

Greece – Club for UNESCO of Piraeus and Islands

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| Institution | Club for UNESCO of Piraeus and Islands |
| Interviewed Person | Mirtcho, 38 years old and has come from Bulgaria |

I – Preparation

Mirtcho is 38 years old and has come from Bulgaria. He has been in Greece since 2010. He is a graduate of the Agricultural Academy of Bulgaria. He used to work as an agriculturist in his homeland, for over five years.

II – Awareness

Mirtcho was totally aware of his capacities, he had a very clear idea of what he would like to do for living. He had a very definite and plain idea about the need for learning to find a job. He wanted to continue his working life from the point he had stopped in his homeland.

“I am aware of my competences and abilities as an agriculturist. For over 5 years I was working successfully on this field.”

II – Starting up

The strongest barrier for Mirtcho was the language. He participated free lessons of learning the Greek language under the auspices of a non-governmental organization. The professor of the former advised Mirtcho to get in touch with the Club for UNESCO and its counselors.

II – Documentation and support

Apart from the insufficient knowledge of the language, Mirtcho had to face another problem. His formal diploma was out of his possession, so he had no evidence of his specialized studies. He contacted the Academy by an e-mail, although due to rough bureaucracy there was a huge delay for receiving it.

After he had been guided by job counselors of the Club for UNESCO, he decided to create a CV in Greek and be addressed to small greenhouses that operate at the suburbs of his town, Piraeus.

“I was hesitant enough to seek for a job that could not be documented by a formal diploma. My experience was my only evidence and motivation. While I was waiting for my diploma, I had to persuade an employer to test my prior working experience for a month maybe two and eventually decide if I am suitable or not.”

II – Assessment

Mirtcho had to face a particular problem with the assessment. He was aware of his capacities, although it has to be considered that he had no evidence of his previous education at the Agricultural Academy.

"I had to prove my capacities. I had to be trusted by an employer even if I could not document my former education."

II – Impact

Mirtcho was happy with the outcome of the counseling. He risked, he started working voluntarily in a small greenhouse and now his work is paid after the employer noticed that he is well-experienced. After a long time waiting for his diploma, Mirtcho eventually received it.