



„Improving the Integration of Low-Skilled Adults Through Developing Mathematical Skills and Community Support“
No. 2017-1-LT01-KA204-035219

The only significant difference between us is our native language

ABOUT ME

My name is Anastasia. I am 24. I am Ukrainian. I worked in children summer camps or as a waitress. I been living in Lithuania since spring, 2018. I have received a temporary residence permit for 5 years and started to learn Lithuanian language and search for a job. In the future I plan to have children and to get a Lithuanian citizenship.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

THE WAY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

I met my husband in London two years ago. And we decided to live in Lithuania. My husband is from Kaunas, he was born here and has a family – grandfather and grandmother. And now we live together with them. They helped me a lot – to make documents, to find language courses and so on. I really like Lithuania. The first thing I noticed are beautiful forests and they are everywhere! And people are very nice and pleasant for me. I do not see such a strong power distance as in Ukraine. I admire Lithuanian women because they are so motivated to study and striving to be the best learners.

DIFFICULTIES I FACED

During the first month I faced some difficulties related to a lack of communication: my husband got employed, and I stayed at home alone. I felt I need to speak to someone, to socialize somehow. But now I live an active life, visit different exhibitions, concerts and entertaining events with my husband’s friends. They are constantly trying to help me, so I don’t feel any difficulties here. The only significant difference between us is our native language. My Lithuanian friends treat my Ukrainian origin very positively, because they think we, Ukrainian women, are open-minded, active and communicative. So, I have positive relationships with my Lithuanian friends. I have never experienced any forms of bullying or offence because of my background. I work officially, I pay taxes and feel comfort.

Lithuanian language grammar is very complicated, and I feel difficulties when study new words. But now there is some minor progress – I started to understand at least something elementary.



Anastasia
from Ukraine,
currently living
in Lithuania

BECOMING THE MEMBER OF LOCAL COMMUNITY



When I was searching for a job I figured out, that I will not succeed without knowing Lithuanian language. So, I decided to start my learning. I want to be like others: when someone asks me a right way to go somewhere, at the beginning of my staying here, I was very terrified and shamed because of this. I felt fear to look silly without language knowledge.

My husband's grandfather figured out that there are Lithuanian language courses for free. They are held by the Red Cross organization. And I have started Lithuanian language learning. I like my language teacher very much – she never forces us to learn huge volumes of information. Her lessons are very interesting and creative with usage of different presentations, game methods. She is really worried about our success. I do not feel any division according to race or colour of skin, however, my group mates, who are mostly Russian-speaking, belong to elder generation and have stereotypes about race and nations. And I like that my teacher usually tries to convince them and change their misleading assumptions.

long to elder generation and have stereotypes about race and nations. And I like that my teacher usually tries to convince them and change their misleading assumptions.

Thanks to the knowledge I gained and help of my friends, now I am employed in one of the Kaunas hotels. At first I was employed as a cleaner. But then my language and job-related skills increased, and I was promoted to be a chambermaid. I want to continue my studies, to acquire a new specialization, maybe I will try myself in a restaurant business.

“If you want to do something – do it now. World is constantly changing and tomorrow it won't be the same”

ADVISING OTHERS LIKE ME

I would advice other people like me not to be afraid. You must constantly try and risk. We must realize that we are equal and capable to achieve a success. We live in a 21st century and it is not person's fault, that he/she has different color of skin or social level. We are all equal.

If you want to do something – do it now. World is constantly changing and tomorrow it won't be the same. Today is the most supportive period for Ukrainians to remove and live in Lithuania. And tomorrow laws may be changed, and such a good opportunity may be lost.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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