

Meeting	What new perspectives did the meeting give us? What did we learn? What will we use in our work?
<p>1. Reims, France, October 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project planning 	<p>This meeting helped us put together a plan of activities for the partnership. Dates were put in place, meetings scheduled and plans for thematic workshops developed. Particular roles within the partnership were identified (e.g. the Slovenian team took responsibility for the website).</p> <p>A visit to Foyer Jean Thibierge also demonstrated for us the value of non formal learning through the various workshops and learning opportunities we saw available to clients at the centre.</p>
<p>2. Dublin, Ireland, February 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshop on 'Volunteer involvement in learning campaigns' • attending the Adult Learners' Festival 	<p>We gained affirmation for our own work based on the participation and feedback we received from our European partners at our STAR Awards Ceremony for Adult Learning Projects.</p> <p>We gained new insights into the practice of volunteering – particularly the impact of the cultural context in different countries. We realised that there are lots of similarities between the adult learning sector and the volunteering sector and we plan to connect more closely in our work through some of the proposals made arising from the workshop.</p>
<p>3. Ljubljana, Žalec, Prebold, Slovenia, May 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshop on 'Media engagement in ALW/LLWs and how to use new media' • attending the Lifelong Learning Week 	<p>We were impressed with the level of participation in the Festival from around Slovenia, the visibility and the range of events. Following the visit we reviewed our own Awards Ceremony to see what changes we could make – for example we decided to use music to break up the ceremony a bit more.</p> <p>The idea of the learner testimonies on film works really well, especially at the ceremony, and it is something that we may consider in the future.</p>
<p>4. Tallinn, Estonia, October 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workshop on 'Involving outstanding learners in learning promotion' • attending the Adult Learners' Week 	<p>The workshop was an important space for learners to identify how their involvement in campaigns could be supported by organisations like ours. The workshop confirmed how important it is to involve learners and we learned from how other countries do this and also how important recognition is to learners.</p> <p>We learned a lot of general information about how the Festival is organised in Estonia, which we have used to really inform our own evaluation and strengthen our plans for future Festivals. A big learning milestone for us was the realisation that a strong local infrastructure is needed to make the Festival a success. Although we have supported some organisation at local level, we decided to be more strategic about this based on our experience in Estonia. We identified and established a network of local PROs (Public Relations Officers) to be the main point of contact for local media. We offered them a days training in public relations and social media. In the future we plan to further develop this network and create some more incentives for greater participation from each county thus supporting greater networking at local level.</p> <p>Secondly, experiencing the Learning Tram encouraged us to think of a similar event in Ireland. We managed to secure the use of a Dublin Bus for free in advance of the Festival 2012. In co-operation with the National Museum of Ireland, we offered forty learners the opportunity to see some of the educational opportunities available at the three museums in Dublin. We gained some good media coverage for this event and are already planning how we can extend the use of the bus during next years Festival.</p>

		<p>Finally, we were inspired by the childrens choir who sang at one of the Recognition ceremonies which we attended in Tallinn. An Irish learner who attended the event with us remarked how positive it was for the children to see adults receiving awards. We decided to replicate this idea, and invited a children's choir (Ballymun Lullaby) to sing at our own Awards ceremony this year. We feel that this really helped communicate our message of 'lifelong learning'.</p>
5.	<p>Kahramanmaras, Turkey, March 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> workshop on 'Engaging target groups in adult education' 	<p>This meeting helped focus on what audiences we are trying to reach when we organise our campaigns. We shared the experiences of engaging particular target groups and learned new techniques as many of the issues and target groups are shared challenges for all project partners.</p>
6.	<p>Haarlem, The Netherlands, May/June 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seminar on 'Networks and partnerships promoting adult education' concluding activities 	<p>The range of presentations at this workshop allowed us to share our expertise but also to learn from the expertise of other partner countries. Other presentations such as the one from SeniorWeb, one on volunteering, and one on 'Patient Care and education' really helped encourage lateral thinking about the types of partners that could be involved. This type of approach really leverages resources in a very creative way.</p> <p>The close relationship between Learn for Life and the libraries also provoked thought about how we might work with the libraries in a more formal way. Although the agency for co-ordinating the libraries in Ireland has been disbanded, we need to think about how we can maintain a relationship with them and support their involvement in the Festival. We were really impressed in the level of public investment in libraries in the Netherlands – unfortunately this has not been the case in Ireland and made us think that greater level of advocacy is needed to maintain this important service in Ireland.</p>
7.	<p>General conclusions for AONTAS – new perspectives and ideas, what can we use in our work</p>	<p>The impact of the partnership for us can be described in four different levels as follows:</p> <p>Personal impact – on staff/learners – who felt more motivated in their work, learnt new skills, and made new connections nationally and at European level.</p> <p>Improved stakeholder relationships – stakeholders who participated gained greater understanding about the value of the Festival and greater understanding about the nature of our work. In a similar way we gained insights into the work of key stakeholders who accompanied us.</p> <p>Organisational impact – the Partnership added value to a significant piece of our work, introduced new ideas and helped us think more strategically and longterm about the ALF and how we want it to develop by incorporating learning from other countries.</p> <p>Community impact the partnership made an impression on those who met project partners – at the STAR Awards Ceremony and at Festival events. The Estonian group went to visit a community education centre in Galway – this was covered by Galway local media.</p> <p>The examples by country explain in very practical terms how we were able to use the learning from the partnership. From AONTAS's perspective being a partner on this project has been extremely useful as it has added value to an existing, important aspect of our work. We have already been able to integrate</p>

		<p>some of the learning into our Festival planning. Some of the ideas gained from the partnership may take a longer time to develop and implement. Participation in the project has allowed us to reflect on our own approach and to explore new ways of doing things based on what works in other countries. As a country with a relatively recent history of organising Festivals, it increased our confidence to be able to contribute and share our experiences.</p> <p>We were also able to feed some of the learning into influencing opportunities at both national and European level.</p>
8.	Contribution to the general conclusions for all partners	<p>This project revealed that despite our different cultures, different understanding of adult education and differences in how it is organised in each country, we have many common challenges. These include funding, promotion and target group engagement. This project was a great starting point to share resources, experiences and ideas which we hope to further develop in the future.</p>

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