

The language as a tool for further working integration

A Good Practice Story from Athens, Greece

Introduction

Language is essentially a means of communication among the members of a society. The significance of communication between people equates the significance of language – the most important means of communication. Language proficiency is extremely important for a migrant. Better language proficiency means easier assimilation in the host country and greater returns to human capital as well as better job opportunities and job matches, among other things. Effective communication can be defined as verbal speech or other methods of relaying information in order to get a point across. Workers of varying skillsets within a health or social care setting must communicate clearly with each other to best coordinate care delivery to patient. Can a migrant care worker enhance his/her communication abilities and his/her overall labour inclusion by learning his/ her host country language?

The Story of Julio (Biographic Story)

Date 26/03/2021



My name is Julio and I arrived in Greece since 8 years. I am from Albania and I work as a care worker in home care service sector. I chose this job, because I was always in favor of helping persons in need. I consider that every person should provide in any kind of help to all those who are in need of it. Personally, I provide help in this way.

I chose Greece for several reasons. Firstly, many Albanians were already working here. Secondly, Greece is very close to my home-country. Finally, the economic situation in Greece is better than the situation in Albania.

The difficulties of adjustment

I had already collected some useful information by persons who were used to live here, even before my arrival in Greece. When I arrived, I had still been consulted by these persons and afterwards I asked help from job finding's companies, in order to adjust easier to the greek labour situation.

In the beginning, the difficulties which I had faced were expected. The biggest difficulty was related to the greek's language learning, taking account that is one of the most difficult languages to be learnt, world widely. This obstacle had worsen my labour adjustment, as my communication level with patients and their relatives.

The steps towards the enhancement

In order to work as a care worker, the basic language level is required. More specifically, after my first period in Greece I realized that my lack of language should be faced. As a result, I participated in learning lessons for adult in order to enhance my skills in Greek.

During this effort of mine, I was helped by a trainer who contributed to language and communication matters, as to professional terminology. After a noticeable enhancement, I started to consider my registration in a professional school, as I finally did. At this period, I undertake lessons in the context of high school for adults.

The results at the workplace

To be honest, my persistence to learn the greek language has positive impacts long-termly. Moreover, my communication level has been improved not only in the context of my personal relationships but also in the workplace.

Simultaneously, the risks of misunderstandings have been reduced. Risks which are usually originated not only in the difficulties of communication field, but also in understanding a foreign language.

The pandemic crisis and the expectations from the relevant authorities

During the Pandemic the conditions are very difficult, either in professional or in economic level. Especially for the migrants care worker in the home sector, there is always a risk of losing their fees, taking account that the majority of them is working informally and without insurances.

[Πληκτρολογήστε κείμενο]

In the meanwhile, the health's restrictions have set limits to the job options. Due to the fact that I am self-employed, my economic and my professional progress are significantly related to my choices. However, I think that relevant authorities can contribute to the migrants care workers efforts in order to be integrated to the labour market.

I consider that there can be a public or a private regulation of greek language learning as professional terminology in order to enhance the communication level of the migrants workers.