

Greece – Club for UNESCO of Piraeus and Islands

Institution	Club for UNESCO of Piraeus and Islands
Interviewed Person	Iris, 32 years old from Germany

I – Preparation

Iris is 32 years old and she came from Germany two and a half years ago. She is a graduate of German literature. Furthermore, Iris has working experience as she was working as a teacher. She used to help migrants' children with their homework.

II – Awareness

Iris was clearly aware of her capacities when she came to Greece, she had a clear idea about the need for learning to find a job and already knew how to proceed her career in the host country.

"I had never worked at a school but I had educational experience with children. In my neighborhood there were many migrants whose kids were struggling with the German language. I decided to support them at home. I had over 10 students all over these years."

II – Starting up

Learning the Greek language was a strong barrier for Iris. So, she decided to take courses of the Greek language at the University of Athens. Furthermore, she came in touch with the social service of the Club for UNESCO Piraeus and Islands and was guided by professional guidance counselors and social workers.

II – Documentation and support

Iris brought her German diploma with her to Greece and got it translated. That was a strong motivation and evidence of her former education.

Apart from this and after the encouragement of UNESCO's guidance counselors and social workers, Iris created a group of learning the German language to other migrants and refugees. This volunteering job provided her with the needed proof of her former experience. She made her more confident and self-sufficient. Moreover, that offered her a letter of recommendation on behalf of the Club, which proved her former voluntary experience as a teacher of the German language. Eventually, Iris had a completed portfolio.

II – Assessment

Iris did not face any particular problem with the assessment. She prepared a presentation based on both her capacities and competences and former working experience.

"I know that my Greek is not excellent but I was highly supported"

The outcome of the assessment was clear for Iris. She wanted to continue teaching the German language.

II – Impact

Iris was satisfied of the outcome of the validation, which eventually gave her the motivation for the future. She won't stop teaching the German language. Moreover, she is going to broad and upgrade her knowledge as she has already applied for specialized, educational seminars.