

Learning experiences among adults in Bridging: summing it up

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To sum up, throughout the learning experiences, participants highlighted several features well aligned with the main goals, in terms of new knowledge, openness, collaboration and self-confidence, and also brought new insights. First, the scope of knowledge was broadened. While learning activities aimed at providing new knowledge opportunities, mainly through seminars with experts, it was astonishing to notice that participants not only highlighted content knowledge, techniques or skills on key topics, but also informal, craft knowledge about the work of partner institutions, and in particular about the culture, how people live, history, the architecture and buildings of the city. Participants were enthusiastic about the opportunities to observe real life and actually experiencing it, living it. Time for embedded experiences was crucial for helping participants to develop this knowledge. As for Openness, it seemed that from the beginning of the project participants were motivated and open to new perspectives and learning. Thus, levels of openness were very high since the beginning. Still, there were striking features that made participants wonder, reflect and think. Cultural confrontations made participants noticing differences, without judging them as good or bad, enriching their repertoire of references and making them more aware of own ways of doing, acting, or interacting. Indeed, regarding self-confidence, contrasting features were noticed, but also similarities in the challenges each country faces, in some of the perspectives or cultural values, which contributed to greater confidence. While differences contributed to greater knowledge and openness, finding similarities within diversity contributed to self-confidence and to better define professional pathways. At last, in regard to inclusion & collaboration, trust among partners, according to participants, has somewhat evolved throughout time, possibly thanks to the multiple and cumulative opportunities for sharing experiences, knowledge, questions, and doubts while at the same time feeling the empathy from other team members. Overall, the project has contributed to creating an open-minded and non-judgemental community that will continue after the end of it.