

Personal reflection Intensive Program 2012 in Namur

When the program was introduced in our class, I wasn't very sure if it was something for me. I was hesitating a lot and when they told me that I could come, I was still full of doubts. But now I'm so glad that I came. I met some amazing people, who I will never forget. I received new ideas and visions which I can do in my class. I learned a lot of new vocabulary and I really had the time of my life.



In the beginning we were all individuals. We were all different kinds of countries and looked for someone who we could understand. There were only two persons I knew, Soetkin because she's in my class and Iris because she's also at our school and we rode together. We had almost immediately contact with the students of Malines and they became great friends. After the first night we already had a nice group and laughed a lot.

We did a lot of exercises to get to know each other better. We did games where we couldn't speak and needed to communicate with nonverbal signs. So we learned that we were able to communicate even when we didn't speak the same language. We also went to have a look at some 'land art'. The story that Deniz told us, made us realize that if we really want something we can achieve almost everything. We just need to find a way to make it fit. That was also one of the assignments Deniz gave us. The task was to make land art all together but you needed to ask and help persons from other countries. It was necessary to speak English or to make use of gestures otherwise you couldn't communicate with each other. In the beginning we didn't know what to do. We were just standing there and watched some people take initiative. But after some time everyone started creating and we were very busy. At the end we created something without many words and everyone was a part of it. I think this was for me an important change of atmosphere. I was pretty much obliged to speak English and to lay new contacts. But it was a good icebreaker to start with.



The creating of the maps was one of the most exciting workshops we received. For our group it was the first one and we all enjoyed it very much. In the beginning, the assignment sounded very weird. I never thought that I would be able to use my imagination in such a different way. I painted together with Soetkin a map and afterwards we put all the maps together in our group. We needed to find treasures. For me this was very hard because I'm not a very expressive person. I like to wait and watch the others, especially when I'm in a

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group where there is no one I know. But my group was so enthusiastic and motivated that I started to be a part of their imagination. It opened my eyes that you can really use the imagination of kids in concrete situations and not only when they are play in the supermarket or the kitchen. This was one of the workshops I definitely want to try in my own class. It helps the children in so many ways and I'm sure that they will enjoy this assignment.



At the beginning of the program we all received a booklet. In this booklet we could write what we had done during the day, how we felt about it and if we had new ideas we could also write it in here. I'm not much of a writer but the first days I wrote in it. After that I just helped the others to remember what we did and to translate it for them. I didn't write anything in my book because I have a good memory but I really enjoyed it to help others with their reflection.

After a few days new friendships were made and people started switching tables and sat next to people from other countries. The contact became much more intense. We also started learning from each other. It started with jamming in the sun and playing some music. Then we learned from each other songs and some words and phrases in other languages.

I spent almost the whole day in Brussels in the company of the French speaking part of Belgium. I talked French all the time but I really enjoyed it. It was fun to spend a day with different people and to learn more about them. They talked about their experience in the class and their evaluations. It was funny that we live in the same country but that our education is so different on many levels.



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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.