

Impressions and feelings from the participants

INTRODUCTION

In this News Letter we would like to present the testimonials from the participants in our different Participatory Videos.

We have tried to collect impressions, feelings, and points of view from all the target groups involved in the videos.

With this News Letter we wish to thank all of them for their kind collaboration and for this wonderful experience we lived and shared together.

We hope you will be able to appreciate by reading these comments how all these people felt in taking part in this innovative experience.



Impressions and feelings from the participants



Refugees are looking for a better life.

HP-MOS workshop for participatory video was conducted with Women for Refugee Women in the UK. Of particular relevance to the participatory workshop were many satisfactory comments made by all women during and after the workshop. One participant said before the workshop that "the participatory video workshop gives the other women and myself an opportunity to build a force for change and to rebuild our lives".

Another participant said after the workshop that " This workshop gave us all an opportunity to highlight many issues faced by asylum seekers who are destitute in the UK. We highlighted the overwhelming negative effects of destitution among women."



Impressions and feelings from the participants



When my neighbourhoods was a place to live.

“The opportunity of creating a documentary is so valuable because it documents useful information for generations to come, creating a collective memory of our past.

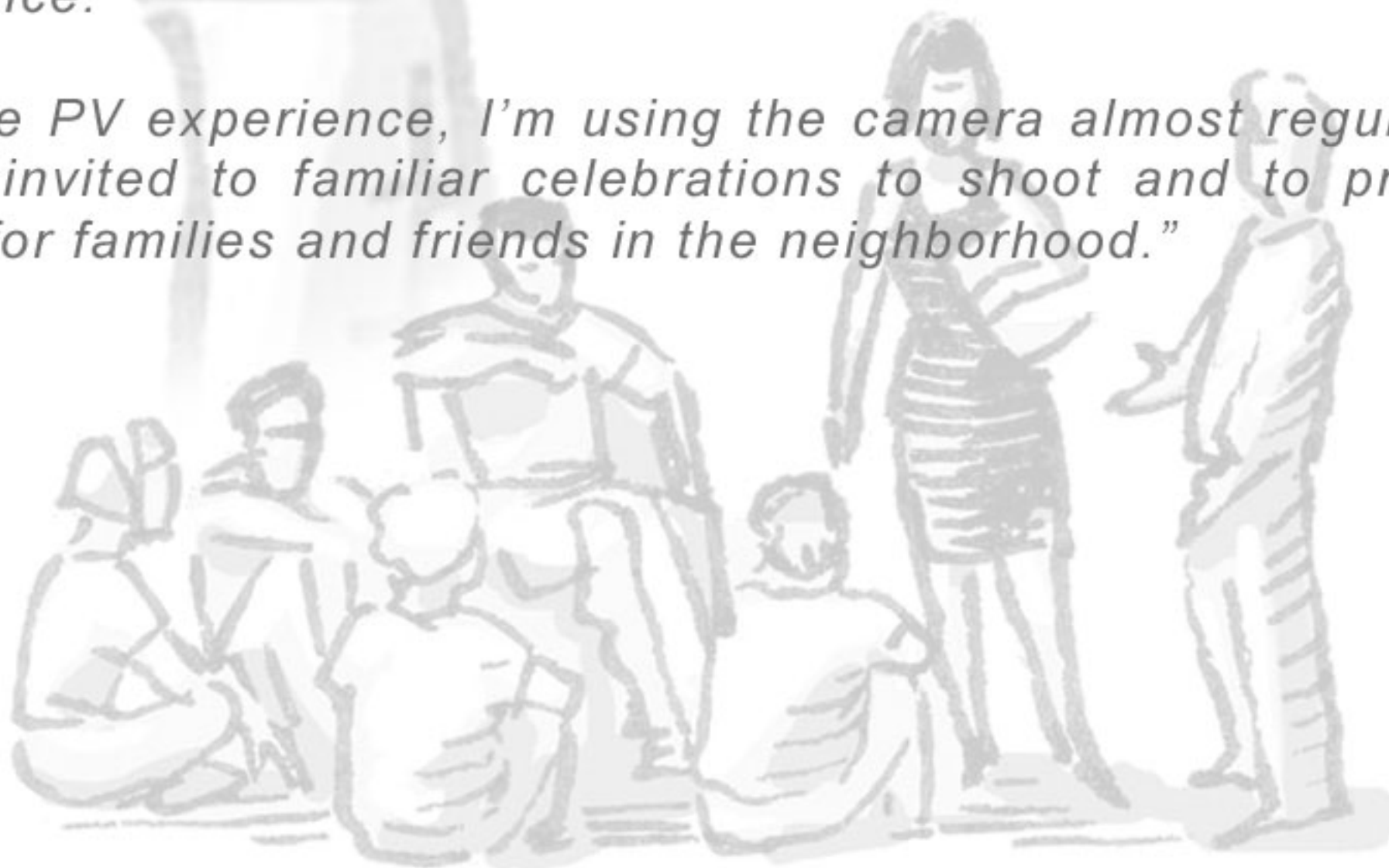
The participatory video method gives emotions and pure responses, and tells a story from our standpoint without any kind of interference.

