



Memories

Exchange Students

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Contents

4	Vera Veličković
5	Jakov Milatović
6	Svetlana Djurić
7	Nina Perović Miša Grujić
8	Miodrag Vuković Milica Simović
9	Franka Gulin Luka Čuljak
10	Jelena Savić
11	Elvedin Tahirović
12	Ivana Đalović
13	Ana Gebeješ
14	Ivana Matejin
15	Jeton Jonuzi Marija Kovačević
16	Vuk Cucić
17	Bora Jovanović Vildana Karić
18	Radoš Lazarević Irina Djukić
20	Dragoljub Gajić
21	Nikola Babić
22	Tamara Ristevska
23	Ilona Jerić Jasmina Mrkonja
24	Emina Mameledžija
25	Danica Rakić
26	Jovana Starčević



Western Balkans Universities - KBF staff members

The aim of this Book of memories is to bring closer to everyone stories from students of the Western Balkans that have gain scholarships and been abroad through different schemes of mobility. Since 2009, King Baudouin Foundation is financing universities across the Western Balkans in order to increase the student awareness about possibilities of studying abroad and promote student mobility.

The Book of memories is a result of a common work of the following universities: Polytechnic University of Tirana, University of Sarajevo, University of Montenegro, South East European University in Tetovo, University of Belgrade, University of Kragujevac, University of Montenegro, University of Novi Sad, University of Pristina in Mitrovica and University of Skopje.

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ABOUT THE BOOK OF MEMORIES

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Vera Velikovi

**University of Pristina in Mitrovica
Faculty of Philosophy**

I heard about the exchange programmes from my friends and colleagues who had been mobile in previous years, so I tried to do the same two years ago. At my home University's International Relations Office I heard about the JoinEUsee program, so I applied for MA exchange for one academic year.

I had to prepare specific documents in order to apply for the programme such as confirmations from the University and similar documents. All in all the application process was easy, I received enough information from advisors from both home and host Universities.

I was informed about every single detail while I was applying for the exchange, which document was which, when the deadline for sending documents was, etc. Later about the University and the city I had chosen, and every smallest detail such as the costs of food, taxi and traveling.

I have to admit I had a hard choice in front of me, I had to choose from so many Universities, but I chose Karl- Franzens University (University of Graz) because I always wanted to study there.

University of Graz is one of the most respected Universities in Europe. It was my first and only choice, and I was accepted.

The whole process before I went to Graz, application first, than waiting for a month to be accepted, worrying all the time if everything was all right, choosing the right courses, everything

was confusing but the contact person from my home University arranged most of the things I needed to do, she also dealt with the problem of accommodation, she informed me about all the possibilities of living there. So, she suggested a dorm as the cheapest solution, and we were all accepted before we went there.

I am saying WE because I got information about all other people going to Graz so we were in touch long before we actually met, so we could help each other with preparations.

Visa was the last problem, but it was quite easy as well because the University guaranteed that we were going to get it, and according to the fact that we do not need to get visa before we leave the country we could wait for visa there in Graz.

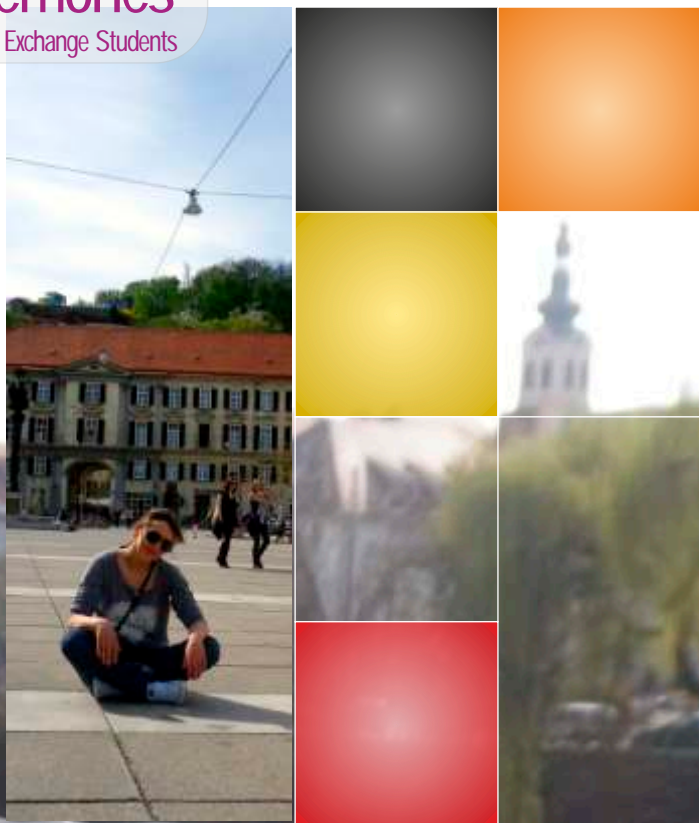
First days in Graz were something new, confusing, but still interesting, I had to learn about Graz, about the University, about things I needed to do during my mobility period. We even had a session about the culture, and how to adapt to it.

