



Generation Europe Debate

"Youth, Internships & Employment"

Date: 13.11.2008

Place: Lodz

Number of people: 5 students (23-24 years)

1. What do you think about the European market of internships, how it differs from Polish one?

Everybody agreed that international internships have become more popular than they used to be even 5 years ago. Nonetheless, two people outlined the fact that possibility to work abroad is still insufficiently promoted in academic society. Many students know that they can go somewhere but do not have enough information on how to get there.

Not only could the jobs' promotion be better, but students' exchange programs should also be much more widespread.

One person suggested that internships stand for the reconnaissance for future job. He liked the idea that people can try work in one or several foreign countries before they make a final decision where to stay forever.

Having compared the European market to the Polish one, the participants listed factors which tempted them to leave their country: essentially higher wages, willingness to encounter a new culture, language development, making CV more interesting.

2. Would you like to work abroad?

As far as we were concerned, there are some universal issues which keep people at home. We meant mostly close relation with family and friends. One person underlined that depression and solitude can be very often caused by a long absence from your girlfriend/ boyfriend/ husband/ wife/ children/ parents/ friends. Some people just like living and working in their countries, cities or even in their neighborhoods.

We also addressed the topic of acclimatization, how long it takes, what the best solutions are. One part of the group considered that happiness had from living and having a job in another country is relevant to the character of particular person and it cannot be changed. They figured that "stay-at-home" characters would never be happy abroad.

The other part of the group did not share the same opinion and stated that proper actions can be taken to make such a person happy. For instance if someone likes children, he or she should do a lot to work with children, if someone likes sport, he or she should take up sport activities – everybody should try to make their life interesting and compatible with their usual and daily needs instead of just giving up.

We concluded that the young generation is under no circumstances the one which is more open to having foreign jobs whereas, they have more freedom, which is in most cases crucial. Usually, they do not have to take care of children, they do not live in expensive houses or drive luxury cars – they are free to conquer the world.

3. What do you think about such an idea of debating and about GE?

Unfortunately, no one had heard about GE. When I gave the description of the main ideas they really liked it. Especially, they were interested in GE experts' database.

Talking about debating they had done before, nevertheless they all confirmed that interesting conversations about important topics do not appear very often during friends' meetings.

Among the participants there were representatives of Forum of Young Diplomats who already started similar project - "Coffee talks" where young professionals are invited to express their opinions on up-to-date problems. It is conducted in Warsaw, but we also want to launch it in Lodz and I plan to involve GE in this initiative.

To sum up, the debate was very interesting. In the beginning, people felt a little bit stressed, but after the first exchange of arguments everybody felt definitely more comfortable. I did not manage to note all the facts which were discussed, but I hope I managed to choose the most important.