



molam

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Guidelines for Case Studies

Interactive Tool

Guidelines for case studies

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): 45

Departure Country: UK

Arrival Country: Spain

Former (before departing) and current job field: mechanic/working with motorcycles

Duration of stay (in years): 5 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):

In the UK, Ian worked repairing, restoring and racing motor cycles. He had often visited Spain for holidays and loved its climate and the people:

He thought how great it would be if he could live and work there all the time and in 2007 he made the move to do that.

He told us about his experiences

Ian, what motivated you to move to Spain?

I like Spain. Rural Spain is mucky, dirty and cheap and I love it. A bit of sunshine is always nice too. I came here first in 1994 to race motorcycles and I loved it. So it was the sunshine and the desire for change that first motivated me. But I very quickly realised that living and working in Spain was going to be very different from going on holiday there.

So, what has been your experience of working in the new country?

For a start, it was much harder work than I ever expected it to be.

I moved into a wreck of a house which was hard toil to renovate. I had romantic notions of 'living off the land' and I have started selling my olive oil that I make from the olives on my land. I don't have curtains and so I get up when the sun wakes me and I work hard all day. It is rewarding work. I have also met some wonderful Spanish people and started to learn the language. I run a motorcycle racing business and sales are via the internet so I it was already accessible worldwide and I'm now getting more and more Spanish customers. Because there are no phone lines in my house in Spain I run the website via a mobile internet dongle which is actually really good! The website is still in English

(www.iane.co.uk) but I am learning more and more technical vocabulary in Spanish.

What would you say has been the most exciting aspect of your experience?

The most exciting thing about living in the middle of rural Spain is discovering the ‘real Spain’. It is not the same experience as a holiday. It has been hard work but finding out about the culture has been really exciting. It is a culture I respect. I feel that the Spanish culture is nicer than English culture. I like the way they live. There’s no binge drinking and people respect their mothers! It is interesting and I find learning about the differences in culture really interesting and exciting! The language has been more of a barrier than I realised it would be. But if you try really hard with the Spanish people they really meet you half way. I’ve also been taking local produce back to the UK to sell (e.g. Valencian paella rice, terra cotta tableware), I don’t make much money out of it but it supports the local economy in a small way and the people in the village really appreciate it.

And what have you found most challenging or difficult?

As I said before, the language has been more of a barrier than I expected. It is entirely my fault as I didn’t try to learn it before I went out to Spain! But I am learning it now and I have a real motivation to learn. And, as I also said earlier, it has been much harder work than I expected. I have bought a wreck of a house in Spain in the middle of nowhere and I’ve had to do everything to it – fitting solar panels and fixing the water supply. But I have enjoyed it as it is really rewarding work, really good!

Have there been any surprises?

I suppose what is most unexpected is that, although I work so much harder than I did in the UK and I earn far less, the quality of life is much better and my own life is far more satisfying than it used to be.

What would you like to say someone who was about to move to another country for work?

Learn the basics of the language before you go! Spend time in the country before you go and work part time or have a ‘working holiday’ in the place if you can to really get a flavour for it. Working somewhere will definitely not be the same experience as a holiday! I would definitely like to help give someone a taste of what working over here is really like. Anyone is welcome to come and stay with me in Spain and help me out!

Thank you, Ian!



Ian and his donkey 'Gironimo'



Ian's house in Spain



Ian with his motorcycle equipment