



Capacitation Citoyenne; Roubaix June 22-23 2007 Annual meeting of Resident Groups in France.

Location: L'Espace DeSchepper, a former factory built in the early 1900 fully and spectacularly renovated.



Why: we got an invitation from the Réseau Citoyenne an organisation a bit similar to R4R Europe in the sense that they also organise meetings for residents, but they are aiming at mostly groups in France and Belgium.

Organised by:

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Friday June 22:

About a hundred residents from different Cities in France like Dunkerque, Grand-Synthe, Roubaix, Charleroi, Fontaine, Maubeuge and others gathered for the meeting. There was a marketplace where everybody had the opportunity to present information about their organisation or resident group. This was done in a very nice manner

by hanging up umbrella's at the ceiling where upon the information was attached, it saves a lot of space!



Compliments for the way all information was presented! A lot of information about the participating groupes was given in the information brochure and also the booklets that tackled a various number of themes and issues. Please find here the link; all information given in French: <http://www.capacitation-citoyenne.com/livrets.php>

The chair of the Arpenteurs from Fontaine, Mr. Pierre Mahey welcomed all the groupes and R4R and wished everybody a fruitful event. Of course the entire event was for French native speakers, but luckily Ellen Hiep and Krijno Horlings from the R4R team where able to present R4R Europe in fluent French!



Each group presented themselves in pairs and was meanwhile filmed and shown on a big Video screen. One of the member of the group gave information about the particular resident group; where they were from, what problems they face, what issues they were working on, while their partner used a flipchart to summaries what had been said. It took some time for all the groups to present themselves and for us it wasn't easy to understand all of what was said.



The resident groups were pleasantly surprised that R4R Europe had come all the way from Holland to see how they organise their resident meetings.

The afternoon was used to focus on which the items should be discussed that evening. A question that kept coming back was if could rely on politicians at all, since they felt that often enough promises were made that nobody once elected kept.

We were told that it was a very lively debate and that the two politicians present were very happy to be able to meet so many residents who were quite clear and outspoken about what they expect from local authorities.



We met a lot of residents and made a contact with some resident groups that we hope to meet again in future and who seem to be also very interested in meeting other resident groups in Europe, so to be continued....

More information:

<http://www.capacitation-citoyenne>

