



molam

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## Guidelines for Case Studies

### Interactive Tool

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Each case study should correspond to a story of someone who migrated for working purposes. The case study can be obtained by face-to-face interview or telephone. Partners could also ask a migrant to write down his/her story, but it would be preferable to have direct contact.

For the preparation of these case studies, partners should consider the following:

- The story should be related to your country (i.e. as country of departure or arrival);
- Migration between EU countries;
- The migration should have occurred for working purposes;
- Not all parts have to be positive;
- Should be a low-skilled migrant;
- Each case study should be translated into all languages of the partner countries;
- From 2000 to 3000 characters;
- Please confirm that the person allows the quotation of his/her real name. Also, please check if it is possible to have a picture of the person or another picture about the mobility experience.

We suggest that the content of each story is not too “strict”, but that the issues included in the template provided in the next page should be addressed.

## Template for case studies

The following template should be used by partners to collect/develop 1 case study and provide it to all other partners for translation. Once translated, case studies should be sent to SPI for upload in the Interactive Tool.

Thus, a similar template will be available in the Interactive Tool, section “Case Studies”, so that people can send their own stories: in case someone wants to contribute by sending a story, he/she can fill in the form that will be available in the tool. The content of the form will be sent automatically to the partner responsible for the respective national version and, after validation by the partner, it will be published in the Interactive Tool.

## Stories of Mobility - Case Studies

**Age (optional):**46

**Departure Country:** Romania

**Arrival Country:** Spain

**Former (before departing) and current job field:** Before departing was working in a clothing factory and currently works as a cleaner.

**Duration of stay (in years):** 10 years

**If you want this story to have a face, please tell us your name and send a photo!**

Please tell us about your experience abroad! Your story is not only interesting for us but might be helpful for people who consider moving abroad for work.

- ✓ What was your motivation for leaving?
- ✓ Why did you choose the country you went to?
- ✓ What was the most exciting aspect of your experience?
- ✓ What has been surprising/unexpected?
- ✓ How was your job experience in the new country?
- ✓ What did you find challenging/difficult?
- ✓ What would you like to say to someone that is about to leave?
- ✓ Any further recommendations or advise?

**Your story** (Maximum of 3000 characters):

My name is Tatiana Elahin and I moved to Spain about 10 years ago. My situation in Romania started gets very complicated after the factory where I worked closed down. I lost my job and I had two little children to raise. At the same, also my husband lost his job. We were depending on the unemployment benefit which was not enough to cover all the expenses. My husband was the first to migrate to Spain. At that time, Spain was considered like a paradise to find job. The economy was growing and we heard that there were plenty of job opportunities. It was a great chance!

I came first on holidays to know the country and to try to find a job for me. Spain was completely different from what I expected. I came from a small city in Romania and my first contact with Spain was Barcelona. Latter we moved and settled down in Girona (a much smaller city).

My first job in Spain was to care for an old person at home. At the same time, I was also taking classes of Spanish and later Catalan (the two languages spoken on

Girona region). It was necessary to learn the language as quick as possible in order to keep my job. It was very hard for me to learn both languages and in fact I keep trying to improve my speaking and writing skills.

After finishing my job as a caregiver, I started cleaning houses, bars, schools, but it was very complicated to get a proper labour contract, so I decided to become a self-employed. I registered myself in the Spanish Social Security System, I paid my taxes and I became my own boss. Currently, I work as a cleaner for different places, such as private schools, private homes, elderly centres, etc. I have a flexible schedule which is also very positive for me as a mother. Nowadays, my daughters are already teenagers, so they don't need me "so much", but still I can combine my schedule with their "social life".

The most positive thing regarding my experience was obviously the opportunity to have a job and offer a better life to my daughters, but also the way people treated me here. I felt very well welcomed and comfortable leaving and working in Spain. I have a life in Girona, my daughters lived most of their life in Spain. However, I would like to come back to Romania when I retire and live the rest of my days in the Romanian countryside.

The hardest part for me was to deal with some prejudices regarding Romanian people. Even if most of the people helped me and I felt welcomed, there were some that criticized me, and were always reminding me about criminal behaviours of Romanian that migrated to Spain. Each time, there was a new one on the press regarding some illegal behaviours of Romanian living in Spain, people looked at me in a different way and told me that I was like them.

Another issue was to learn the languages. To find a job in Catalonia it is really necessary to speak both languages (Spanish and Catalan) which were an added difficulty for me.

Finally, after losing my first job as a caregiver, it was difficult to get another labour contract and that was when I decided to become self-employed.

After 10 years in Spain, and despite all the difficulties, I think my experience is positive and I don't have major complains.

I don't know what to recommend to other people that want to migrate because each of us has a different life story. However, I can tell you that it is important to be positive, flexible and persistent.

There will always be difficulties, so you need to be prepared. There are times that you miss very much your country and the people you left there, but you need to focus on the positive things of the new country and your new life.