Then I started meeting other people, people from different countries, different continents, but it was easy to communicate cause everybody knew English, I have to say that most of the people in Graz spoke English, so I had no difficulties in communication.

So many new people there, so many parties, so many things to do, everything was so exciting but the best thing for me there was the University. Yes, I heard a lot about it before, but once I went there I wanted to stay forever. Professors were always ready to help, there were different types of courses, the organization of University is impeccable. The best thing was that the students were allowed to seat or read wherever they wanted, you could see students sitting on the floor and discussing something or in front of the main building, etc. As a student I had so many discounts, as well as the internet for free. Students are so privileged in Graz, and I was one of them for one year.

This is the most memorable experience in my life so far. I think every student should try it. There is one chance for something as precious as an exchange program and every student should take it.

Now, when I am back, I feel sorry for not being there anymore, but I feel richer and more fulfilled. I experienced a different sort of life and education. It helped me raise my consciousness and awareness of many things I could never experience staying in just one country. Later maybe this would be helpful in finding a better job.



as an EU supported student exchange program “Basileus” participant I attended Sapienza University of Rome for 10 months during the academic year 2009/2010.

He said he learned about the programme through the Faculty of Economics web-site, since they have it constantly updated with the information about the available scholarships for studying abroad.

When asked about how difficult it was to apply and was the overall application procedure complicated, he said that 'it wasn't difficult at all', even though at the time he 'honestly didn't remember anymore how the application procedure looked like', but as he recalled, 'the application procedure was very simple'. However, he said he got the needed assistance from the IRO, even though 'Nobody helped me with the application. I had participated in two student exchange programs before applying for the Basileus and therefore I was familiar with the procedure.'

His first choice was Sapienza University of Rome, and Lund University in Sweden was his second choice.

When asked why and how he has chosen the particular university, he said:

'My second foreign language is Italian. Furthermore, Sapienza University of Rome is one of the best-know European universities and Rome is one of the most vibrant and interesting cities in the world. My decision to apply for Sapienza University of Rome was based on the abovementioned facts.'

After being granted the scholarship, the 'practicalities' came in...this is how he reflected on some of them:

- Obtaining an Italian visa was very easy since I had the invitation letter from Sapienza University of Rome.
- Rome is one of the favorite “Erasmus destinations” among the European students and therefore being a part of the Erasmus family in Rome was exceptionally enjoyable experience for me.
- Finding an accommodation in Rome was difficult. Rome is special because the majority of students stay in apartments rather than in dormitories. Sapienza University of Rome is the largest European university in terms of students; it is situated in the city center and simply there is no space for more student dormitories.

Speaking of the experience, he said: 'I often say that being an exchange student in Rome was the most beautiful period of my life. Living in Rome is the experience per se and being able to enjoy every-day some of the world's most famous master pieces (opere d'arte) is inspiring and memorable.'

Mentioning downfalls:

'I honestly don't remember any bad experience.'

This is what he pointed out as main benefits of mobility-personal and professional?

'Studying abroad is an exceptionally beneficial experience for a young person. This experience not only helped me to distinguish myself among other Montenegrin students but also confirmed my place among other outstanding students throughout Europe. While encouraging lively discussions with students from different cultural backgrounds I further expanded my academic potential and enriched my personal beliefs. The opportunities that I had for studying abroad via various student exchange programs, including this one in Rome, not only leveraged my academic career at home, but more notably they have established a brilliant foundation for my graduate studies at the University of Oxford.'

Finally, this is what Jakov suggested to future applicants:

To sleep as little as possible and to explore as much as possible!

To make friendships and to fall in love!

Jakov Milatovi

Svetlana Djuri

University of Pristina in Mitrovica
Faculty of Technical Sciences

I participated in the Basileus Exchange program in 2009. Some friends had told me about the new Erasmus project designed for students from Western Balkans, so I decided to apply. The application procedure was not very difficult, although I had problems collecting all the necessary documents, and filling out the learning agreement from our University. People didn't know much about student exchange at that time, so I did it all mostly by myself.

