

Poland: an incredible experience in a different cultural environment

Success story :RLT184965

New Entrepreneur (NE)

Name & surname: Agata Suchy

Country: Spain

Age: 31

Status: *Would-be entrepreneur/Start-up*

Sector: Client Service, bar

Name of business: not established

Website: not established

Host Entrepreneur (HE)

Name & surname:

Beata Bernecka-Slimak

Country: Poland

Age: 32

Experience (years): 6

Sector: Client Service, bar

Name of business: *Czula jest noc*
(Tender is the night)

Website: www.facebook.com/czulajestnoc

Details of the exchange

Period of Exchange: March-September 2018

Duration of Exchange: 6 months

Brief introduction:

HE chose to participate in the program as it seemed to her as an interesting opportunity of the cultural exchange in the daily work basis. The bar is a property of 3 young girls for whom the cultural activities were always very important part of their life and they are convinced about the cultural exchange value.

HE set up the company 3.5 years ago with a few years of previous experience in the same sector (bars, restaurants).

NE decided to take a part in the EFYE once she found out that she is on the wrong career path. Practically speaking, she needed a new job and she wanted to try herself with her own business. So before diving down a new career path, thanks to EFYE, NE checked if there's a reasonably good chance to do what she wants to do.

NE has had some previous experience in different market branches, bigger and smaller companies, but she never ran a business. So she wanted to try, but still wasn't sure if that's for her.

For the person with this kind of dilemma EFYE turned out as a perfect chance to solve all the doubts.

Activities undertaken:

The bar is open all week long. So there are shifts, one of them are longer, other shorter. There is a period during the year (spring-summer) when the terrace is open and the number of guests is doubled. There are quiet days and crowdie concerts, festivals. NE took a part in the wide variety of event and tried out all of the positions possible in the bar. She was working mostly as an event manager, but also as a bartender, administration and supply specialist, researcher and marketing manager. At first, she was mainly shadowing HE, but time after time she was receiving more and more responsibility. In the end of the



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exchange NE was able to organize an event by herself.

Thanks to the responsibility given to NE, HE had the unique opportunity to learn a lot about her own business, look at it from the different perspective. What's the most important for HE - she ended up inspired by fresh ideas taken from the different cultural surroundings.

Benefits achieved:

The main reason for NE to take a part in EFYE was to gain a new work experience and embrace a new lifestyle in a brand new world. By offering NE an exchange program, EFYE gave her the opportunity to enhance her professional skills in the new industry and to experience a new work environment. The exchange program was very enriching and enabled NE to gain a thorough understanding the market branch. It was interesting for NE to be a part of the bar's team and to watch their work habits and ways of interaction. HE was friendly and always available, which made it very easy to ask questions. NE greatly appreciates working with every member of the team and enjoyed participating in all the organized events. Both HE and NE noticed how different the market is in both countries with its needs.

But it's the cultural experience what's the most interesting part of this "journey" for both : HE and NE. Discovering new ideas and to learn more about the culture and history of both countries, working and living abroad makes one grow, become more confident, open mind and is self-rewarding. It forces people to ask questions, to listen, to be patient, to take initiatives, to understand others. Thanks to this cross-cultural experience NE deeply understood what kind of business she wants to run. On the other hand HE received from HE a lot of new ideas, new perspective and increased the number of the followers in social media and improved the targeting.

Quotation regarding the experience:

NE: *"Extraordinary adventures are overrated—unless you have them with someone else. Someone like my HE! It has been one of the best work experiences ever! I achieved so many things in Poland that this experience definitely exceeded my expectations. I would have been insane to miss it."*

HE: *"EFYE is the limitless cultural experience! And you will have it on a daily basis. It actually feels like a land of opportunity being surrounded by someone with different cultural background. It made me feel that I live in a very open country and showed that the cultural exchange is priceless."*

For further information about the exchange:

- NIO Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias, eye@itccanarias.org
- HIO: MOST Foundation, mserkowska@most-program.org

For information on the programme and details on how to enroll visit:

www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu