

Interview with Volkan Bayyurt

Internship at Hey Tekstil in İstanbul

1 Sep - 23 Dec 2005

How did you decide to come to Turkey? What was the most important thing that made you decide?

In August Concordia sent an email to my school and asked if students were interested to do their internship in Istanbul. My teacher then contacted me and thought I was suitable for such an internship. First I didn't want to go, because I was busy with finding myself an internship in the Netherlands. However, I gave it a lot of thought and realised it would be a great opportunity for me. Not only the internship in Istanbul would look good on my résumé, but also the challenge to experience and live in such a tremendous city drew my attention. A few weeks later I contacted Concordia and that is how everything started.

You have more ties to Turkey than Erwin who also did his internship at Hey Tekstil during the same period, could you explain this?

I have a Turkish father and Dutch mother, that is why we have different backgrounds. Although I was born in the Netherlands, I have been raised with both the Turkish and Dutch culture. I have often been to Turkey for holidays and have relatives living in Turkey and Istanbul. Therefore I think it was easier for me to stay and live in Istanbul than a Dutch student who never really experienced the culture and country. I can speak reasonable Turkish and that also helped me in Istanbul, because I could communicate with everyone in the Turkish language. The textile business was new for me, I never worked in an organization like Hey Tekstil. But I learned a lot about the company and textile business as well.

What do you think will be the Turkish textile sector's future position in Europe? What are your observations?

I think for now Turkey has a good and reasonably strong position in the European textile market. Because of Turkey's quality, good geographic position and customs union with the EU I think this position will stay solid for the next ten or fifteen years. On the long term however I see threats for the Turkish textile business. Turkey cannot compete with the price competition of low wage countries like China. To prevent this Turkey has to find new competitive advantages like production speed, delivery time and superior quality.

What are your future plans regarding business life? Do you plan to come to Turkey or work with Turkey from Holland or ...?

I don't know what my future business life will look like, but working in the advertising business is where my interests are at the moment. I am also interested in an organization in the Netherlands that works with Turkey, so maybe my future lies there. But first I have to focus on my education and then I will see what comes on my path.

What do you think about Concordia's service? Do you think they are satisfactory?

I think Concordia is doing a good business by letting foreign students do their internship in Turkey. Concordia offers students a good working experience and helps them with finding a suitable company. The only advise I would like to give to Concordia is that they have to communicate more with the students and find a proper accommodation earlier. Many things are not arranged when the student still is in his own country, but when the student is in Turkey. I think it should be the other way around.

Interview by Onur M. Ahmet
