



# Training Course

"Coach me if you can"

Infoletter 3

Vila da  
mama...Marmeleira



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...



Dear friends,

A last newsletter from our side with the latest news from this little village. As you all have left an important mark in and on this village, we also wish to share what has happened after you left!

## LAST EVENING AND GOING HOME

We are happy that at this moment we have not received news of any participant that they did not make it well home. So we guess ... all have managed to return safely home. Well, we can tell you that also here in the village all the people who were still on the party in the early morning hours, have also managed to find their way safely home ☺ On Facebook we have seen already some photos which some of the local habitants have proudly posted, in company of some of you...maybe good there is no 'tagging' on those photos ;-)

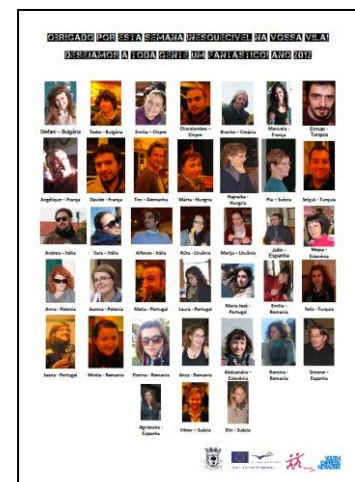
The bar was run by the 2 local associations with the Iberic support of Julio: Casa do Povo (= House of the People) and Grupo dos Amigos da Vila da Marmeleira (= Group of Friends of ...). The profit of that evening will revert to the 100 year village party celebrations next year in August. So in case you get lost in this region next year, more than welcome to join the celebrations! At this moment we know there will be already several groups of scouts and families coming from Belgium to help during the parties, in exchange for hosting. A nice win-win situation for all involved.

## NICE FACTS TO KNOW... (we think)

**BREAKFAST LAST MORNING:** you can imagine our surprise when we discovered that almost nobody of the first 2 groups (the one of 3h30 & 5h30) took their little bag with breakfast out of the van. This to great pleasure of the ones who had a later shift and therefore enjoyed a double breakfast! Hahaha ... wonderful how sometimes a plan 'does not come together', in contrary to what Hannibal of 'The A-Team' used to say.

**POSTER FACES:** just 1 week after you all left, we have hung at different places in the village the following A4 poster with all your faces. And people enjoy hanging around these posters chatting and laughing while sharing stories. Some that had a drink in the house of someone in the village, others because of previous interactions, some because they are pretty, etc. Great to keep stuff like this alive and consolidate memories. With the hope to facilitate future similar events in the village.

Text on poster: *"Thank you for this unforgettable week in your village. We wish everyone a fantastic 2012"*



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**LOST MATERIALS:** in comparison to other international events, very few stayed behind (ok, we admit, it is also hard to forget something in a house with only beds and walls, lol). But besides 1 blue towel, part of a shaving device, 2 slippers & small moneybag, nothing else was found. In case you wish to see these things returned, please send us an email and on the next project of this Multimeasure, it will be passed on to you or someone of your organization.

**GIFTS TO THE 'COMMUNITY CENTER':** most of you have noticed that the village has a kind of 'community center', located next to the sport center. Several afternoons during the week, this is a gathering point for elder people of the village. They were delighted when they received all the cups, thermoses, coffee machine, leftovers of the breaks (cookies, coffee & thee), towels etc. for their future gatherings. We used also this opportunity to explain to the unaware ones what just had happened. However young people 'are the future', it is often the 'elder ones' who shape them.

**BEDS:** at this moment, we can finally say that we managed to dismantle all the beds and store them safely for the next projects. The houses have been cleaned and keys returned to the owners. All the sheets, pillows and white covers are still being washed as you read this (a very brave lady has taken on this challenge!). Some of the beds have been sold at half price to people in the village in order to cover the extra costs of this project. 26 beds remain at this moment operational for the international volunteer camps which are due to take place next year in our village. Together with foreign volunteers, the recuperation of the community garden and old washing place is the next step.



**GAS AND HEATING:** all the heating systems which were offered to use by a local gas company, have been returned, as well as the bottles. And congratulations to you all! From the carefully predicted 20 bottles gas, you have used 9 bottles. So thank you all for being sensible and aware with these resources.

**AROUND 46 EURO/PERSON/NIGHT:** was the available budget to make this week happen, including not only the sleeping, but also breakfast-lunch-dinner, breaks, local transports, different rooms, live music, heating, water & electricity, training materials etc. (not international travel). Could be an interesting exercise for each one to think in your own reality, how you can make this happen. For us it has been a challenging learning experience, we hope for the future hosts the same.

**NEWSPAPER:** and yes, the project has made the most read local newspaper. Find on the next page a scan of the article, including a translation (for the ones who forgot already the Portuguese you've learned that week ;-)).

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...



## European training in Vila da Marmeleira

It was the first time that such an event is organized in a small village.

Between 20 and 26 of November, Vila da Marmeleira saw their population grow with 8%, with leaders of associations coming from 15 European countries who received and gave training on methods to support the empowerment and inclusion of young people in the labour market and in citizenship and cultural activities.

It was the initiative of the municipality in partnership with a European network of entities working with young people with fewer opportunities, Youth Express Network, headquarters in Strasbourg, France. It counted with the support of 2 local associations, the Group of Friends of Vila da Marmeleira and The house of the People of Vila da Marmeleira. 4 young people of the village formed the responsible team for the organization of this event, Ana Rita Camará, secretary of the Municipality, José Luis Leitão, Jo Clayes (Belgian nationality) and Marta Camará. One of the trainers of this project was Romina Matei (see photo), president of the Youth Express Network and working in the Multicultural Institute of Timisoara, Romania. In declarations to the Região de Rio Maior, Romina Matei confirmed that it is the first time that a training like this happens in such a small community. Normally it happens in cities or hotels. But 'it was a success'. The difference was the 'bigger human warmth'.

The training room happened in the ball room of Casa do Povo. The lunches and dinners, provided by a restaurant of the neighboring village Assentiz, were served in the installations of the Grupo de Amigos. Access to internet was provided by the Popular library of Vila da Marmeleira. 3 houses were offered to host the participants. The library normally opens only during the weekends, but exceptionally was now open every day of the training course.

Ana Rita Camará, who coordinated the 'operations', praises the involvement of more than 30 persons of the village, 'without whom nothing of this would have been possible'. The young political executive, elected for the CDU, refers that the initiative counted with a budget of 14.500 euros, cofunded by the EU, through the Youth in Action Programme. Initially all was planned to be realized in a hotel in Santarém. But the municipality proposed that it would happen in the village itself. It is a way to promote and move the village. "I want my daughter to grow up in a village that moves, that has the eyes open to the world.", says Ana Rita.

This training finished on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November with an international party, open to the public and with life music. The profit of the bar went to the Party committee of Vila da Marmeleira for the year 2012.

The participants come from Germany, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Turkey. On the last day they offered a self-made song dedicated to Vila da Marmeleira. An adaptation on a theme of ABBA, where the refrain 'Mamma Mia' was replaced by 'Marmeleira'.

Ana Rita Camará has scheduled more international initiatives for the coming year. There will be a volunteer camp for the re building of the community parquet. And some of the Belgian scouts who were here this summer camping, wish to come back to participate in the 100 years party of Vila da Marmeleira.