

Vladyslav Telipko:

Your choice for future job: Ukraine or abroad?

We tend to be reformers when we are young and conservatives when we are old. A conservative person seeks welfare when a reformer seeks justice and truth. This quote belongs to the American poet and philosopher Ralf Emerson. As many young people I am a reformer by nature. My choice in life, my goals and ways to achieve them are predetermined by the same values that induce young and impulsive people to fight for justice and go look for the truth of life. And you can only find them in place where you were born and raised. One could find justice and injustice, truth and lie in any country, but they would be alien to those in your motherland. For it is your motherland that is the primal source of your mentality, lifestyle, and the way of thinking. And that's why it should become the witness of our fortunes and misfortunes, our discoveries and achievements.

They say one cannot choose one's parents and motherland. It is hard to argue about this, of course, but it does not necessarily mean that one has to put up with any, even the most desperate situation in his country and community, with any circumstances of human life. But many people take it literally and leave native places forever at a first given opportunity, losing their own national identity. I am not going to judge such people as they follow their hearts, but many of them do this because of hopelessness. However, not everyone is destined to such a choice.

I see a better way in staying in one's own country in spite of all the difficulties and trying to change one's own life and the lives of his or her compatriots for the better. I prefer to do the same. But I am not an idealist. I perfectly understand how many problems there are in my country and how difficult life is in such unstable circumstances. We got used to putting all the blame upon our government, but who else if not the people are responsible for their destiny?! One should remember that the authority could not be better than the human material its voters are made of. Therefore it is us that should change, so that our children could inherit a better country and a better community. But a lot will depend on them, too. We can only weed the field and pass clean arable soils to our children. We can not give them good weather.

Ukraine is a young country, and saying this somebody hints at its lack of experience. But it has a rich history and I want to believe it will use its experience that will prevent us from making the same mistakes we did in the past. Because inexperience is the inability to use your intellect without somebody else's help. Those who got used to acting on their own, who got used to making decisions without others' advice or silent approval, those will certainly mature early, even without a vast experience.

As for me, I see my future only in Ukraine. I tie everything with it – my profession, job, career, and family. To be honest, sometimes it comes to my mind whether the responsibility I am taking is worth it, whether it is worth to overcome all the difficulties on the way to an obscure future, to the blurry and uncertain perspectives that life in Ukraine could give me. But I'm filled with confidence at the thought that though I do not see all the wanted results of my work now, they will certainly leave a track in the memories of certain people and maybe even whole generations. Everyone living for the sake of universal benefit contributes to the prosperity of the community they are a member of. I want my country to prosper and therefore I am not going to deprive it from my contribution to its future.

Education is the main aspect of growth and development of an individual, the main component of spirituality and human nature. But neither development nor education can simply be given or communicated to anybody. Everyone who would like to become a part of them, should do it through their work, power and persistence.

Famous Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov once said, "One cannot become an educated person in any

school. But in every well organized educational establishment one can become a well disciplined person and acquire skills that will be useful later when one finishes school and starts educating himself.” In my opinion it tells us that it does not matter where you receive education – at home or abroad as well as what school you go to. In any case one must discipline oneself. Otherwise even the best education will never make one a person one wants to be.

You cannot deny that the place you got your education at matters when you are applying for a job or do research, or enter another school... But at the end, as Einstein said, “your education is only what is left when everything you were taught is forgotten.” Even the best school cannot make a stupid and lazy person smart and hardworking. Moreover, no education could possibly ever substitute for inborn intelligence.

For me, where to study and work was always out of the question. But for those in doubt, it is worth to remember, that if you want to work in your country, you should also study here. Of course, today none of the Ukrainian schools could compare with famous Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Berkeley or Sorbonne. And many representatives of Ukrainian elite think the same as they send their children to those schools to study. But most of them come back home after graduation to start their own business or inherit their parents’ one.

I can be mistaken, but as far as I am concerned, a lot of them have difficulties adapting to our life conditions again, or implement the knowledge they received abroad. And I think the reason is that there is this certain uniqueness in our quickly developing, but very unstable and quickly changing social and economic fields, and you cannot ignore this uniqueness if you are living and working in Ukraine. The rules and laws of business, political and economical competition established in the West and acquired by those who go there to study them, do not work in our conditions. It is hard to implement them in the pure form in Ukraine.

We pass new laws, establish new rules and norms urged to face European standards and basic values of the civilized world, but they rarely materialize. In practice, in the process of their introduction into a certain work routine, they are being cruelly distorted by the reality of our juridical, social and economical life. That is why we cannot count on all the declared acts issued by the government with the aim of regulating different types of social relations in our country, to be accurately implemented in the real life of Ukrainian community. Because sooner or later they will collide with the peculiarities of Ukrainian national mentality, and be powerless in solving certain arguments. And they will be replaced by not very democratic traditions and norms that would not probably entail constructive changes, or establish the relations capable of reforming the old order, but are firmly rooted and familiar to our people.

As for employment, I have to disagree with those who say that it is impossible to find an adequately paid job in Ukraine. Simply in our country the principle of natural selection works more than anywhere else. Therefore good jobs and careers are open only to those devoted to their duty and to what they are doing, who will be flexible and principled, who are familiar with the notion of obligation and discipline, who would not be afraid to take the burden of responsibility for what they are doing and would not complain about life and its problems. Every field of social life in Ukraine needs such people. Moreover, there is a serious lack of such people. And the problem is that many people cannot get used to the fact that there will be no return to the socialist past. Back then people got paid equally notwithstanding the quality and quantity of work done. And this was called “everybody gets what they have earned” in that soviet hypocritical society. In reality this is what was happening: a person that went to work and did nothing got paid the same and sometimes even more than the one who worked hard and was even ahead of schedule. The latter one was sometimes even blamed for trying to show off in front of his co-workers. Today many people refuse to understand that not to be unemployed and receive a fair reward for your job, one should simply work and be active, which was not encouraged and sometimes even punished back in soviet times.

It is up to the youth today to change the structure of social conscious and the nature of social

relations in my country. And it is not surprising. As the famous Russian writer Nikolai Shelgunov said, “it is youth with its generous enthusiasm, troubled aspiration to everything honest and fair, and social truth that is one of the greatest strengths of human progress.” I agree with this and think that the development of Ukraine, the country I live and study in, the citizen of which I am, depends on us, young people. And we can make all the inhabitants of our country proud of it.

Many people will probably consider such belief in the prosperous future of my country a kind of patriotism. But I cannot call myself a patriot. It is that I simply love my country and my home, and I sincerely wish our people to live well and be respected abroad.

And now let us consider this point: what would happen if everyone who does not like his family, is not capable of providing for it, does not want or cannot take the responsibility for his little children and senior parents, left his family and looked for a new one without such problems? Soon all the people in the world would become lonely. The same is true about the country. If it loses its gene pool, its youth, its human and intellectual potential – it would simply disappear. I do not want such a destiny for my country. I want to build such a democracy and civic society in it, so that everyone could study and get necessary knowledge, work and pay their bills, find their own path in life for the sake of everybody’s benefit, and meanwhile live and develop freely. And relationships between the government and an individual would be based on respecting the individual’s free will. When we realize the necessity of such changes, they will come, the state we live in will change, too. For the system of any country shows what its nation is worth, and Ukrainian nation is worth a lot. The fact that Ukrainian youth makes their choice to its benefit is the best proof!