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Volunteering - ticket for job or another road for employment agency

The word "volunteer" originates from Latin and means voluntary. Today it is hard to find someone who has never volunteered, however, the reasons for that are different. While in other European countries exists a trend for young people to volunteer in various non-governmental organizations in order to acquire knowledge, help others, and understand the importance of work, the real reason for volunteering in Bosnia and Herzegovina is certificate obtained after completion of period of six months or a year (at best). It will later be used as evidence of work experience, (because volunteering is not included in the work history), by lost job-seeking persons waiting in long lines of public vacancies.

The most „perspective“ vacancies are those that contain precondition „graduated at faculty of social sciences“. These vacancies are „a sight for sore eyes“ resulted from long waiting lines in front of employment agencies. Well, of course, some people get the job. Majority get the job thanks to the „recommendation“ (please, read the column „*On the doorstep of Europe – between graduation and recommendation. Lapsus linguae or something else*“), but minority

get the job because of personal values, results and qualities (in that situation, all „recommendations“ got the appropriate job timely, so nobody was interested in that particular job, and the selection was done in accordance with the real criteria).

Now, there is a new hero/heroine in our story: lucky man/woman employed without recommendation! OK, he/she gets the opportunity to show his/her knowledge. To improve previously acquired skills. To help. But, all that with one small detail: only for the period of one year. After that the story returns to its beginning – everything depends on the category our hero/heroine belongs to.

If he/she belongs to the first group of „recommended persons“, he/she has nothing to worry about, furthermore, he/she has nothing to think about (thinking is a very gruelling), since somebody else will find the most suitable decision for them. And now, our heroes/heroines from the second category! Well, most probably they demonstrated too much of their knowledge and skills. We can all agree that he/she is competent, but he/she is not getting along with others well. It will be better for him/her to make a short break during which he/she will work on the improvement of his/her emotional intelligence. We are doing a favor to him/her, of course!

Scenario continues, guess where?! At the entrance of the Public Employment Service! One year of volunteering (or, at best, internship, but that's another column) is completed, our hero/heroine is at the beginning again. And he/she has to be there, since he/she used to learn too much, invested so much effort, and, above all, had "problems with emotions!"

If somebody identified himself/herself in this scenario, he/she should not worry. Any resemblance to real life is quite deliberate. Just one small detail is missing: how to educate a huge number of employees on what a complex concept

of emotional intelligence represents?! But no matter. Someone will do that.
According to the recommendation, of course.

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