

Podcast: People with disabilities perspective

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

I would like to thank you very much for being here and for your time.

My name is Georgia Karaoli, as Stella said before.

I cooperate with the SYNTHESIS, which is a research and educational centre, and I participate in the Include3 project, which is for the integration of people with intellectual disabilities into work. I want to ask you a few more questions, because I know you are working, and you can tell me your experiences. To start with, we have...

Stella (speaker)

Stella

Styliani (speaker)

Styliani

Pantelis (speaker)

Pantelis

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

and Pantelis. Very nice. Let's start with Stella. Stella, would you like to tell us a few words about yourself, who you are and what you do?

Stella (speaker)

I am Stella Alexandri, I come from Lakatameia and I work at the Bakery and I work at the Bakery workshop and the cafe.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very nice. Thank you! Styliani?

Styliani (speaker)

My name is Styliani and I live at Latsia. And I work at the cafeteria.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Thank you very much.

Pantelis (speaker)

I am Pantelis and I work as a gardener here at the Christou Steliou Ioannou Foundation.

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Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very nice, thank you very much. What do you like most about your job? Let's start with Stella.

Stella (speaker)

I like to make sweets, I like to have friends at work, to be with good company.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very good.

Stylianni, what do you like the most about your job?

Styliani (speaker)

I like to make coffees, to serve, to take orders from customers, and we make nice things, and we have friends in the cafeteria, we have friends, colleagues, we have a good time, we make jokes.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

It is very beautiful. Thank you!

Pantelis (speaker)

And I like when we are making the terrarium, to harvest vegetables from the greenhouse.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very nice, thank you very much.

Are there things, concerns in your work, Stella, that you like very much?

What is your favorite, which is your favorite task at work?

Stella (speaker)

To interact with my friends, with my partners.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Styliani?

Styliani (speaker)

What I like the most is making coffee.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Coffee, nice! Thank you for sharing. And Pantelis?

Pantelis (speaker)

To talk with my friends, with the psychologists of the institution, this and talking with my peers or with the social worker, things like this.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very Good!

Stella Fournaraki (speaker)

As far as work is concerned, what do you like from your work?

Pantelis (speaker)

The main thing is that I have a job.

Stella Fournaraki (speaker)

What do you like to do at work?

Pantelis (speaker)

I like doing the terrarium.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

The terrarium. Okay, very nice. Stella, how are you doing with your colleagues? Are you doing well?

Stella (speaker)

Good. We are united, we are a strong team.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Bravo!

Stella (speaker)

We do our best. We make jokes. When someone needs help, we help them.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Bravo! Very nice

Styliani?

Styliani (speaker)

Can you please repeat the question?

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

How are you doing with your co-workers?

Styliani (speaker)

Very well, we are strong and united as a family.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Bravo

Styliani (speaker)

Our teacher is very helpful. If there is a problem, one of them can help us.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Mm-hmm. Bravo.

And Pantelis?

Pantelis (speaker)

I agree with what the ladies said

If anyone needs help, I will give support.

I will help my teachers if needed.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

So there is good cooperation. Nice, well done.

Let's start with Stella. How did you decide to work there?

Stella (speaker)

I made the decision with my teachers, with Mrs. Stella who made the proposal, with Sandra.
All the teachers made the proposal and I took the decision to go to work there at the Bakery. I liked the proposal.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very nice.

Styliani, how did you decide to go to that job?

Styliani (speaker)

Stella told me that a cafeteria has an available spot.

And told me to go to the cafeteria.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

And you tried it and you liked it.

Bravo

Pantelis (speaker)

There was an educational program for gardening, so I decided to go to the programme and learn how to plant vegetables and to plant flowers and various things.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

And you stayed because you liked it.

Bravo.

Stella, did someone help you find this job specifically? Maybe from the Foundation, someone from here?

Stella (speaker)

Mr. Nikos and Mrs. Stella helped me to find a job.

Before I was working outside, now I work here.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Lovely, so the institution helped you.

Styliani?

Styliani (speaker)

Me as well.

The foundation helped me to work here at the cafeteria.

And especially Mrs Stella really supported me.

My previous teacher when I was in a workshop as well.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very Good!

Pantelis (speaker)

I used to work at a plant nursery outside of the foundation.

I found this job through the institution, the plant nursery, I went but there was a reason why I stopped. I found other jobs and then I stopped after a while, and then I came back to the institution.

As I said before, there was a training program and I went to the gardening programme.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

and you started.

Very nice.

Let's start with Stella again.

as your life changed since you started this job?

Stella (speaker)

Yes, I have changed. I like my job, both at the cafeteria and at the bakery. I am having a great time.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Bravo!

Stella (speaker)

They are my family!

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Bravo!

Styliani? Has your life changed since you started working at the coffee shop?

Styliani (speaker)

It changed my life for the best. I enjoyed it very much.

In every aspect.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Very nice.

So, it was a positive change.

Bravo!

And finally...

Pantelis, Has anything changed in your life since you started working here in the gardening?

Pantelis (speaker)

Yes it changed my life for the best.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Bravo, bravo, very nice.

And to close, Stella, what do you wish for the future, for your professional future?

Stella (speaker)

I wish I wouldn't stop at the coffee shop and at the bakery, because it is my whole life, all my friends, my family, they are my family.

If they weren't my family, my life wouldn't have been different.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

I wish you that with all my heart.

Styliani, what do you wish for your professional future?

Styliani (speaker)

I wish I will stay forever here in the cafe and work here.

Because I like it very much.

And I don't want to go out.

I want to stay here.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

I wish you the best.

Pantelis (speaker)

I also want to stay at the institution.

Georgia Karaoli (speaker)

Ok very nice!

Thank you very much all three of you for your time!

Wishing you all the best for your professional and your personal life!