



Catalonia working with Europe

Supporting the active participation of Catalan institutions and citizens in European cooperation

#CATALONIA WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

CHANGE YOUR MIND...!

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The message in this comment is: *partners, you need to change your mind!*
Why is that?

Partners working in very innovative and experimenting projects about community based learning, initiative-taking, entrepreneuring, bringing about change and helping forced life changers to find new ways, these partners will be challenged in the project alongside trainers and adult participants.

They might not like this, but this is how it is.

In more traditional projects partners are *les suppose savours*, a term used by clever French J. Lacan when teasing the academic knowledge systems: those supposed to know. Supposed to know what to do and how to implement the project and support the trainers as field workers. And the trainers are also supposed to know how to support the adults.

At the end of the day all this ends up at the coordinator's table: at least the coordinator should know...

Well, it is not like that in this kind of projects.

Project partners need to learn side by side with trainers and long-term unemployed or forced life changers.

The traditional hierarchical knowledge systems are thus replaced by *learning partnerships*, including the project coordinator and other professionals in the project.

Partners will need to join forces and establish the scenes needed for the project through ongoing capacity building.

This includes taking risks, untraditional directions in the work, partnering up with community players they never collaborated with, thinking in entrepreneurial ways such as creating things that were not there before, explore what gamification means, and much more.

Everybody needs to build capacity in these learning partnerships, not only the so-called target groups; at different levels, of course, but still...

This is why partners in such projects must change their mind.

Not necessarily at the first partner meeting, but more in the sense of opening up to ways of working that none of us are used to, and transmitting this openness to the trainers and to the community.

Project partners need to question consolidated work forms and traditional behaviour and work with each other to find these new directions so strongly encouraged by the European Commission.

Traditional mindsets will not help trainers and adults much. This means that partners and project professionals must assume responsibility for changing mindsets processes - to be able to support the trainers and the adults.

Hard work? No safety belts?

Indeed, but imagine what new capacity and competences could result from all this...! Could be useful in the future, right?

Europe 2020 is for pioneers and bravehearts.