

SICRIE Workshop in Prague

5th – 8th November 2009

IBTS Campus and location of first workshop



Welcome to Grundtvig



Introductions and Conversations



Participants were very willing to integrate and discuss together. These pictures were taken during the first session on Friday morning. Each group in discussion has members of the different partnerships.

A number of people did not speak English and others preferred to speak in their own language rather than English during discussions. Four translators were available to facilitate throughout the workshop



All of those involved in the workshop are engaged in voluntary community/religious groups. Some work full time in the community/religious sector.

The workshop relied heavily upon the sharing of experiences, opinions and stories in line with our objectives.



Coffee time



Conversations and the sharing of experience occurred in both the formal sessions and the informal settings of coffee breaks and meal times. Some participants have had exposure to this kind of encounter before, many did not. The level of engagement was impressive given the diversity of backgrounds and the challenge of language difference.

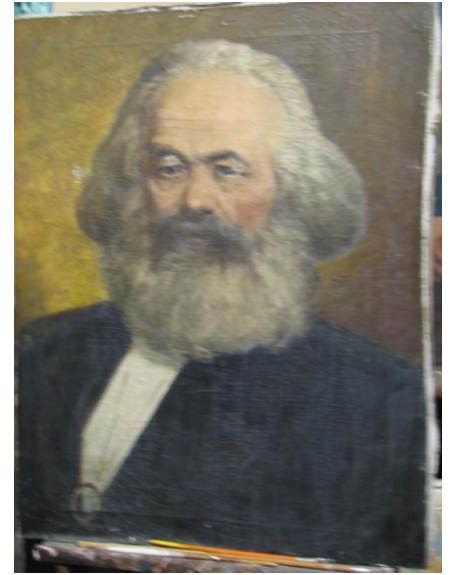


The visit to the museum of Communism was preceded by a session on the history and culture of the Czech lands. The visit provided an opportunity to reflect on the experience of the Czech people and that of others in the partnership who had lived in the Soviet era. The picture below shows four of our group under the watchful eye of Mr Lenin.





One of our Bulgarian members of the partnership who knew the pose well!



The collection of images will form part of our process of gathering stories related to the experience of social inclusion/exclusion. These are some of the images from the museum taken by participants.



All participants were very co-operative when it came to being on time for our workshop sessions, but not for this reason!



There was some discussion about the cultural and political role of image and art following our encounter with examples of 'Socialist Realism' art in the museum.





A recreation of an interrogation room. Very ordinary and apparently unthreatening but with too many memories for some of the participants.

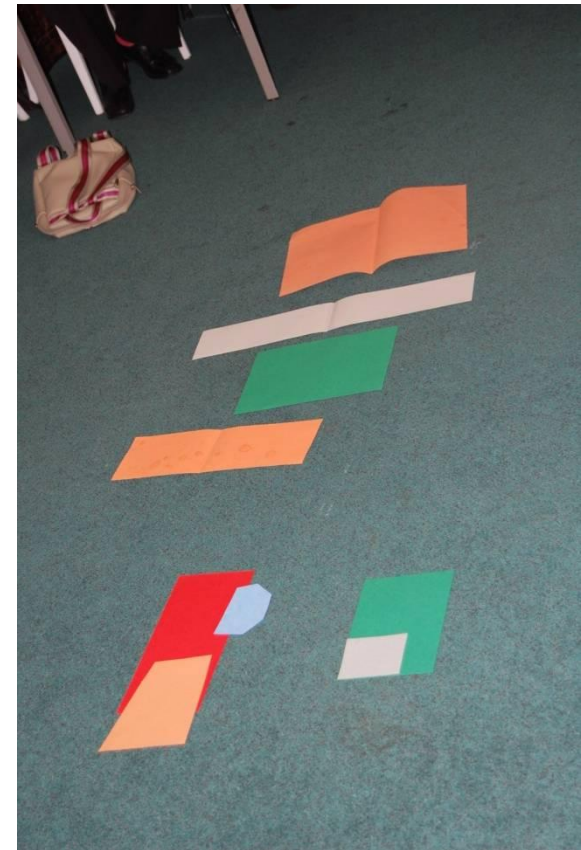


The group reflecting on the events of the Velvet Revolution while standing at the foot of Wenceslas Square. Czech leader Parushev briefs the group on the history and then leads a tour to the Old Town Square ...





Back to the workshop and the Northern Ireland group illustrate boundaries at home with some carefully chosen coloured paper.



Discussions continued providing an opportunity to further our objectives through encounter across a range of religious, cultural and ethnic boundaries. Our attendance sheets (completed by the participants) indicate a that we had six different first languages, six different nationalities and 24 people whose ages ranged from 24/25 years to 60+ participating in the first workshop.



It wasn't all work...



SICRIE workshop participants, Prague 2009

