

Experience report

Fist and last name: Rahil
Study program: M. Eng.
Business and International
Engineering (Renewable
Energy)
Bachelor or Master:
Masters
Host institution, country:
Ss. Cyril and Methodius
University of Skopje, North
Macedonia Period: 3
months

Declaration of consent to the publication of the report

- I agree that the present report will be linked on the website of the ERASMUS office, so that future prospective customers can get first-hand information about my experiences at the university location abroad.
- I agree that my e-mail address will be available to prospective students who would like to get first-hand information about my experience at the university abroad, upon request to the Erasmus office.
- I agree that my **full name** / only **my first name** can be found in the published report.

Formalities: The formalities per say weren't too tedious in their nature. Although, we did go through some difficulties at the airport regarding the stay period and the visa regulations which would be better if solved beforehand. The authorities were kind enough to let us go without any issues. Rest assured; the application process was pretty smooth.

Motivation and preparation for mobility: We were contacted by Anne Straus along with Prof. Saiful Islam from our university and they told us about the opportunity of this collaboration with Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje. We were very excited at the thought of being able to travel to a new country and institution to study and to experience a new culture and meet new people and make friends. Therefore, we immediately accepted it. Although, the COVID situation in the country wasn't that bad. The institution was responsible enough to not let physical lectures take place. All the process, from the documentation to the preparation of the mobility took place online and was pretty straight forward and we had ample amount of help from the staff at SRH.

Start of mobility: During the start of the mobility, it took me a while to get used to the weather, people and the ways of Macedonian living but it was not that difficult. We did secure a good place to live. I was sharing an apartment with three other guys and it was very comfortable. Although, it would be very helpful if the host institution arranges some kind of student accommodation for the students so that everyone can live in the similar environment. The professor I was working under (Prof. Goga Cvetkovski) was very comfortable/flexible with the topic I wanted to work on. I didn't undergo any friction with him whilst deciding the topic and it was quite smooth sailing.

During the mobility: The entire research process was done online. It was more of a theoretical approach for me. Although, my professor was always available for me, to clear my doubts and guide me further and there were no bottlenecks. If the situation permits, the best way would be to have face-to-face guidance.

What have I learned and what am I taking with me from this time?

The ERASMUS program made me learn many things about a new country, especially their culture and it made me think that the roots of the Macedonian culture are in several ways similar to Indian culture which was a good thing to know. I am taking with me many experiences and memories of the times spent in the country and also with the promise of returning someday. The people, the friends we made there are forever. Altogether, it was an experience I will never forget. I encourage this collaboration between the two universities.

Green ERASMUS – How is the topic of the environment treated at the host institution & in the host country?

At the institution, the topic of Green ERASMUS is taken very seriously. The campus is maintained clean by various authorities and also waste disposal is treated with utmost importance.

Although, the host country, North Macedonia is still very reliant on fossil fuels for their energy needs. Renewable energy is still underdeveloped as per their potential. My topic for the ERASMUS research was also based on similar lines. I believe the country can achieve great heights when compared with their current development.

Impressions (photos, links etc...): The country, North Macedonia is really beautiful in its nature. It is quiet, serene and filled with people of kind nature. Below you will find the picture of the Christmas market in Macedonian Square which was a beautiful sight.



Erasmus+



Also, we even found the time to arrange a few day trips. The below figure is of Matka canyon which is another beautiful spectacle close to the city of Skopje. All of us went together on this trip and also did Kayaking there which was a beautiful experience.



The below picture is of the group of people at North Macedonia who had gone for this internship. It was a fellow mate's birthday.



In a nutshell, it was a very pleasant experience. It was the first collaboration between the SRH Hochschulen Berlin and Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje. And, if asked for my personal opinion, I would greatly encourage this collaboration.