

First flight to Italy to learn more about social entrepreneurship

A trip to Italy was my first journey by a plane of my life. It was interesting to try something new. I really liked to look from the plane window on Earth and enjoy the view how our planet looks like. In the morning from the plane, I saw a beautiful sunrise. On the way back, at night our planet reminded me Christmas tree full of twinkling lights.

Two days in Rome flow very quickly, but they taught me a lot. Historical Rome with beautiful architecture, Italian culture, fashion style, people's behavior and their lifestyle, their tasty cuisine, everything that was before unknown for me, now gave me an idea as I experienced for myself what it is like being around Italians in Italy. I would say Rome is a big city with a lot of benefits and opportunities but streets have their own rule for life. The city is full of excited tourists enjoying the views and as an opposite, there are a lot of people begging money on the streets. It is a city of two opposite mirrors at one place.

There is a lot to see in Italy, but very long lines of people who wait to pay, and only then to see something are almost everywhere in Rome. Pay the money and wait for a long time everywhere to feel the true spirit of historical city disappointed me a bit. I wish I could see more but there is no time during a business trip to wait till your queue will come.

One more important point for travelers, even so when tourist thinks that he/she did everything correctly, in the foreign country obviously the law can say absolutely opposite. For example, in Italy it is not enough just to buy the ticket for the train as you need to validate it also in the special box, even so, you paid money for the ticket this ticket is not valid without validation and seems that you have to figure out on your own, as if someone can tell you about that then you are a lucky person. The journey from Rome to Foligno taught me one important lesson that it is better always to ask - just in case if you are not 100% sure... I would like to add when you go as a tourist somewhere just to enjoy and relax, even on your vacation or whatever the reason of your trip is - the main point is always to be attentive to every detail as it can give you good experience which you might not get in your home country as every culture is unique and special.

Also during this trip, I got a chance to enjoy for few hours at night the ancient town of Italy - Foligno which impressed me a lot. It is a quiet nice town with its own temp of life. Narrow streets, impressive architecture, beautiful nature where you can have a pleasant time to enjoy the mountains and the life of nature. This trip to Italy for me was as a breath of summer.

2nd Project Management Team Meeting

On the 12th of April 2017, the second project management team meeting was held in Italy, Foligno. The hosting organization of this meeting was Italian non-profit association VIANDUSTRIAE, which represents modern and contemporary art.

On the meeting which was dedicated to the project which is called Erasmus + „Development and promotion of social business within youth sector” were present representatives of different organizations which are involved in the partnership for this project:

- ✓ Latvia – Social Innovation Center (SIC) as a coordinator of the project
- ✓ Italy – “VIAINDUSTRIAE”
- ✓ Estonia – “INVOLVED MTÜ”
- ✓ Lithuania – “Viesoji istaiga Bendruomeniu kaitos centras”
- ✓ France - “MakeSense”

The meeting started with a welcome speech by the hosting organization after which partners presented themselves and their positions towards the achievement of objectives. During the meeting, it was discussed how to encourage young people to take an active part in the social entrepreneurship, be innovative and creative. More specific, the agenda how to facilitate the development of social business incubation for youth, carrying on a forum “Social business incubation for youth” in each Baltic country, the distribution of work between partners organizations, grants for the project – topics which were outlined at the meeting.

French representative shared their experience of social entrepreneurship in France with Baltic states. Some examples were provided during the presentation, as CRESS, ANIMAFAC, CJDES, L’ESPER, Enactus, Ticket for Change, Solidarité étudiante, Live for Good, Avise - all of them offer tools for youth to start their social enterprise.

The Italian partner outlined the opinion of Altheo Valentini / Egina, European Grants International Academy Srls who said: “ I think generally, in Italy, we have some difficulties but we are growing on the issue of social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship in the field of youth.”

After that, partners discussed the way of creation of the new platform which would encourage youth to be part of the project. The discussion was followed by the training «How to create proper business model for social enterprise» which is planned to be held this summer in Latvia, Ramava Manor. Regarding this training, attention was paid to the issue of the selection of participants and the way how to encourage youth to apply. The task of the project is to lead young people on the right way to implement their ideas, give to youth a prompt how to start and show that support for the new ideas actually exists. The main

barrier which does not allow youth to reach information directly is how the information is actually spread, the right way must be found through which youth will actually understand everything how it works. As objectives, to increase youth self-esteem, to instill confidence into young people's minds that they can do everything despite on external obstacles, that young people have been always and always will be the hope of the world for the better future life.

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