

E&U MEGAZINE

Helping you along the way

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Issue I

Planning to move to a foreign country?

Here are some tips and tricks on how to make the process of moving as smooth as possible.

That's it. You have made a decision to move to a foreign country. But where should you start? How to choose the country and what to arrange before arriving? Very often people get confused by the amount of information they need to process and the procedures they need to follow in order to change their place of living.

And it's understandable. I have been there myself. Not only do people get confused by the vast amounts of bureaucracy, but also simple life questions, such as, "*Will I find work?* ", "*Will people accept me?*" and "*How do I do all this if I don't yet know the language?*" To avoid the confusion and help with the process, the *E&U MEGAZINE* has come up with some general tips and tricks that might help you find and move to your new home.

1. Get qualified.

Unless you are relocating with work or already have a job waiting for you, you want to be in a position where you are interesting to the possible employer and the

job market. Having relevant education or experience in some field will help you greatly in finding your new job. If you do not have any experience or education, you might want to either get it at your current home, or research the possibilities to gain valuable experience or training in your future home.

2. Save some money.

When moving to another country, remember that unexpected expenses are very likely to creep up even in the least anticipated places and times. Have a backup by saving some money for this cause. Setting up a new life can be expensive and it depends on way too many factors to count, so try to get at least a few months' worth of money for this cause. And if you don't spend it, well, good for you, you can spend it all on ice-cream. No harm done!

3. Decide where you will go.

Let's just say it. The world is huge. And sometimes it might be hard to figure out where exactly you want to spend your life in (or a part of it). A few things to think about when deciding are:

1. Where will I be able to get support in my field of work and interests?
2. Is there a local community of people from my country of origin?
3. How easy is it to move there?
4. How long do I want to move there?
5. Do I need to get a visa and how hard will it be to get it?
6. Is the climate acceptable?

4. Get a Visa (if you need).

It's that simple. If you need to, get an appropriate visa for the stay. Usually the procedure of getting one is clearly defined and can be easily found on the web. So, just *google it*.

5. Visit the country(-ies) of your choice.

Nothing is worse than false assumptions and stereotypes when moving to another country. The best way on how to find out the truth is going and seeing it for yourself. So pack your suitcase and go exploring. If you are not satisfied with what you see, return to point 3.

6. Do your research.

Once you are sure about your choice of residence, it's time to research and analyze it. The Web has all the resources and information you would need to know everything. Just make sure your sources are reliable and try not to fall for stereotypes.

7. If you need to, apply for a job or a study place if you are a student.

If you don't have a secured job or a study place already selected, you have to do that now. Unless you have a huge budget for your relocation, you will want to

do this before arriving to the destination.

8. Meet people and learn their culture.

Everyone is different, so try to meet and understand the cultural differences between yourself and the country you are going to. Learn them and respect them, and you will have a great time. Do the opposite, and you might find yourself in many uncomfortable and awkward situations.

9. Have fun!

You only have one life (probably), so make sure you

are having fun. It might be tough to relocate to another country, but if you will be open-minded and flexible, and just have fun, you will get the most out of the experience.



Say "Hello" to me and I will tell you who you are

"Hello" seems to be a usual greeting word, but it contains the individual character of the nation as a whole and each person separately.

The culture of greetings is centuries old and the tradition has survived till today.

Posture, gesture, mimics, speech pronunciation not only make the impression about the person, but also show the whole nation and their tradition.

For example, it's impossible to imagine Ukrainian traditional greeting without korovay and towel. We use it to welcome guests. This shows that you pay attention and respect to them and provide a feeling of peace and comfort.

This tradition is passed from generation to generation and this is the reason why Ukrainians are a peaceful nation.

Greeting is the beginning of everything, therefore, it is

important to pay attention towards communication, moreover, the other person with whom you will be talking to be accepted with honor and dignity in order to pave the way to understanding and mutual respect.



Challenges before the European ideals and values

"He who has a strong enough why can bear almost any how."
Friedrich Nietzsche

The concept of 'values' is generally understood as standards of morality or justice and ideals to be pursued which in the context of the European Union also enter the law through legal principles and legal rights. Many national and international norms can be justified by values or high substantial principles such as justice or human rights.

Values generally lead to principles translating into rights and from these to rules and regulatory instruments in a 'series of interlocking definitions and distinctions' (Dworkin 1977)

The fundamental values of the EU are respect for human dignity and Human Rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. These values unite all the member states and all countries that would like to be a part of it need to recognize these values.

