



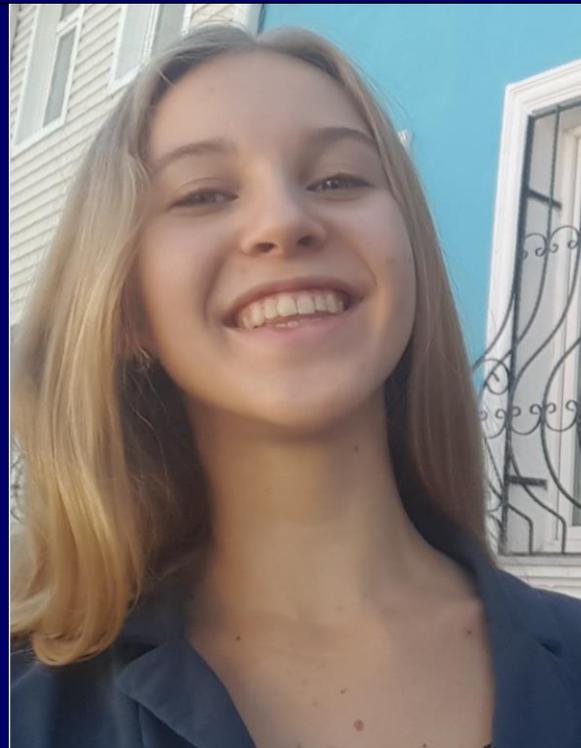
EMWOSE
Women from ethnic minorities in social enterprise

Interview Form

Overview

Name: Eliza Kravchenko

Social Enterprise: Disabled Foundation
Women Entrepreneur-TURKEY



Hello, My name is Eliza Kravchenko

I am Ukrainian. I work here in a local Turkish organisation as art teacher to help disabled people to integrate into society...

Basically we are doing craft with my students, you can see we are doing here... Mostly it is embroidery, origami class, painting class.

I decided to come here, because I have been volunteering during the last three years. I felt they I really want to go somewhere abroad to another culture, to another religion... to feel, to try... what it means to be excluded ...and later to understand how to integrate myself to bigger community. Basically what we are doing here with disabled people.

Basically you really need to understand you need to be open minded. Because if you go to another country, another religion and here it is like another traditions and social norms. You need to be ready for that. Basically you need to be very flexible to integrate to this new surrounding and give something to this community.

Very first barrier I noticed, it was language of course, because you just start noticing it from the airport when you come. Because I do not know Turkish and a lot of people they know English and of course Ukrainian. And so I need to find a way to communicate with them not only verbally but I need to use some other languages...

Doing my voluntary activities here, I think I have manage to understand how to do that. Of course some other barriers like for example some stereotypes about my culture and my nation and my country. Because, for example a lot of people still associate Ukraine with Russia or USSR... despite the fact it is separated country during last 30 years. Sometimes I need to explain it and I need to be very patient sometimes. But of course I can understand that, because we are form different countries, and we have different culture and completely we have different background.

Thankfully I can use new technologies. But sometimes you need to find a person who can translate to you...and like... It is better if it is native speaker because some senses it is really hard to deliver via translator or using pantomime like that. Sometimes it is better to find someone in local community who knows English he or she can translate. Of course I cannot use any language here, only some basic words.. I taught them some basic English words and they taught me some basic Turkish words. But to teach

Interview transcript

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in art classes you do not need any language, except language of human, sport and love. So I use a lot like nonverbal methods for communications with my students. Pre often I do show them how to something and they can just repeat it.

I think the most successful outcome of this story is not something material of course, it is something I see every day. I see that my students are happy and I see they are becoming more open-minded and open toward the world. Because, first when I came they felt really anxious about me, because I am foreigner it is obviously because I am from another country, and I do not speak Turkish and I sometimes I notice that they do not know how to communicate with me. But now, I see that, they are not afraid of me, I think it is a pretty big deal.

Pre often we can do those crafts for each other as like a symbol of our support and love...and integrity of our community. They need to be patient of course, because sometimes you need to repeat a lot time... you need to be ready to enter in a completely new society, completely new community... It is better of course if you have some previous experience of volunteering in your own country, then you can do it gradually, because you know how it was in your country then you move to another country...and you have some patterns and understanding how to act in new society.

I think it is better for them to start from volunteering, because almost all stories I know they started like that just you go to local organisation you work for them as a volunteer for some time. If you are doing good...if you show results... Later you can start working just as a worker as an employee. Because, during your work in some organization you can develop some skills, you can develop new competencies and later you can become valuable worker in this organisation.

I can suggest them not to be afraid of such steps. Because, usually when think about something, it will look so big and difficult... But when you just make one step, you see it is just one step, what else you should do later, you need to do another step. Because it is not just one huge something, you need to start with one little step and it will proceed further.



Video [Here](#)