



Participating in an IP is always intensive and enriching. This is a statement I fully understand.

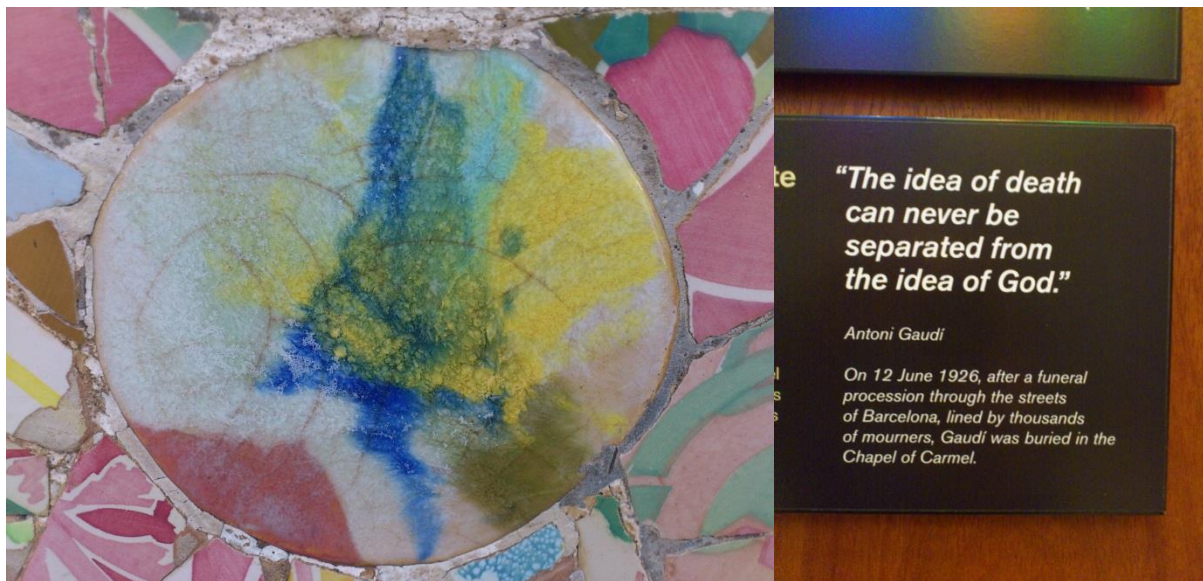
The preparatory meeting started already at Brussels airport. By coincidence, I met my Belgian colleagues late in the evening. It was a very nice and warm reunion. In reminder of the meaningful cooperation we experienced last year, I could feel a cohesion between all teachers. Arriving in Barcelona this feeling was strengthened, all of us were happy to meet again. A good starting point to prepare the next edition.

Although a city isn't my favorite environment, I encountered many meaningful experiences. I'll describe the most striking, the order is of no importance.

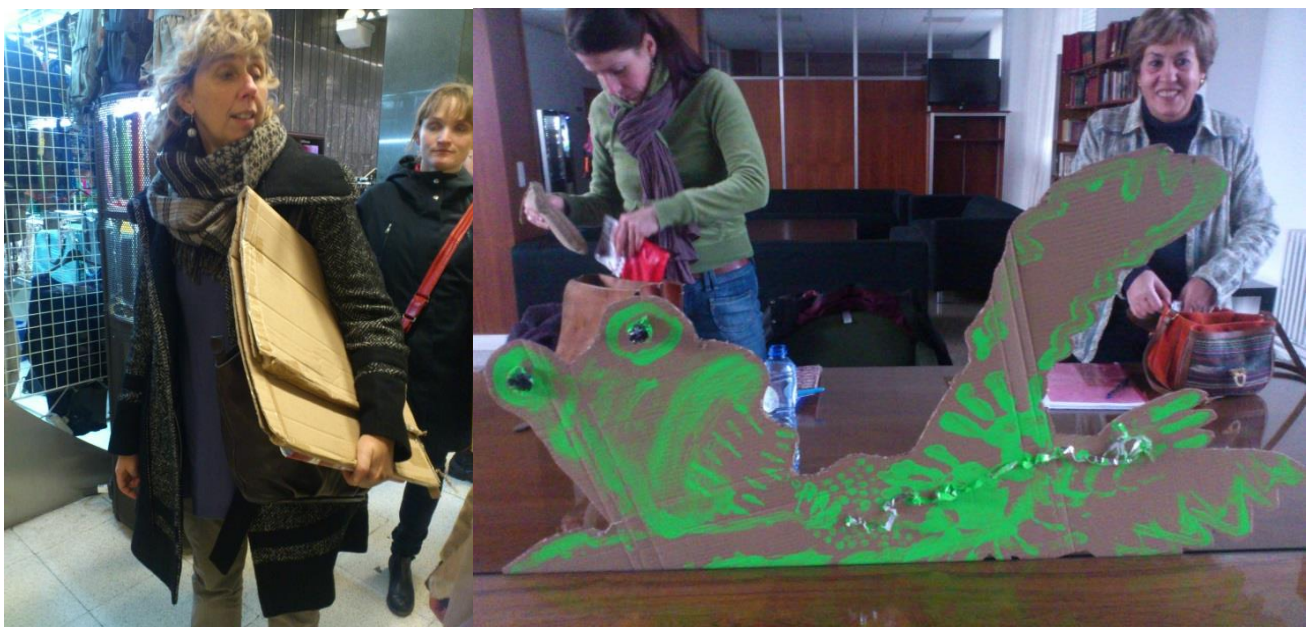
I visited Barcelona 20 years ago, only a blurred image of the city was left. During this 20 years my interest in artwork has been developed. I could feel much more as in the past, a special admiration for Antoni Gaudi! It was a great pleasure to visit Parc Guëll and the Sagrada Familia again.



