small (or bigger) detail that brings you back to the **cultural differences**. So, during these two weeks, I sometimes felt very surprised by all the things we have in common but also very surprised by the differences you can have, for example in school systems, or in the way of living. That makes you also **take distance** with your own way of living and thinking.

To finish, I would like to **thank** all the persons who have been involved in the programme and everyone who took part in it, because we have built a really amazing **common experience** that will be useful for everyone in his personal, professional and intercultural life.

