



## **AMICUS Report – 24<sup>th</sup> of May / 10<sup>th</sup> of June Concordia, Paris**

### 24<sup>th</sup> of May – Sunday

The meeting was directly at Pyrenées, rue Mélingue 22 at 17.30. There we met Rita Silva, our French tutor here that gave us a very nice welcome and explained us how the house works.

### 25<sup>th</sup> of May - Monday

At 10 o' clock finally we're arrived in the CONCORDIA headquarters and we've been introduced to the whole team and the volunteers. After a friendly French lunch we received all the stuff for the first month in Paris: pocket-money, budget for food, transport ticket etc..

During the afternoon we met also the General Manager of CONCORDIA, he told to us the story of CONCORDIA with documents, books, pictures; then we had some activities with the presentation of the training schedule (Rita + Roman) getting to know more about the AMICUS volunteers expectation and needs.

### 26<sup>th</sup> of May – Tuesday

The second day here in CONCORDIA, all the six AMICUS volunteers (UNIS:CITE; CONCORDIA) had French class for the first time with Pascale Vitorage.

In the afternoon with two others CONCORDIA's volunteers named Marie and Jessica we visited Notre-Dame and Marais, a nice Parisian district.

### 27<sup>th</sup> of May – Wednesday

In the morning, all together with the other three AMICUS volunteers we have been attending the French course in CONCORDIA's headquarters.

In the afternoon we went with the three others AMICUS volunteers to UNIS-CITE where we met Inez, the tutor of the others AMICUS volunteers. She explained us how the French Civil Service works, its history and how to participate.

### 28<sup>th</sup> of May – Thursday

In the morning, all together with the other three AMICUS volunteers we have been attending the French course in CONCORDIA' s headquarters.

During the afternoon we decided our regional destinations: Carolina and Davide will be working in the regional office of Auvergne and Aldo in the one of Aquitaine. After that, with Rita Silva we had a phone call with the two delegations to communicate our plans and we also spoke about all job details there.

### 29<sup>th</sup> of May – Friday

In the morning, all together with the other three AMICUS volunteers we have been attending the French course in Concordia' s headquarters.

After the French class all together we took the metro line 13 in order to reach Inez (UNIS CITE responsible for AMICUS volunteers) at the metro stop Saint Denis-Université. Together with Inez we had a meeting with some French volunteers: it was the last day of their Service Civil Volontaire experience and we had the possibility to speak with them and make some questions concerning their project. Moreover, some of them will be French AMICUS volunteers in Italy and England in few weeks.

In the evening we had the possibility to join a party in a barge along the Seine in order to celebrate the last day of the UNIS-CITE' s volunteers together with Rita and other volunteers working in CONCORDIA.

### 1<sup>st</sup> of June – Monday

In the morning, all together with the other three AMICUS volunteers we have been attending the last French class in Concordia' s headquarters.

In the afternoon all together we met Nunzio (Italian volunteer working in Concordia) at the metro stop Strasbourg Saint-Denis in order to reach a project in the north-east of Paris: the project is called "Shared Garden" and the person in charge of it is a French volunteer doing the Service Civil Volontaire with CONCORDIA. Samuel (the French volunteer) told us that in the district where the garden is located there are problems concerning social cohesion. As a consequence, the final aim of the project is not only to physically take care of the plants and flowers with the help of those living in the buildings next to the garden, but also promoting social relations among them. Samuel is working in the garden together with Espace Ardennes (Centre Social et Culturel), a centre working in the 19th district of Paris with the final aim to host and to provide services (nursery, French courses, etc.) to those living in the district. Moreover, in order to promote social cohesion and to stimulate environment awareness Samuel hosts several classes of children, three times per week. This is the project we will join from Wednesday.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> of June – Tuesday

We had a meeting at CONCORDIA' s headquarters with Rita: she gave us a questionnaire we will have to fill in and send back to the regional offices in order to present us and to provide them more information about our past experiences in a work-camp. Moreover, she gave us more articles and documents concerning the Service Civil Volontaire.

Around 10, Samuel came, and we have been planning our activities together with him and Rita until the 12th of June within the "Shared Garden" project.

At 13 o' clock, we had a lunch in UNIS-CITE headquarters together with all the AMICUS volunteers, Rita and Inez. In the afternoon we had the evaluation of the arrival training week and we spent the evening having a pique-nique in the park behind the Université International de Paris: Rita, Inez, AMICUS volunteers together with some CONCORDIA volunteers.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> of June – Wednesday

We met Samuel at the metro stop Ourcq and we visited the Espace Ardennes in order to have an overview on the services it provides to the people living in the district. After we went to the “Shared Garden” where we met the volunteers of the Espace and we help them in gardening activities such as watering the plants and working with the ground. After the activities we had a pique-nique all together in the garden.

In the afternoon we went to CONCORDIA' s headquarters and we spent the afternoon reading the documents concerning the Service Civil Volontaire we have been collecting during these first days.

### 4<sup>th</sup> of June – Thursday

In the morning we have been attending the French course provided by Espace Ardennes. After that we spent the rest of the morning in the centre together with Samuel helping him in the writing of a letter addressed to all the people having a plot of land in the garden. Samuel' s Service Civil is going to finish and therefore he would like to make a final assessment of the activities he has been doing during these months together with the other “gardeners”.

In the afternoon we went to CONCORDIA' s headquarters where we wrote down the report of the training week.

### 5<sup>th</sup> of June – Friday

In the morning we went to the Shared Garden and together with Samuel we hosted some children of a primary school: we showed them the garden and we help them in planting some flowers in a small plot of land. After that we went to CONCORDIA' s headquarters where we spent the time filling in the questionnaire addressed to the regional offices Rita gave us few days ago. After that we had a meeting with Rita: she gave us the train tickets and she refunded us the money we spent during the arrival training week.

### 8<sup>th</sup> of June – Monday

In the morning we went to the Shared Garden and we helped Samuel in some gardening activities such as watering the flowers planted by a class of primary school. After 11 o' clock we went to Centre des Ardennes where we had a cup of tea with the committee organizing the monthly activities of the Espace Ardennes.

In the afternoon we went to CONCORDIA' s headquarters where we spent the time keep on writing down the report and a presentation of the AMICUS project to be published on the website of CONCORDIA.

## 9<sup>th</sup> of June – Tuesday

In the morning we went to the Shared Garden. We received two class of a primary school and we helped them planting pumpkins seed. In the afternoon we went to CONCORDIA' s headquarters where we finished the presentation of the AMICUS project for our future blog in CONCORDIA's website and we read some documents for the research.

## 10<sup>th</sup> of June – Wednesday

It was our last working day with Samuel. During the first part of the morning we went to Espace Ardennes for the “Café d' accueil” meeting organized every week for those people living in the 19<sup>th</sup> district and attending Espace Ardennes activities. At 11.00 o' clock we went to the Shared Garden together with Samuel and others volunteers to make some gardening activities and to receive a group of disable people visiting the garden. In the afternoon we went to CONCORDIA and we have been working on the report and our personal presentation to be published on CONCORDIA website.