

3.000.000th Erasmus Student coming to Italy

“I experienced the world through my stay and it will be remembered as the time when I got rid of my stereotypes and prejudices about other nations”

1) Carissimo Leutrim, nelle tue parole riconosci un valore umano alla mobilità Erasmus che sembra superare quello accademico: quanto hanno pesato l'uno e l'altro aspetto nella tua esperienza?

Leutrim: Erasmus, according to me is a mobility program that includes both, the professional and also the human nature of the program. I value both equally because I consider them complementing. One just can't do without the other, especially Erasmus Program. I have to say that what *Erasmus gives you is a part of the soul you have never seen , but also academically you are engaged all the time.*

2) L'approccio accademico, il rapporto studenti-docenti, la modalità di verifica delle competenze acquisite: quali differenze fra i due sistemi di istruzione superiore ti hanno maggiormente colpito e cosa trasferiresti nell'uno e nell'altro rispettivamente?

Leutrim: For me the thing I acquired from the Italian educational system is the ability to put into works my experience and knowledge. It is important the student faculty ratio for a good and prosperous future of the students. Since Macedonia is implementing the Bologna system of ECTS there are many similarities on both educational systems, although there are differences in the examination process: during my stay in Italy i saw that many exams are held as oral exams whereas in Macedonia are all written exams. There are positive and negative sides of it. For people that are easily eloquent and can respond with ease is of course good, but on the other hands others might panic and forget everything to respond

3) Come si sono relazionati la tua home e la host university? Hai avuto problemi in fase di riconoscimento crediti ECTS?

Leutrim: They say the only price you pay after Erasmus is the long bureaucracy of documents and forms to be filled, especially the ECTS recognition phase. Personally I haven't faced major problems, but the surely exist among other Erasmus students. South East European University my home university and Università degli studi di Foggia my host university, have good relations, since I was the first Erasmus student to go to Foggia, they want to expand and deepen the cooperation.

4) Ad ESN riconosci un ruolo chiave per il tuo inserimento in Italia: cosa è mancato invece a tuo parere o quali politiche universitarie potrebbero essere implementate a sostegno degli incoming (escludendo il contributo finanziario)?

Leutrim: I think ESNers of Italy have a difficult and meanwhile an easy job. Difficult from the aspect of introducing foreign students to the life, sometimes bizarre traditions and habits of Italians,

also easy from the aspect of warmth of the Italians themselves that make always a famous and noisy entrance wherever they go and make you feel home the moment they meet you. ESN and also Italians have a sense of nonchalance that is utterly smart and in the right moment. I don't think anything was missing. They did more than enough The organizational part of the University was very good and this is how it should be in other educational institutes also, but there is still some work to be done. The grading system, schedule, class participation and homework should be received and submitted online. This would improve the efficiency of the staff and also of the students- both Erasmus and local.

5) Quali sono le differenze, le peculiarità della cultura italiana che condividevi con la tua famiglia o i tuoi amici quando la sera chiamavi casa?

Leutrim: Italian culture includes even the way how you talk, how you dress, how you eat and even the spirit of energetic people. They certainly are part of the Italian culture. I have shared with my family cuisine, books, music and part of my daily schedule- sweetly disorganized and always fashionably late.

6) Hai mai pensato di fermarti o di tornare a cercare lavoro in Italia?

Leutrim: It would be great to work in Italy, especially on the professional fields of study, it gives you huge experience and knowhow. Since Macedonia is not yet in the European Union it is hard to find job in an Italian company. But, for professionals that study specialized branches of sciences and professions it is easier and there are good possibilities in Italy. Personally, I am working on an economic magazine where I am Editor in Chief and founder of it, so I am trying to implement things I have seen and studied in Italy to the academic field of Macedonia

7) Quanto è cambiato il tuo sguardo sul futuro nel post Erasmus? Ti senti più forte nelle ambizioni e nelle possibilità? Quali le competenze che senti di aver acquisito e che reputi spendibili nella ricerca occupazionale?

Leutrim: Erasmus besides opening your horizons and expanding your boundaries, it has taught me how to handle situations on my own, how to find possibilities in mediums where you are a complete "straniero" and how to manage to emerge from the whole mass to be chosen best Erasmus, first place on several projects and etc. It has been a life lesson that can't be taught otherwise.

8) Sei un cittadino Macedone che partecipa a programmi comunitari: le tue riflessioni sull'importanza di tali opportunità offerte ai giovani per costruire una Europa unita, capace di attrarre talenti, vitale e mobile, anche in termini occupazionali.

Leutrim: The Erasmus Programme and also other similar projects attract talented students and encourages them to work and also make research in European countries. I am working on projects that contribute on the educational and employment initiatives that can employ in a near future young people that speak several languages and offer new opportunities and ideas that have worked in the Erasmus countries, and those experiences can maybe be useful in Macedonia.