



## **Diary of ALS meeting n°1 - Rotterdam Grundtvig project – EDDILI**

**Date** : 9 September 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Introduction

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Andrea Cornets de Groot
- Serginho Daans
- Marco den Dunnen
- Ties Jansen
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Janine Versluis

### **Introductory session**

The first meeting we spent our time on the introduction of the method and the works of Danilo Dolci in Sicily.

The group was a little bit insecure , not knowing what to expect from this course. It took me some time to explain the goals of RMA and the relation with the European project.

After the explanation we started with an introduction of ourselves as we did in Palermo last January during the training course we received by the Danilo Dolci Centre for Creative Development.

The members of the group were quite open in talking about their own personal history and their hopes and dreams. There was a very respectful and warm atmosphere and I was very enthusiastic about that. It made me optimistic for the things to come.

The first reactions of the group members after the meeting were positive.



## Diary of ALS meeting n°2 - Rotterdam Grundvig project - EDDILI

**Date** : 16 September 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Teaching - Education

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Andrea Cornets de Groot
- Serginho Daans
- Marco den Dunnen
- Ties Jansen
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Yusuf Su

This session was very positive. There was a nice discussion in a very positive atmosphere,

Every member of the group had something to say. I sometimes asked some questions to make some concepts more clear. It was nice to see that everyone was really listening and that the group felt the freedom to go deep into the subject and discuss in a respectful way.

In the non verbal communication of the group you could see that everyone was focused on the topic and interested in what was said.



## **Diary of ALS meeting n°3 - Rotterdam Grundvig project – EDDILI**

**Date** : 23 September 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Transmission - Communication

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Andrea Cornets de Groot
- Serginho Daans
- Marco den Dunnen
- Ties Jansen
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Janine Versluis
- Yusuf Su

Again the atmosphere was very positive. The discussion gradually got more and more focused on these concepts in relation to their professional lives and it was good to see that the group was trying to get a grasp of these concepts in their own personal professional situation. It was good to see that because of the age differences in the group there were different views on communication and transmission, especially in relationships. Again it was good to see that the group is not afraid to talk about serious personal issues.



## Diary of ALS meeting n°4 - Rotterdam Grundvig project - EDDILI

**Date** : 30 September 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Power - Domination

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Serginho Daans
- Marco den Dunnen
- Ties Jansen
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Janine Versluis
- Yusuf Su

Nice session.the group is now used to the method and is enjoying it. Even the participants who are a bit shy are not afraid to enter into the discussion. No one is being dominant or is not listening to what others are saying.

I enjoy it very much because with a few simple questions the group is on the roll.

It gives me energy to see them working together in this way, There is a lot of positive feedback on the session .They start to see what the method can do for them.



## **Diary of ALS meeting n°5 - Rotterdam Grundvig project – EDDILI**

**Date** : 7 October 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Creativity

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

### **Participants** :

- Andrea Cornets de Groot
- Serginho Daans
- Marco den Dunnen
- Ties Jansen
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Janine Versluis
- Yusuf Su

A very powerful session! A lot of opinions were expressed about how to be creative, especially in fulfilling your dreams and goals. It was actually the first time that the discussion was so lively that emotions were running up. The good thing is that the participants stayed respectful towards each other in spite of the emotions that were being expressed. Again it was good to see that everybody was inspired in their own way. Even when our session had come to an end, it was interesting to see that discussions continued.



## **Diary of ALS meeting n°6 - Rotterdam**

### **Grundtvig project – EDDILI**

**Date** : 14 October, 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Cooperation vs Working together

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

#### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Andrea Cornets De Groot
- Serginho Daans
- Marco den Dunnen
- Ties Jansen
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Janine Versluis
- Yusuf Su

I decided to earmark this session as a moment of reflection for me. The reason for this was that I was wondering if I was asking too many questions during the session. This time I decided to try to be more in the background and take a little bit more distance from the group process.



The result was that the discussion was a little bit superficial . There was enough input by all of the participants, but they didn't ask each other for any clarification of answers or concepts.

Everybody had their say about the subjects, however the discussion on different perspectives didn't take place and I missed that.

The conclusion of my reflection is that asking clarifying questions can be a good tool to gain more depth in the ongoing discussions.

As usual the atmosphere in our group is very harmonious. It is wonderful to see how respectful the participants are regarding other people's points of view.



## **Diary of ALS meeting n°7 - Rotterdam**

### **Grundtvig project – EDDILI**

**Date** : 28 October, 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Conflict Resolution

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

#### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Andrea Cornets De Groot
- Serginho Daans
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Salim Ben Saïd
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Yusuf Su

In this session I went back to asking more clarifying questions as I did earlier. It was a very interesting session about all kinds of different perspectives on resolving conflicts.

We talked about what the influence of culture and the way you were raised, your upbringing, has on the perspectives you have on conflict resolution. One of the interesting outcomes of the discussion was that there was a big difference in perspectives between generations.



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Again I was surprised about how easily this group can communicate on quite personal issues . I wondered what the cause of this kind of openness is. I can't quite determine if it is the coincidence of the chemistry within this particular group or whether it is the influence of the RMA approach.



## **Diary of ALS meeting n°8 - Rotterdam**

### **Grundtvig project – EDDILI**

**Date** : 4 November, 2010

**Venue** : Rotterdam

**Subject** : Financial cutbacks on Arts and Culture due to the financial crisis

**Trainer** : Hans Donders

#### **Participants** :

- Zwany Boersma
- Andrea Cornets De Groot
- Ties Jansen
- Martin van der Meer
- Trudie Noordermeer
- Haimanot Salvatore
- Irma van der Schans
- Natalie van Tol
- Yusuf Su

This session I decided, together with the participants, to look upon a subject that is in the political spotlight at this very moment, and concerns and affects some of our participants . Some of them are adult educators in this particular field of work.

This session had a kind of political context: once we had decided what the topic of the session was going to be, I was very curious to see how the group would react to these kinds of issues.



What I noticed was that even different political opinions were discussed in quite a relaxed and open-minded manner. Different opinions were expressed without causing any kind of disturbance in the harmony of the group.

I believe I can conclude now that the way we build up our experience with RMA definitely contributed to keeping the discussion open and respectful.

In the evaluation of the sessions participants expressed their surprise about the natural way we were able to discuss this particular kind of subject.