I’m so proud!!! The video we produced is a bridge between our generation and the new ones.

This experience provided useful filming techniques while discovering new and great possibilities in oneself.

I’ve learned that we have so much in common with all kinds of different people and that I am not the only one living my own kind of experiences. So it was definitely a great opportunity; a bigger and broader learning experience.

After the PV experience, I’m using the camera almost regularly and I’m always invited to familiar celebrations to shoot and to produce short videos for families and friends in the neighborhood.”



Impressions and feelings from the participants



Between Wolds: Turkish migrant women

“We want to show in this film that we women have great potential and that we can set things in motion.”

“We are not the poor migrant women anymore. We are cool women who are committed to change something, we want that the cliché images of us disappear!”

“We can improve ourselves, become more confident, be creative”

“All the reports have been about men so far, I found it good that we talked about us women this time. We could show our feelings in front of the camera and we are proud of that.”

“This film project brought different generations together.”



Impressions and feelings from the participants



A day without limits.

"How was our participation in the VISTA project? Amazing , just amazing... This project helped us to see inside ourselves and discover other points of view. We reviewed many of those we considered problems in our lives and realized that everyone else except us are responsible. We realized that often we don't do enough to be heard and seen by other people and we expect the others to be our voice and our image .

Although we believe that this docu-film is one of our major achievements so far and we feel proud of it , most important for us was the experience we gained through the project: to be together, to cooperate, to disagree, to decide, to share feelings and opinions.

As our great poet Constantininos Cavafis wrote in his poem " Ithaca" that we will not find the meaning at the destination of our journey but while we are travelling, and this is what makes us wiser. We will reach Ithaca rich with knowledge and experience gained during our journey. Ithaca has not given us richness, Ithaca is the end of the journey and this is what has filled us with richness."



Impressions and feelings from the participants



Unemployed, but not for ever.

“It was a great experience and the first time I made a video. I thought it would be very interesting to participate because I had never done it before. My expectations were high and were met.”

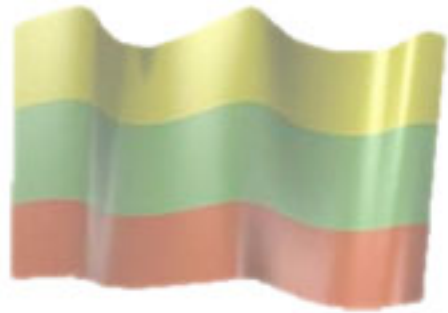
“Strictly speaking, this experience hasn’t really changed my life, but some of my problems related to finding a job were solved.”

“I was satisfied with the organization and the results achieved such as the use of the camera since some participants knew already how to use it and at the beginning did not trust me at all. I would like to show the film to politicians and job agencies.”

“We hope that people who watch will have a positive approach towards the use of PV to help unemployed people to gain self-stem. By viewing this film we wish that the audience be supportive with the long-term unemployed.”



Impressions and feelings from the participants



Roma meet the Gagé people

"Participating in the project was very interesting, because it was a good opportunity to speak about problems in the Roma community. A lot of new things were learnt during the workshop. We were able to freely express and discuss our thoughts. It was important for us to be able to do everything ourselves from the idea to the final product."

"The idea of creating a video seemed very interesting despite being afraid of not being able to perform everything well. But when we watched our video we were thrilled, and this had brought positive feelings."

"We have been involved in various projects, but this project gives us a greater opportunity to express ourselves in various fields. We have implemented ideas, developed the script, filmed, played and asked other people to share their views."

"We learned a lot of interesting things. We learned to shoot, what to pay attention to, how to conduct interviews, how to draw a storyboard and how to turn our ideas into the story and then the movie. We had a good time, we communicated and joked together, and we built social skills."

"We believe that the video has great power although we know that it can't completely change our life or that of the Roma communities, but we believe our video shows new possibilities for the Roma people."

"We like this method because it is creative and gives the opportunity to show everybody what we feel."

"At the beginning we had some difficulties because we had to sit and listen for a lot of new theoretical information about shooting. We wanted to use the camera and starting shoot everything around us. We believed we knew how to shoot. But we were wrong because you need to know what and how to shoot."

"When we divided into groups, we began a sort of competition with each other. The Roma community in our country has a very bad image. People think that we are thieves, liars, that we do not want to work or don't want to learn. We prefer to live in a confined community. They have a very poor opinion about us. In this film we want to show that we are just like everybody else, that we want to believe, love and be respected."

"We would like to say that we are normal people; we all believe in God, and nobody can discriminate us."