REPORT ON ERASMUS EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

BY: Double Degree LL.M. Candidate in IP/IT Law
SENDING INSTITUTION: LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITATET HANNOVER
RECEIVING INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITETET I OSLO
MOBILITY SEMESTER: SPRING 2018

I would like to start by stating that I am very much happy and honored to have been given this opportunity by EULISP and Erasmus+ to experience living and studying in two distinct cultures, and to develop my social and academical abilities. I am thankful for this chance as a non-EU citizen and for the support of academic and administrative staff at both institutions.

I selected University of Oslo as my first choice of university for mobility purposes since I was then able to receive a double degree, the institution was a leading institution in the subject of IT law and legal informatics, I was paid some amount of grant by Erasmus unlike other non-Erasmus partner universities and as a student, I was guaranteed a student accommodation. I also wanted to have a living experience in a Nordic country.

Correspondence with the receiving institution was flawless as far as I can remember. Visa application (study permit and residence permit) procedures were very easy and humane (unlike in the sending country foreigners office etc). Student accommodation (i.e. Kringsja Student Village, Building 10) that I chose was perfect (although it was still expensive). It was a new building, so clean and modern. Heating, internet, water and all other facilities were satisfactory. The only problem could be about the noisy neighbors upstairs partying till late hours (e.g. 3-4 a.m.) on some nights and the same people even stealing food from fridges, yet the institution in charge (i.e. SIO and securitas) was indifferent at times.

Teaching methods and use of technology in lectures at the receiving university was far beyond than I expected. Everything was working like a clock. Professors were competent in their fields.
The only critic I can bring may be the frequency of having assistants and phd students as lecturers in such a short period of teaching of important subjects.

I did not have the chance of experiencing off-campus, even off-the room life, frankly speaking. We were supposed to finalize our seminar papers, write some term papers for the first semester, then study for the compulsory lectures at the receiving university. We were required to take an exam and also write term papers for the same courses. Before we delivered one paper, we had to start working on a new one. Topics given for term papers were not clear to most of us. We had to write papers without being sure of what was really asked from us. Writing exams on computer was a good method as handwriting of some students may not be easily readable but the newly established exam system was somewhat chaotic with several classes taking exams at the same room at the same time, questions in hardcopy papers and digital ones being different than each other, all caused this process to be confusing. Some supervisors (i.e. an elderly gentleman) during the exams were kind of rude to students, which I was surprised to see in a Norwegian as I have known them all to be very respectful, helpful and good hearted people.

We could not have the time to see around or have a coffee at a café or dinner at a restaurant much as it was very expensive and also we did not have the time for that but had to study.
Surviving the cold and snowy winter months and long nights was a bit depressive but the beauty and livelihood of springtime in Oslo worth it. Being there on the 17th of May, on the independence day of Norway was also a privilege. I will never forget that beautiful day and colorful celebrations and the streets of Oslo full of lilacs in bloom.

To sum up, I am satisfied, glad and feel myself lucky to have chosen Oslo as my venue of Erasmus mobility. It was an indispensable and thought-provoking opportunity to have a glimpse of the Nordic way of life, the nature, the good people, and really competent academicians. I am a proud degree candidate of UIO and LUH and would like to thank every member of the relevant institutions, especially Mr. Ioannis Revolidis for his encouraging and helpful approach to all of us.

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