

New Campaign Shares Stories of Foreigners in Brno



Photo: Centre for Foreigners

The new campaign of the Centre for Foreigners titled *Our Compatriots* shares stories of foreigners who have decided to leave their homes and move to South Moravia. The main objective of the campaign is to fight against prejudice of foreigners.

"We wanted to reach those Moravians who don't have the chance to meet with foreigners or to live with them, and to send them a message, that they don't have to be afraid of this co-habitation. It's much harder for foreigners to come here and to start a new life than it is for us to accept them here. The main aim of the campaign is to send the message that we can live together regardless of our roots," said **Alena Krejčí**, the director of the Centre for Foreigners.

The campaign also fights against prejudice that at times appears in the media. "With this campaign, we also want to say that people should not be controlled by certain information that awakens fear in us," she stated.

"I found many friends in Brno"

People from countries such as Vietnam, Italy, Ghana or Ukraine who now live in South Moravia have participated in the project. They describe how long have they been living in the Czech Republic, what were their beginnings like, and what does life here bring them. "I found many friends in Brno, and it offers a lot of options. Honestly, I feel as if I am a Czech woman, who lives in Brno and loves it," **Phoung Leová**, who moved to the Czech Republic when she was three years old, said. She is one of the participants of the

campaign.

Another participant, **Lilija Pinčuková**, comes from Ukraine and she has been working in Brno for two years. "I worked in Ukraine as an HR manager for ten years, and when I moved, I had to start from the beginning; I was working in a warehouse. Now I work in the Skill Centre, and I help other foreigners who want to live and work in Brno," she said.

One epic story

The campaign tells its stories through videos. There are currently others being prepared. After all the stories will be published, the campaign will continue. The part of the campaign are not only foreigners. All of us that live here and contribute to the live in the region are part of it. "All the stories actually create one epic story that is full of

fateful moments, love, yearning for education, bravery, and skills. It does not matter how well we speak Czech or how far back our roots go. We are compatriots because of the society in which we live in and for which we try to do as much as possible. And thanks to that we live so well here in Moravia," added Krejčí.

The campaign is part of the project **Together in Our Region** and it cost CZK 3,8 million. Stories of all those who for various reasons have decided to live with us and they realized that they as well help to create a great place for living of our region are published on the webpage www.krajane.cizincijmk.cz.

Centre for Foreigners

