

Developing a collaborative funding proposal

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In February 2014, following other phone and mail exchanges, I went to the UK to meet Karen, Lila and Ryan. The ultimate goal of the meeting was to be able to write a project that could include all of our experiences and above all allow us to experiment at European level what was done by AET and the University of Birmingham in recent years. That is, the goal of this meeting was to try to bring together our experiences to continue working together.

The atmosphere in the room has since been optimum and favourable to creativity and work together: the friendship and trust that we had shared up to the hour was the basis that allowed us to build a new idea together.

WHAT YOU EXPERIENCE?

In three days of intense work we have experienced a new way of producing ideas and above all thinking of international design together. We did not run the possible projects but we first defined the idea of the work we wanted to do and how it could be carried out internationally. Later, we debated all possible call proposals in Europe and the UK. Initially we were very discouraged because we were convinced that we could participate in a European Research Project (ERC) but we were not eligible. After a few moments of disagreement we managed to find some projects in the European area that could do our case and then another two more British bids.

The chance to come up with 3 design proposals was exciting and exciting: in such a short time we were able to do something really innovative.

WHAT YOU GET OUT OF IT

The way of working experienced on that occasion made me completely change the perspective on the meaning of designing and projecting a proposal.

WHAT YOU DO WITH IT

When I returned to Italy and especially when I started the “TAE” European project, I had the opportunity to share with my team what I had learned, in particular the need to build winning projects, starting from ideas and not just by the calls.

In addition, it has clearly emerged the need to identify a coordinator and to activate valid and functional sharing tools.

THE RESULT

They have definitely improved the organizational and collaborative skills of the group and this has led to further winning projects and new calls. In addition, attention to European projects has increased and new colleagues have decided to participate in new training sessions on European and national design in accordance with new models of work.

All this has allowed for the establishment of a community of practices and not just a team, namely roles and mutual listening, new working methodologies and the organization of times and places allowed the whole group to implement this multi-level skill. In particular, it has improved the reputation of the institution and individual members, reinforcing their awareness and ability as a researcher, educator, trainer and member of a team.

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