

## **Inga Myrna: Your choice for future job: Ukraine or abroad?**

12 years have passed since I, being 6 years old, had a dirty claim of an illegal ... Now I'm 18 years old and can boast of seeing the whole Europe, but only the nearest people know the truth. When my parents were younger they chose life abroad. Unfortunately, some people think that "grass is much greener on the other side". Speaking about my mum and dad, they decided to 'visit' their friends in Europe 'for a while'. Only now I got to know about the real motive and the real reason which was total crisis in Ukraine. It was difficult to earn a living for themselves and for small children. Of course, illegal work of immigrants has always been cheap and shameful but it is an opportunity to get at least something in comparison to 'postsoviet' salaries. I remember a year spent in an in-a-hurry-chosen country – Belgium, Atwerpen. For sure, unforgettable times, especially the days when my father worked as a builder and mum cleaned the houses of luckier women her age. Luckier only to be born in a better country. I still remember the pressure either from my granny's side (with whom we seldom spoke on the telephone) or from my mates, who used to see immigrants only in a role of 'modern slaves' in their kitchens. Meanwhile my parents grabbed opportunities and simply tried to survive. Each evening ended in conversations of a possible and so desirable legalization...

To cut a long story short I'll tell that at the moment I live in Ukraine and see all that 'sweet memories from childhood' only at nights in a form of nightmares. I've been to France, Germany, Norway, Greece, Sweden (still remember sleeping once on a bench...), Poland, Denmark, Belgium, Romania... My family couldn't stand the 'legalization period' and we returned home.

Today, in the century of Globalization, everything seems to be much easier. You don't have to hide or break the Law in order to see life beyond Ukrainian borders – there are dozens of exchange programmes, councils, etc. But why then the problem of mass emigration is still so hot in Ukraine? Authorities, of course, say that escaping is easier than fighting against national problems. But I doubt! Is it much easier to ruin a family, spoil reputation, and work for 17 hours a day?! All of us know about Ukrainian beauties looking for a better life in Italia and the consequences of that "search".

The Government boasts of better results and visible success... Why then people still face the same problem my parents had more than a decade ago?

My elder brother lives in Denmark at the moment. He continues to study, but I understand that his purpose is to rejoin a "better" society. His girlfriend is a local, so I think the "Happy end" is evident. Can't we change the situation?

I'm a first course student at a National economic university and the nasty question "life in Ukraine or abroad?" still haunts me.

In my opinion, we've got into an evil circle- a country becomes stronger with its National Bank. I don't mean a money equivalent, but the National Bank of Specialists, Scientists – that is to say a treasure in a form of brains. No wonder that all the spheres of life in Ukraine lack specialists – ones, that estimate their abilities highly and believe they are worth better life, simply leave. Ukrainians are astonished at the level of social life, health care and government benefits abroad. What prevents us from building up the same ones? –The lack of specialists.

I pay much attention to the development of my language skills (mum always said that this is a key they hadn't had THEN). But I've already tasted a "foreign life" and haven't noticed much greener grass. That is why I choose life in the land of my father and mother-Ukraine.

Still, answering the question, I see two aspects: education abroad and life after university. The excuse of leaving Ukraine may sound like gaining international experience. It is very important to develop traditional spheres in Ukraine, but it is more important that Ukrainians should learn to use

worldwide developments. Of course, the temptation to “escape” from problems and plunge into a new-level life is great. Anyway, the policy of “future life without borders” seems to have become popular among European countries. The acceptance of the Bolon Process can help Ukrainian youth integrate into world life. So, I choose life without borders (but Ukraine still has to be on the top of this list!). English as the universal language also plays an integrative role. Of course, the word ‘integration’ means a dream come true for Ukrainians and a necessity for well-developed countries with advanced economy. In order not to feel disgrace and shame for being Ukrainians (the poor relatives) we are to work hard for it. I mean the reformation of either psychological or material spheres. Maybe, the problem is in low self-estimation. Unfortunately, our emigrants aren’t proud of Ukraine and each time feel unreasonable and unexplained fear to name the place of birth...

Time is the best cure, but we mustn’t be passive! The new generation is able to “lift” Ukraine in the world top-ten-list by its knowledge, desire to improve and level of personal development. We are to be proud of being born here and are to make others respect us (but not work as slaves, often in sexual spheres, for quarter payment).

Experience is what person keeps for ages, it is a gift. So, my ‘round-world journeys’ were not useless, too. Firstly, I’ve drawn a conclusion that all developed nations respect themselves and pronounce with pride in eyes a phrase: “I am from...” For sure, one can have an excuse that they have reasons to boast of their mother countries, but I doubt! I believe that to achieve success people are to learn to love and respect themselves. Only after that come love to others and material prosperity.

Ukrainians often seem to be birds, flying to warmer countries. But a strong nation is not a flock of birds and we are to change our values...