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Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

EACEA
Education, Audiovisual & Culture
Executive Agency



Case Study - Italy

Interactive Tool

Stories of Mobility - Case Studies

Age (optional):

Departure Country: Poland

Arrival Country: Italy

Former (before departing) and current job field: Professional nurse / Social worker for old people

Duration of stay (in years): 25 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):

The reason for coming in Italy was simply "curiosity": I heard about it in my country as a "such beautiful country, with open people", specially from a friend of mine already living there. So I took a temporary leave in Poland where I was working in a public hospital and just decide to leave to Italy! In my mind, this new country was supposed to be a beautiful land of sunshine, beautiful people, good food...and in fact I'm really happy to live now in Italy! If I would return back over the years I would made exactly the same choice. Fortunately, all my expectations have been met.

The only thing that has been somehow unexpected was all the difficulties linked to my job recognition! In fact, the biggest problem I had to face after my arrival was excessive bureaucracy and the problem of professional qualification recognition in the new country. In addition, there was a lack of clearness on the part of public offices. They haven't been comprehensive in the information provided even if I was able to speak and well understand Italian.

I arrived in Italy in 1987 and till 2008 I worked as professional nurse, as I have studied and have a professional qualification for this in my country. But one day it came out that because of a problem of professional qualification recognition, I could not longer exercise

my job. So since 2008 I'm "fighting" to have my qualification recognized, but it seems to be very difficult because of bureaucracy. Currently I'm working as social worker for old people. But thanks to my "iron will", I've been able to face all difficulties even if I'm still trying to solve the problem with my competences recognition after so many years. This is also Italy! In spite of "bureaucratic" issues, I'm very happy now to live in here. Thanks to my Polish friend already living in Florence, I've been easily integrated in the local community and got basic information on how and who contact to find a job, a flat, etc. In this way, I've been able to adapt myself in my new "life style" without too many obstacles.

I didn't search for any specific help in my home country. I just decided to leave (I was 30 years old at that time) to a new country. My Polish friend already living in Italy was definitely a good starting point for me to take this decision because she encouraged me at least to try.

My suggestion to other people who want to take successfully this experience is to ask always for support already in the home country, specially to public offices (job centers, municipality, etc.) regarding bureaucracy and formal documents requested in the new country and ask for clear information about all the relevant issues related specially to job opportunities in the new hosting country. Then if you have the chance to have already a friend in that country, life will definitely become more easy and really beautiful!