

Interviews with Emigrants

Interview to Enrica Ravagli, Italian

Interviewed by Guenda Camilla Piccardi and Valentina Antonelli



Personal Data

First name: Erica Ravagli

Age: 43

Country: Italy

Interviewed by: Guenda Camilla Piccardi and Valentina Antonelli

Date and place: 02-03-2009 L'Officina della memoria, Foligno, Italy

Personal History of Emigration

Before meeting

- *How old were you when many people from "Romania" came to your country?*

I was about thirty years old.

- *Did you know anything about that country (geographical position, traditions, language, food, culture, sport, religion, lifestyle, political system, etc.) ?*

I only knew few information learned at school and nothing else.

- *Did you know why that people left their country ? were they looking for a job? had they religious or political problems? were they just trying to know new countries and new people?*

They left their country mainly for financial problems, in fact they came to Italy to find a new job.

- *Why did you think they choose your country (richness, language, geographical position, welfare, historical links between their and your countries, political system, culture, weather, friendliness of people) ?*

I think that they chose our country at first for the favourable geographical position and also for the tolerance of Italian government. Moreover, especially in the past, our country had many possibilities of job also for foreigners.

First Impact

1. *Tell me something about the feelings you had when such people began to come: were they funny? were they strange? what were they going to do in your country? was your life going to get better or worse? were you afraid?*

I am a teacher, so the relationship I had was only with children. For this reason I felt a great tenderness because they found it very difficult to integrate themselves and they had many problems in the learning of a new language: anyway I tried to help them the best I could.

2. *Where did you meet them first: in your personal experience (job, school, streets, shops, bar) or by the media?*

I heard about them through the media, but my first real impact was at school with children.

3. *What did the media say about that people?*

The media used the common stereotypes embedded in our society like violence, crime and so on.

4. *What did you imagine they were thinking about you?*

In my situation, I was a reference point for this children because I helped them to integrate in our society.

After some time (6 months/one year)

1. *Have you done anything in order to better know them or help and integrate them in your country?*

Yes, over the years I continued to help them.

2. *Did anybody you know (institutions, associations, single people, native or guest) help them to integrate into the community?*

I didn't know any associations or institutions but near my school there were some families which tried to help them to integrate into the community.

Now

1. *Do most of them actually live in your country, or have they gone back home ?*

I think they still live here because their parents work here and I think they are going on studying.

2. *What do you know now about their country (language, traditions, culture, religion, food, lifestyle, etc.) ? does it agree with the imagine you had before meeting them ?*

I know something about their traditions, their system of education. For example, I know that their English programme of study is not as complete as ours. Yes, it agrees with my previous ideas because I met many people from Romania but always as students.

3. *Is there any unpleasant event you went through, or you witnessed?*

Owing to the fact that I'm a teacher in a primary school and they are foreigners pupils in an Italian class, sometimes there are Italian boys or girls that are not very kind with them but not the contrary.

4. *Do you think that the differences between that country and yours have increased or decreased by the time? or did they remain the same?*

I think that in my case they have decreased but in the modern society they have surely increased.

5. *Which actually are your feelings: is there anything you "learned" from your new fellow citizens (job, culture, food, social or political institutions, etc.)? is there anything you think they "learned" from you ?*

I learned a lot especially about their traditions and culture and they did the same with mine.

6. *Finally: what do you think about your future and theirs ?*

I hope that they will continue to live in our country without problems and that we'll be more integrated. As for me, I'll continue to teach them with joy and pleasure.



[WP2 Tool 5 Natives Interview Questionnaire](#)



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