



„Improving the Integration of Low-Skilled Adults Through Developing Mathematical Skills and Community Support“

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Work and travel

ABOUT ME

My name is Elsa. I come from Honduras. I have dual citizenship: Honduras and British. I currently live and work in Rzeszow. I took part in Erasmus + voluntary project. The project was duration at one year, but I decided to stay a bit longer because I was offered a good position at job. I came alone and I've been here for 3 years.

MY EXPERIENCE OF SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY

MY FIRST STEPS INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Before I came here I was living in Taiwan. I did not plan to come to Poland, I signed up for the Erasmus + project and they chose me a country. Before I came, I decided to familiarize myself with the city. I used traditional methods, that is, I found information about the city on the web (Wikipedia was helpful here), I also found a video that promoted the city, where other people (newcomers) talk about their feelings about Rzeszow. When I came here from Taiwan, I was happy about the large amount of greenery, it was a good change from skyscrapers. The next thing felt immediately was the weather, especially the first winter. Another thing that I noticed when I started living here and teaching the inhabitants of Spanish and English is that the residents are used to very formal education.

THE PROBLEMS I FACED, SUPPORT I HAVE GOT

I met many wonderful people, largely thanks to my work. The Poles turned out to be very helpful, I know that I can always count on them. Especially when it comes to filling out documents for the local administration, which unfortunately has many disadvantages. The main problem resulted from the fact that departments dealing with foreigners from abroad did not know English, which was a serious problem.

Personally, I did not see any signs of racism or pleasure on the grounds of origin, but I heard that such situations happened.



Elsa
from Honduras,
currently living
in Poland



The city itself is very nice, if something bothered me in it, there are no places where you can sit with friends for free, If you go to the park, you can not find places with chess, table etc.

I was pleased that despite the problems with language in public administration, most residents can communicate in English. Not necessarily just young people. The city itself is very nice, if something bothered me in it, there are no places where you can sit with friends for free, If you go to the park, you can not find places with chess, table etc.

BECOMING THE MEMBER OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

The most I approached the local community thanks to my work. This is where I met the first residents and they showed me what to see, where to go for coffee or just help me acclimatize. It was every week and people come and

discus for about 2 hour. I also signed up for a Polish language course at the University of Rzeszow, I found out how hard the Polish is. I have not learned this language anymore, but I can communicate in Polish in a restaurant or shop.

I work at the International Projects Association which gives me great opportunities to meet new people. Thanks to the fact that we were involved in many projects often having the task of presenting other cultures, I was able to introduce the local community, the country of my origin.

“You have to be active if you want to integrate!”

TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR NEW COMMUNITY FEEL LIKE HOME

If you want to get to know the local community well, you should participate in various events organized by her. I recommend to go to the a lot of it. In Rzeszow, although it is not such a big city, there were many gatherings. This is a great way to understand the local community. It is also good practice to attend events in English. In this way, we will meet other foreigners living in the city, or at least this part of native residents who speak English. They can enter you to this city pretty good.

You can also go to cultural events like concert, art classes etc. I started of taking different types of classes / events in coffee shop. My advice to all those who want to become part of the local community is: you must be active if you want to integrate! Beginnings can be difficult because of cultural differences. But there is no better way to get to know the community than to integrate with it. My company organizes a lot of activities, at international and national level.



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