

A LEARNERS PERSPECTIVE: CLOSING EVENT EUROPEAN PROJECT M-HOUSE

*Submitted by Jeanne von POPPEL, IFHE Member,
Pilot Learner of Business Skills Explorer – From Home to Business*

“A year ago I read in the IFHE Newsletter about the pilot of the course “**Business skills explorer**”. I subscribed because participating was a chance to reflect on doing business from a home-situation. I am self-employed and I am interested in issues related to working at home, especially from a family farming perspective. The E-learning way was new to me and I could do this at home in the Netherlands in my own time. On 5th October 2015 I had the chance to present my experiences at the closing event of the M-HOUSE Project in Brussels as a Testimonial to a European audience.

In the beginning of the course I needed some more time to address the assignments of the modules and plan them in my weekly schedule including time for rethinking daily tasks, such as the method of budgeting. Or about events which are not regular, for example, how I would handle moving our household, or the organising of a family event of which I was proud. Preparing the English-posts on the platform was a useful exercise too. I liked to try out the different tools of all the eight modules of the course. I got new ideas through the communication platform with other mostly younger participants. I experienced that intercultural communication in this way is fruitful. Using a mind-map and a giant card gave a quick visual result in the organising of a group event. This course also stimulated the communication within my household. I interviewed one of my sons about conflict styles in situations at school or during free time.

The modules “**Problem Solving and Brand Your Self**” were the most important to me. The first pilot course I participated ended in January this year. In that period I usually do tax-paying administration and set yearly goals. This time I used the SWOT analysis tool and the canvas-model for this purpose.

The course “**Business Skills Explorer**” gave me an overall view of important topics of business skills and E-learning. It broadened my resources. I experienced opportunities in my network afterwards. Such as writing an article in a book with oral-history interviews. The line “**turn it into your story**” used at every module still pops up in my mind and keeps me focused on my goals.”

Please note: The European Union funded the project. The course is available for free from the IFHE Office. Please contact office@ifhe.org



IFHE Member Jeanne van POPPEL
presenting at Closing Event in Brussels
(Source: Marta BRONZO)