DIARY IASI- Romania, November 18-20, 2019

The Mid Term- Peer review meeting

We had a good flight to Iasi from Amsterdam, although when we had to change planes in Vienna we had to run to get our plane in time. Having had a knee surgery a few months earlier, I was very pleased that we made it!

A taxi brought us, Nathalie, Sandra and me, to our hotel in the city center. We make a good team, the three of us. Three totally different people, but a good combination, that gives a lot of synergy.

We had some time before the informal welcome dinner and decided to go out and do some sightseeing in the city. On our way to Iasi we did not manage to eat anything, so we were a bit hungry. We discovered a “snackbar”, near the hotel, where you could get Belgian fries (chips) with exotic sauces – see the picture Sandra made of me. A Dutchman eating Belgian fries with Spanish sauce in a Romanian city. A very good example of European Integration. Urbact works! After that night we had a nice dinner, well organized by our host Marius, and the next morning, after an excellent breakfast in our hotel, we all met in the city hall.

Enough about food now. The program begins.

There was a warm welcome from the partners of Iasi and an introduction to the agenda by the lead Partner Nicola from Naples and the lead Expert Christian Iaione.

In the morning we had a very interesting discussion on crafting an urban policy to govern city commons. The lead expert distributed a canvas form to fill in and divided the members of the conference in three discussion groups. The canvas was about the following questions: Defining the Urban Commons, What principles and values should bear the commons, Which institutional arrangements are needed, What kind of dialogue is in favor, How do you monitor en evaluate the projects. Two hours of very hard working, but with success.

A lot of information (input) from the groups was given. The canvas is the basis for creating the chapters for an Urban law on the Urban Commons, a legal framework for this project. I think we made a lot of progress on this issue. This was a very inspiring part of the conference, with very good discussions.

In the afternoon we had the midterm review reflection session. Nicola and Celine were in the lead, see picture.

The next morning the midterm review continued. It was good to spend some time on the proper project and account management.

We also had a presentation from the communications officer who joined the Urbact program from the lead city Naples. He explained some more about the website, the Twitter account and shared some rules and inspiration for videos on Urbact. We will certainly use those tips!



Unfortunately there was no site visit, but we did get a really nice trip through the city center and had a bit of the history of the city explained. Very interesting! We saw some nice cultural heritage buildings, for example the palace of the Kings of former Moldavia – see picture.

Marcel Kampers, Amsterdam- December 2019