

IRO de Valencia, Spain, 25.1.-31.1.2015, Xenia Mercier

I am looking back on a really fantastic and intensive week, full of intercultural experience, foreign languages, Spanish culture and very different views on work and daily live.

1. Language course

The Spanish language course for beginners was quite interesting, my first tries to understand people where hard and I got the same experience as our guests when they arrive in Germany. I had to organize my daily live in a country, where only few people in the streets speak English and German, but I managed it with hands and feet successfully.

2. Course: food and culture

The course was well organized and I got much information about Spanish daily life in families, their cooking culture, which is directly connected with their way of life and as well their work and time- arrangements in job and daily life.

In all session there where practical tasks to solve in an international group, so my own time management, my way of project management and the intercultural communication skills improved. The course was directly connected with the language course in many situations, as we had to find, see, smell and taste special food on the market, so we had to go into a dialogue with the seller and each other.



3. Topic orientated workshop with Paula, who is a really fascinating person gave me different views of starting things and ideas to follow in my daily work. The topics were: “International management that produces real internationalization, not only mobility”, Making ends meet: managing people not files”, Dealing with partners, complexes and prejudices.

Especially the way of looking at the needs of international people has improved. Her focus was always not at deadlines and rules, but on the human being behind. She has given many impulses to us how to connect people from different contexts and how to do it without the invest of much money, e.g. putting red carpets on the floor in the middle of a building to create a new “meeting and speaking” point.

4. The daily good morning session with Claudio Benavent was as well very „refreshing“ . His most important aim was to give people the feeling of „love and quality“ time, which means, that he is always looking at the Human Being, that needs support, not those, who have only „luxury“ problems to solve. He shows us ideas, how to reduce work load by working with „trusted“ and „reliable“ partner organizations/ people and thinking of which kind of work has to be done immediately or can wait 1-2 days.



In sum it was a very intensive and interesting week and I was a little bit sad, that I had to choose from different courses and could not have visited all of them.

Xenia Mercier, Erlangen, 5.2.2015