**Interviewer:** OK. And how… how the other people, maybe your friends, maybe your neighbors, I don’t know, in your native… home country, how do they react when they get know that you are working in Russia, in \*\*\*?

**Respondent:** Oh, well, it depends if it’s my family, if it’s my close family. Then, off course, they very positive. My parents… in… well, my mother is ninety, my father is eighty-nine. So, they were children during The Second World War and they have a very… as their generation does, actually… they have a very positive view of Russia and Russian people, because they understand from the childhood the fundamental role that the Soviet Union played in defeating the Nazis. So, they were very happy when… when I told them that I was coming to, instead of kind of coming and going, as I have been all these years, I’m actually moving here.

With regard to people more generally, I would say that they were surprised and I still get asked this kind of questions like “Are you still there?” and which has also a subtext, I think, that question: “Are you still there for?.. Why are you still there? I don’t understand.” Because people, of course, most people on the West have never visited this country. Sadly, too many never will. And because of the negative stereotypes often. And they… for instance they… they don’t realize that… I tell people all the time and they take some convincing, I have to say.

Remember, just a few weeks before I came here, in <date>, being in \*\*\*, in a taxi, when I’ve got talking to the taxi driver and he asked me what I did. And in the course of the conversation, I said I was just about to move to \*\*\* to work as a... As a \*\*\*. He kind of said, “What!?” Like, “You… they will kill you if you go there! It’s not safe!” “No”, I said, “I’ve been in \*\*\* many times before on the country.” You see what people don’t realize.

For instance, I’m always telling people that \*\*\* is a much – and truthfully – \*\*\* is a much safer city than \*\*\*. I can walk around \*\*\* and I have done. I don’t have a car. I’ve walked the streets of \*\*\* in the middle of the night and I feel a lot safer than I would do if I did the same in the center of \*\*\*. I’ve lived in the center of \*\*\* around four years ago for a few months and it’s not safe, most of the city after a sun time. And even sometimes during the day.

So, so, people need to understand that things are just fine there. Yes, of course, as I would say to people you can be unlucky, you can get hit over the head anywhere. But that’s being unlucky, but one of the things I like very much about \*\*\* is I feel safe and secure here.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm. That’s… that’s great.

**Respondent:** And another thing. Another thing, I’ll go. And I’ve seen it. I’ve seen it here. But it’s not been with me, of course. I know that if I was taken ill, say on the metro or in the bus, or in the pavement on the street. I know that people would come up to me and take care of me. And I also know that it wouldn’t matter that I was a foreigner. They would still equally look after me. In \*\*\* they wouldn’t do that. Most people would just walk pass to. So, so that’s a good quality.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So, as I understood you didn’t find the special information about \*\*\*. Actually, you didn’t… you… were not looking for it because you’ve got acquainted with colleagues and that was the source of information to go to Russia to work. But if, for example, other \*\*\*, other \*\*\* would like to find some information about working in Russian \*\*\*, what sources would be available for them? How do you think?

**Respondent:** I don’t think that’s much more that you can do than you do already. Of course, I think you’re already doing what… what needs to be done. Certain either the web-site of my own \*\*\*, much of it is in English, and, and that’s important to provide that kind of information. I think the… the principal way is through personal contact. And through collaborations and therefore I would encourage this country, the Ministry, and the \*\*\* here to… to seek those collaborations with Western \*\*\*. And I know you are doing that. So, it’s not something you can do in… in, in one or two years. It’s a long process. So, I understand that. So… so really that’s just a question of continuing, just continuing with what you are doing right now, and being patient, and appreciating that it, it takes a little bit of time. But it will come, That I… I don’t think this anything particularly this country is not doing that it should be doing. I think it’s doing everything that it should be doing. It just requires patience.

**Interviewer:** And do you know any sources of specialized job portals, or job websites for working in \*\*\*, or maybe some announcements in some professional sources, I don’t know, may be some \*\*\* have the websites or maybe their social networks which they are involve in and maybe some information is spreaded there? Do you know such sources?

**Respondent:** Well, of course, I can only speak of the \*\*\* because I can’t speak for the rest, the, well, world of the West. But in the \*\*\*, we have “\*\*\*”, you’ve heard of that of course. That’s usually a place where people look. There is a website, I think it’s… I’ll email it to you later, I think it’s something like \*\*\*.\*\*\*.\*\*\*. But I, I need to… That’s not the exact URL and I’ll, I’ll check it and I send it to you. It’s, it’s a while since I, I checked it, I’ll send that to you. Just to check the, the domain name. And then of course, yes, of course, it’s blocked here, we have LinkedIn. That is used by many people. I personally, I have an account, but I hardly use it. I don’t really like it, to be honest, myself, LinkedIn. I find it rather irritating and annoying, all the notifications you get from having an account on LinkedIn. But… I don’t know, I don’t understand why all go… maybe you know, and I hope this is not a controversial question, I’ve never understood why LinkedIn is blocked in this country. It’s surprising for me.

**Interviewer:** You don’t know.

**Respondent:** No. I don’t, I can understand some other things. But I don’t understand this one. I really don’t. Surprising.

**Interviewer:** Yes. Actually, it was surprise for all of us when once we got the information that beside it’s been blocked. And earlier I also used it and got a lot of information even about my colleagues who move around the world and, and stuff like this. And what about may be some professional associations which could be kind of source of information. Are they available, useful for spread in the in –

**Respondent:** Well, one thing I think that needs a bit more emphasis, looking at it the other way, is that one tool used by academics in Western countries is what we call professional… <illegible> 00:40:10 indicates that professional, professional but \*\*\* memberships of \*\*\* societies and organizations. Now, unfortunately, many of these usually come with an annual subscription fee. Perhaps, little Russian \*\*\* to begin with need to have a budget for enabling, at least to begin with, some of it’s… maybe not all but some of it’s more prominent \*\*\* who work in, more in the international sphere. To have a budget, a personal budget to allow them to become members of this associations. They’re rather expensive, and even if you are on the Western salary, they’re, they’re rather expensive. But I think this one very good way in which Russian \*\*\* can raise their profile and, therefore, consequentially, of the \*\*\*. So, so, yes other than that, it’s just, you know, it’s really just a collaborative work and then that takes time.

**Interviewer:** OK, and what is most reliable information, from what sources? From associations, from websites, maybe from networking, from collaborating with people who work in that \*\*\*? What is most reliable could be for you?

**Respondent:** Oh, I think probably personal contact is the most reliable because a trouble with a website of any institutional body that learning vast years, it’s always going to try portray itself in the best light. And so, there’s nothing that anyone can do to change that. That’s entirely understandable. But I think the personal contacts are, are the most important.

So, therefore, encouraging Russian \*\*\* to, to… to the greatest extend possible, to… to collaborate people from foreign countries including the Western, in the \*\*\* work. Now, I appreciate that in some fields that’s harder than others, and some people may have areas of expertise which makes that harder again. But certainly, for those where there’s less of an excuse to make an excuse why they don’t have collaborative ventures with foreign \*\*\*, I think, I think that should be urging encourage to do so.

**Interviewer:** Mm-hm, and in your opinion, is it enough information about Russian \*\*\* among the world, I don’t know, may be in \*\*\*?