

Key findings of the qualitative study on the Summer Work and Travel Program's risks and opportunities

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SWT Program, at the level of general perception is positively viewed by the majority of students as well as by the state institution's representatives. But, the general mark of the program is quite **stereotyped**, this fact was confirmed by the identical dates and arguments presented by different participants of the research, which in their turn correspond to those promoted by the program's initiators.

The main **motivation** declared by the program's participants concerns with: the possibility to gain new experience, to feel independent, to improve language skills. Also can be observed the tendency of subjective diminution of the financial motivation, which essentially is the fundamental.

Primary **sources of information** about the program are the colleagues, the friends who have already participated in SWT Program and the advertising. Secondary sources are the companies and the internet.

The students which had participated in the program before mentioned that **the information** they received before leaving **was incomplete**, those students who are planning to participate this year claim that they are sufficiently and completely informed. This fact indicates that the students are not very active in the process of finding all the necessary information, but manifest mostly passive behaviors.

The lack of necessary information for students is present not only due to their own **inactivity** and not involving in all the peculiarities of the program, but also because of absence of any mechanisms which would control the quality of services performed by the companies.

The students as well as the experts, participants in the research, have mentioned that the **quality of the offered services** in this sphere differs from one company to another. The existent difference in the quality of services demonstrates **the absence of a fixed regulation** and an adequate control in this sphere.

The inexistence of a unique regulation concerned with the obligations for all the companies determines the possibility for some of them **to avoid some basic obligations**, the thing that can cause the appearance of many problems for the participants. Also the absence of a clear mechanism which would separate the obligations of the companies from Moldova and the sponsor companies from USA determines the appearance of potential difficulties in solving of problems which a student can meet while being in USA.

The program cost is appreciated by the students as being **exaggerated**, according to their opinion the real cost of the program should be **not more than 800 USD**. The representatives of the companies affirm that the actual cost is a justified one.

The majority of the participants don't know anything about the expenses of the sponsor-company from USA as well as of the companies from Moldova.

The persons which already have experience of participating in the program affirmed that they will return all the money spent for the program in 1-2 months, the persons which have never participated before think they will return their expenses in 2-3 months. The students which have participated affirmed that they are expecting to have a **profit around 5000 USD**, those who are going for the first time – **around 2000 USD**.

The main problems of the students in Moldova are : financial problems, the problems which concerns with the University, problems which concerns with state's politics. The problems the students meet in the USA : problems with the employers – sometimes they don't respect the conditions of the contract, problems with housing, integration, medical insurance, taxes, absence of the information how can be penalized the companies in case if they don't respect their obligations.

The main **reason of overstaying** in the USA is the **financial** one – the students who didn't manage to return their expenses, but the fundamental cause of the decision to remain is the superiority of the quality of life. We consider that the appearance and persistence of different problems while staying in the US makes student's moral and financial situation to become worse, and these contribute to the violation of the limits of staying in US by this student.

The number of the students desirous to take part in the program will increase in the perspective period, but not significantly.