

Living and working in Congo



Target audience

Employees preparing for an assignment in the Republic of the Congo and their partners



Prerequisite

No prerequisite



Objectives

This seminar aims at significantly improving the ability of the participants to meet the challenges of living and working abroad. The objective is to enable them to identify the stumbling blocks that lie ahead and to be able to adapt and integrate in Congo Brazzaville. At the end of this training, participants will have acquired the necessary skills to:

- Be aware of their own cultural baggage
- Understand Congolese context and culture
- Analyze situations in which misunderstandings may arise and identify ways of communicating more effectively
- Reduce and manage the symptoms of culture shock
- Understand Congolese mindset, different work practices, decision-making processes and negotiating styles
- Strike the right balance between personal and professional life



Added value

- Conducted by an intercultural expert consultant
- Decoding the Nomad' Profiler
- Alternating theory and practical exercises
- Access to Digital Learning for 1 year
- Sharing best practices and personalized action plan



Accessibility

All our training courses are accessible to people with disabilities. Each training project will be the subject of a case study by our teams, in order to adapt the training program.



Corporate Training Solutions

Duration: to define.

You wish to organise a specific training course ?
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PROGRAMME OUTLINE

MODULE 1 : SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INTEGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

1. Cross-cultural awareness : the key to a successful expatriation

- Taking stock of one's own cultural baggage
- Culture shock and the integration process
- Identifying and going beyond cultural stereotypes

2. Key aspects of Congolese culture

- A Western sub-Saharan state with a distinctive tropical climate
- An ancient civilization. Heirs to an impressive empire
- Colonization, AEF (French Equatorial Africa), coups d'état and civil wars
- A young, urban, multi-ethnic and multilingual population
- Envious resources, though not fully exploited due to poor management

3. Congolese values and behaviour patterns

- The importance attached to tribal origins and clan membership
- The importance of family life and identification with the community
- A respect for age and status
- A class-based society
- Religion, superstition and mystical beliefs
- A flexible vision of time, hazards and unexpected events
- A strong attachment to the natural environment

4. Practical day-to-day information

- Focus on the host town
- Transport, administration, housing, security, hygiene and healthcare
- Social life, leisure activities
- Schools, extracurricular activities, sport

MODULE 2 : SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION IN CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

1. The Congolese corporate world

- A paternalistic corporate structure
- Major differences in management styles between small businesses and international groups
- Privileges and favoritism: corruption and political influence

2. Effective communication with the Congolese

- Greetings, politeness and interpersonal skills
- The importance and meanings of non-verbal communication
- Identifying and understanding implicit communication
- The French language and dialects used in business

3. Working with Congolese teams

- Effective management: experience, education and leadership
- Building trust and confidence: supervising, advising and encouraging
- Encouraging initiatives in order to promote feedback
- Striking the right balance between proximity and distance

4. Successful meetings and negotiations with the Congolese

- Giving relationships that personal touch: meeting decision-makers
- Proposing, adapting and persevering
- Forging long-term relationships
- Written contracts, their interpretation and implications

5. Final handy tips

- Caution, patience and humility
- Social standards, gifts, business cards, dress code
- Sensitive subjects: politics, history, religion
- Humour: a double-edged sword