The main goal of the EU is to defend these values and

promote peace and the well-being of the citizens.



In terms of their philosophy the EU member states are pluralistic and within the community nobody may be discriminated against. In addition, people and government representatives must be tolerant and respect all members of society. Everybody must be treated equally and fairly and minority rights must be respected. Equality between the social groups is promoted. The EU works for social equality and develops social security and various instruments to protect the weakest. Furthermore, it seeks to prevent social exclusion and discrimination. All these fundamental values are defined in the Treaty of Lisbon 2009.

Most Europeans would readily support the idea of Human Rights as a value but the recent refugee crisis has caused serious divisions in opinions over the "universality" of these purportedly universal rights. As a result European "solidarity" has been put under intense pressure from the various austerity measures and the long-running European debt crisis. Challenges to the fundamental values of the Community are no novelty and from a historic perspective, even though there was always a period of lag and transition, the basis for respect of Human Rights and freedoms has come reinforced and forged into the central ideals and purpose of the Union.

In fact the explicit reference to liberty, democracy, respect to Human Rights and fundamental freedoms is not an originality of the Lisbon Treaty. It was already in the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992 that they were embraced under the principles in Article 6. Reformulating them into 'values' is a symbolic

reinforcement of what already represented with Maastricht a breakthrough from the original Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC 1957). Following the failed attempt to adopt the European Constitution and the successful subsequent adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon (2009) the way was

paved for a true focus of EU political and legal discourse to Human Values. It is in this context that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU was brought into life with binding force, even if not incorporated in the Treaty of Lisbon. The Charter and the Treaty of Lisbon now offer a prime setting for the expression of the most prized 'values' of Europe.

In conclusion, it appears that even the intense current challenges before the European 'why', even though destabilizing, will serve as a catalyst to the ongoing process of incorporating the 'values' and standards of morality or justice and into legal principles and legal rights.

“We are society!” The role of active citizens in conflict resolution

“When people are anticipating and managing conflicts without violence and engage in inclusive social change processes that improve the quality of life. They are doing so without compromising the possibility of continuing to do so in the future, or the possibility of others to do so. This is the idea of interdependent, positive peace” (International Alert)

The processes of political transformation and reconfiguration of political spaces, such as the transition from authoritarian to democratic political system or the

disintegration of existing and the emergence of new states, may disrupt the existing power balance between groups in society. These shifts, or even the distant possibility of their occurrence, might in turn provoke violent internal or interstate conflicts. Groups affected by those changes can interpret them in different ways. Whereas some groups might gain greater access to state resources and thus secure larger portion of power for themselves, other groups can consider such changes as unfavourable to their own interests and

opportunities. However, the question remains how group's involvement in decision-making processes on micro level and participation in civil society affects the probability of civil conflict onset.

Newly independent states that emerged after the collapse of Yugoslavia faced several difficulties in the early phase of their establishment. Most of these states, particularly the ones with multi-ethnic composition, experienced insecurities about the loyalty of its citizens that made them extremely prone

not only to internal challenges but also to external influences or interventions. However it remains unclear whether the outcome of the violent conflicts would be different if civil society was more influential and if members of various groups within society had actively participated in the decision-making process and had opportunity to transform or resolve conflicts in more peaceful manner.

A history of communist rule in Yugoslavia has not been conducive to civic attitudes, pluralism and tolerance. Yugoslav communism destroyed civil society and the social fabric of communities, leaving people isolated and distrustful of the state and of their fellow citizens. After

the break-up of the federative state, intolerant national identities filled the vacuum the communists had left behind. Therefore, when the overlapping nationalist projects gained wide popularity among the members of various ethno-national groups and when political elites recognized the potential of nationalism, there was no strong civic 'barriers' within states that could oppose the escalation of conflict. Furthermore, in times of ethnic turmoil and confrontations, nationalist programmes that emphasized unity, conformity and loyalty easily overshadowed initiatives that promoted democratization, respect for diversity or individual autonomy.

Each member of a political community, independently of its ethnic or cultural background should have incentive and opportunity to acquire at least minimum knowledge and skills needed for participation in the community. The engagement in decision-making processes, would in turn produce a sense of identification with this community and feeling of belonging. It might be the way to fight against discrimination or exclusion of certain groups from the power and as such reduce the probability and willingness to engage in violent actions against the state and other citizens.



