

Testimonial of Marta Potenza – trainee at Novapolis in 2016

Marta Potenza is following her dream to gain as much experience as she can in order to set up her NGO and work in the field of education as tool to promote the full development of people, with special concern for children. To do so she decided to invest time and efforts to be trained and get specialized. Thanks to different opportunities offered through EU programs she received scholarships and grants supporting her vision.



For this reason she joined our team in Novapolis, in order to gain some experience in managing projects funded by the EU and other international donors and also to get more familiar with the dynamics and the criticisms of dealing with a difficult social reality.

She has recently completed her MA in IR and EU studies at the European Institute of Nice (France) and has a background in the field of education studies and social sciences for international cooperation for development. She is Italian and she has spent last 10 years moving around from Central Europe to the Balkans, from Spain to South America, passing sometime in her home country.

"As participant of the project, selected for training period in the Novapolis Association - Center of Analysis and Initiatives for Development in Bucharest, after one month from the starting date, I am 100% happy of my choice to apply for it.

Having benefitted in the previous years from other possibilities offered by the EU in the field of transnational education and training, the choice to opt for a transnational traineeship was very conscious. Indeed I recognize that the possibility to learn from a context which is culturally different from our home country can both be a challenge but also an extremely enriching moment.

When disarmed of any prejudices we have to face a daily working environment where the difference can be a limit but on the other hand can call us to reflect and look for alternative solutions. We are then invited to understand that since things work differently, we need to be ready and readapt our preparation to the new context.

Moreover the cultural difference, it is certain that going out from our daily and 'safe' space, so well-known and familiar, will put us in the condition to find some more creative or alternative solution. At the end of the day the challenges will provide us with some new competences and knowledge, which will contribute to increase our core luggage of skills useful in any other contexts, no matter the cultural environment surrounding us.

I am really happy of the working environment that I found at Novapolis Association - Center of Analysis and Initiatives for Development, where besides having the possibility to learn practically all what I have studied, I am experiencing the daily job of a Romania based NGO. It is interesting as it helps to observe the most hidden aspects that no one can teach until the moment you face them in first person and this knowledge can come just by the voice of the young team members which created Novapolis Association - Center of Analysis and Initiatives for Development few years ago. With the ambition of getting more and more specialized in the management of projects funded by the EU to provide educational services and promote human development in difficult contexts, I think that this training is a very concrete starting point for me.

I hope that more young people will have the same possibility because it is in first instance an occasion to reflect on the need to get much specialised to offer high quality resources to the labour market especially in a field where we have the ambition to offer better services to other people facing already some difficulties." Marta Potenza, trainee at Novapolis June-October 2016