

Experience report

Fist and last name: Abhishek

Study program: Masters of Engineering and International Business

Bachelor or Master: Master

Host institution, country: Faculty of Electrical Engineering and
Information Technology, Skopje

Period: 01/10/2021-31/12/2021

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.

Motivation and preparation for mobility:

I got an opportunity from the University for going to Skopje to do an internship for 3 months. I was very excited to go as this would give me a global exposure and also a chance to learn new things. After doing some research about the institution and the city Skopje I was more intrigued as that place was so beautiful and the institution is amongst the best in the country. This made me more inclined to go there. Before the travel, I had to obviously do some preparation. I first researched about the place and about the groceries store so that I can know what all items should I take from here. I also interreacted with local people there via

facebook to know a little bit more about the place. I got to know that there were no Indian stores there so I had to buy all the species that I need from Germany only. I then started looking for an apartment. It was a bit difficult to get an apartment there because they were making a contract of 6 months and my internship was only for 3 months. I booked Airbnb for the stay. Accommodation was good but a bit costly. I rented the whole apartment in the city centre so that prices were a little high. I had to book travel ticket. I booked it via Wizzair as it was cheapest compared to other flights.

Start of mobility:

I reached Skopje and the weather was good. The driver from my apartment came to pick me up from the airport. The airport was very far away from the city. It took around 40 minutes to reach my place. Based on first impressions, the place felt a lot like India. It was not that much developed but the people were really helpful and warm. On the first day I went to the grocery stores to buy some things to eat. It was surprisingly cheap compared to what the prices are in Berlin. There were KAM stores, Tinex, etc. These are the grocery stores there. The whole city was clean. Overall, the first impression was good.

During the mobility:

After spending some time there, that city grows on you. I went to Ohrid. This is a place 3 hours' drive from Skopje. It was the most beautiful place I have even been. There were 365 churches. A church for each day of the week. Some pictures can be seen at the end. In Ohrid there is the largest lake in Europe with 200 indigenous species. I would recommend whoever goes to North Macedonia must definitely visit Ohrid once. The Skopje is a small town. Built on 3 parallel main roads. It is covered by hills on all side. There are a lot of small cafes and bars in the city which is a good thing. I used to spend most of my evenings working from some café. I went to the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology. There I got the opportunity to work with Prof. Dimitar. He is amongst the best in Macedonia for solar energy. He taught me a lot of things. The institution was built quite well. There were solar panels all around for producing green energy. Then there is the city centre. Amazing architecture. Just

wonderful. There is public transport available. Buses are there and can be used to travel anywhere. The travel inside the city is not that expensive so I usually took bus to the institution. Then there is a bakery named Silbo. It is the oldest bakery in Skopje and one of the most famous one. They provided good food and that too at reasonable costs. Majority of my lunch or dinner was take-out from that place. The whole experience there was just wonderful.

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

The trip to Macedonia was full of learning experiences. First, I got to learn PVsyst. It is a software for building and analysing solar power plants and systems. I got to learn MATLAB. All this will help me in my thesis work. Second, I got to learn about their culture and also about the people, their government, and their bureaucracy. During this time, I got to eat their local cuisine and learnt some things to make as well. This internship made me self-sufficient. It helped me think more analytically and improved my ability to think outside the box. This is the time that I will always remember for the rest of the life as it gave me many experiences.

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

North Macedonia is a very clean country but not as clean as Germany. They do not have proper garbage segregation. They mix all types of garbage in one trash can. They also do not have proper waste disposal cans in the building. They have one or two in every block so you have to carry out the waste from your home to the designated area for the bins. On the other hand, in the institution, they had good waste segregation system.

In terms of electricity, a lot of power is still produced by thermal sources to meet the energy demand in the country. But they are developing the renewable sources of energy. The institution has installed solar panels on the top to produce clean energy. This was the thing I liked very much. There is also a system for electricity payment in the country that during 2 pm to 5pm and 10pm to 6am, the prices of electricity will be almost half. So this encourages people to use energy during certain hours in a day and saving their money. This helps the

government to regulate the production of energy. Overall the whole country is aware about the energy usage and producing it from renewable sources of energy but I think they are not doing much in this.

Impressions (photos, links etc....) :

I will attach some photos of the places I visited and how beautiful the place was.





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