

“Translation from french”

The purpose of this group is that English help each other

Bernard Retali lived for ten years in Spain. He heads two companies in Barcelona: one brokerage, Inov Insurance, another consultancy, Inov Finance. He created the group of french in Spain on the business network LinkedIn a year ago. Today, this group has almost 400 members throughout the peninsula.



Bernard Retali is the creator of the group of French Linked in from Spain. Photo X/DR

Why create this group?

The brokerage that I mounted in 2004, Inov Insurance is for expatriates installed in Spain: the French, Italians, Germans and English. I realized that there was many French people on the network.

I wanted them together for two reasons: doing business together and also to create links.

The purpose of this group is that the French help each other.

Why is it useful?

This group is useful in three aspects.

First, it allows people who just move to Spain or prepare to have their arrival information.

For example, if I want buy an apartment or open a bank account, how do I do?

People can also do business online.

The last point where this group is interesting is that the job search: some members send offers and others seek.

The French living in Spain were soon interested in your group on LinkedIn?

Yes, quite. I have done no advertising. I only invited a dozen people. But with word of mouth, people have registered. There are now nearly 400 members. Also, They have not the same profile as Facebook users: it is mostly high-level professionals.

People are project managers, men who started their own business or managers of subsidiaries.

Group members never meet?

It happened that members meet because they wanted to work together for example, or already knew. But nothing was organized for the whole group. There was a real demand from members to meet. This is why we called Le Courier d'Espagne to organize the AfterWork Barcelona.

You select the people who register?

Yes. If the person wishing to enter the group do not live in Spain, we ask justified.

For example, I live in France and my wife is Spanish. We want to come and installed in Spain, and we need information.

We have fifteen people living in France in this group.

Do you have other projects on this topic?

We have created a site a month ago: The French in Spain. The goal is to respond to questions people might ask. For example: "What we can see in Zaragoza? " "Where to live in Madrid? "...

But for now, this remains a fan website: it is under observation. The reactions are rather positive: the French are concerned.

There are still few visitors: 60 per day. But this is not bad for a site born a month ago. Site is still under development.

Interviewed by Cecile Perez.

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