Developing new interests and going back to the same places, makes you look in another/new way. This is an interesting principle for education, a support to live long learning. As I visited these places now with my colleagues, we could talk and exchange in a spontaneous way the values that are meaningful and significant for everyone. This kind of experience is important to improve the cooperation process within the staff. I enjoyed searching together to develop activities for the IP, we had a lot of fun and inspiration...



During these preparatory meetings, a new idea was born. Due to Saint George's day, a dragon had to be present in the IP. As I believe in the value and the quality of creation, I bought fluorescent green painting and searched for cardboard. By using senses and without speaking, the entire staff created together the dragon 'Hendrick', symbol for our teamwork, respect and acceptance.



I feel like a stranger when I'm walking in a city, asking myself where all the people are going to, where they live, what they are doing... Even without seeing while walking in the streets, there's a whole network circulating under the ground, bringing people high speeded from one side to the other. In this alienating atmosphere, I started to communicate with mimicry. Immediate I found contact with my colleague. We tried to get unknown persons involved in our play using mimicry passing by the reflection of the windows...

Some reacted, others distracted... From that moment on, a subtle mimicry language has been created, a sensory language well-known to young children. These expressions look ridiculous to adults, but I was surprised how sensitive someone can express and communicate, and how well we understood each other, a wonderful experience. It was a starting point, we still go on by internet ☺☺☺ This dialogue is meaningful because a good relationship between the staffmembers is necessary to obtain a good outcome of the IP. The subway was a place where we moved actually and figuratively.



During the preprimary schoolvisit the drawings of the children took my attention. I didn't expect snowmen in Spain. I loved the presentation on the newspaper background. I recognized this way of presenting from my earlier visits to different countries, this brings me to an invisible intercultural flow in Europe, maybe all over the globe. The children explained me with great enthusiasm the story of the wolf and the 7 kids. I suppose wherever you go, children will bring this story in the same way. I smiled and thanked them for their storytelling. Communication was exchanged by using senses... I didn't understand their words. This communicate with the children will be for sure a challenge for the students during the IP.



Upon my arrival in Barcelona in April, I immediately could feel the good atmosphere in the group. The IP offers interesting and intensive workshops, no doubt. Students were enthusiastic and well willing to discover the city. This was my first impression, it gave me confidence to start working and participating.

The workshop 'hopscotch' focused on creativity, cooperation and communication. The students had to combine the shape of a hopscotch with the artwork of Miro, Gaudi or Picasso. They had to discuss the rules and to invite passengers to join the game. During this 'creating – discussing – inviting' process students had

to use their senses to understand, interpret and react to achieve the aim. It was interesting to observe the dynamic of the group and to question afterwards the experience with the students.



I consider an IP as an island experience. You get the opportunity to focus on a well demarcated topic during two weeks. Due to this intensive structure well-being and involvement can be increased, there is less distraction from abroad. Due to the intercultural composition of the group and the staff wondering, open minded, curiosity, friendship, respect can be activated and achieved, you are living the same experience. These are for me the most benefit advantages of an IP, to create a context for common learning and acceptance of diversity in Europe both for students and teachers.



Finally, discovering with all senses and creating are the driving forces for fundamental learning and well-being, wherever you go and whoever you are.

Thanks to all colleagues and students,

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