I was accepted at the University Sophia Antipolis in Nice, France, which was my third choice. I was in France for almost 12 months and it was such an adventure! I must admit that the first few months were difficult. After my arrival, I had so many things to do: visa procedure, learning agreements, getting used to new living conditions etc. But doing it with other Erasmus students, made it all easier.

People keep asking me what was the highlight of my exchange and I honestly don't know. I have so many great memories to choose from. All the wonderful places I visited like Marseilles, Paris, Malta, Barcelona and Rome, so many new friends I made all over the world, great knowledge gained.

Even though I have had some difficulties during my stay abroad, I would strongly recommend this type of exchange to everyone.

In general, this experience has taught me to be independent, open-minded and my French has improved much more than what I expected before participating in this program.



Nina Perovi

University of Montenegro

Nina Perovi is currently at the University of Ljubljana. She received two scholarships - Basileus program for the summer semester 2009/2010 and for Slovenian State Scholarship for the school year 2010/2011, so she has got a chance to spend a year and a half at the same University. She learned about the Basileus programme from the IRO of the University of Montenegro.

She chose the University of Ljubljana because it was the only of the universities from the consortium the part of which is the Academy of Music.

Her experience with both, application procedure and practical issues after obtaining the scholarships, was not so easy. The application itself was a bit demanding, because collecting all the necessary documents took quite some time. The fact that she didn't know anyone from the Academy that applied for this or similar programmes also has not helped a lot.

Obtaining visa and finding accommodation was not an easy task as well.

However, she finds new environment, new people and rich cultural life as a really good experience, and can't think of any negative sides.

As personal and professional benefits of mobility, she mentioned the following:

I am more self-confident and educated in my profession. Also, I met lot of people from my branch from other countries and I believe that it will help me to stay connected with other parts of Europe in my future life.

In the end, as a suggestion to future applicants, she simply said:

Be patient!!!

Within Campus Europae mobility programme, I studied an academic year in Nancy (France), at Henri Poincare University as a master student of Software Engineering.

Studying abroad was an incredible life experience in every sense! One thing I found remarkable is the fact that educational system in France enables studying at any age – for example, after 12 years of work experience and at the age of 40 my colleague Jean enrolled to the same master programme as I did and completed it successfully! Also, universities are strongly connected with the industrial and business sphere and enterprises recognize students as their potential employees.

I did not have difficulties regarding the process of application, accommodation and studying. Persons in charge at the University of Novi Sad and at Henri Poincare University were very helpful and supported me during my mobility period. If you plan to study in France, I would recommend you to contact CAF Organization which financially supports young people, especially in co-financing the costs of accommodation.

To summarize, studying abroad does not make you mobile in the physical way, it makes you mobile in mind! Once you get in touch with the process of internationalization, you will be able to recognize many other possibilities. I am currently on a practice in a global company in Vienna. There are no doubts that my mobility period in France influenced my further aspirations.

People may talk about their experiences from a foreign country but you'll never know how it actually looks like until you apply and go to study abroad. Do not hesitate, take part in a mobility programme!

Be patient!!!

Miša Gruji

University of Novi Sad,
Faculty of Technical Sciences

Miodrag Vukovi

Miodrag Vukovi was granted the JoinEU-SEE 2009-2010 Winter Semester. He is a student of the German language and literature, and he chose Franz Karl University in Graz (Austria) as a first choice and, luckily, was granted the scholarship for a 5-month stay at the institution.

He learned about the possibility at the University. He described the application procedure as difficult, saying he did not have sufficient time, but also mentioned that he needed and got assistance from the IRO of the University.

After the approval, he found as difficult the visa obtaining process. In the course of preparation of stay, accommodation was not easy to get, but when it came to making friends, there had been no problems at all.

The best of his stay was that he learned about new methods of teaching, but, he claimed that *'money from IRO he got irregularly'* and mentioned *complicated procedure* as main reason.

As the main benefit of the mobility, he mentioned the employment prospects: *'I have an advantage over colleagues who have not studied at an European University (applying for a job)'*

In the end, no matter how difficult and time consuming at the moment the process may seem, the message he gave to future applicants was clear and optimistic:

'Any problem can be solved. Just keep trying.'



Milica Simovi

University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Philology and Arts



This is the story of Milica, who spent 6 month in Ghent, Belgium, as an exchange-student within the Basileus program:

I spent one semester at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy in Ghent (February-July). I heard about this program from my colleagues and at the faculty. For me, the application process was not complicated, the biggest problem was the adjustment with exams at the host institution, because the lectures that I wanted to hear, were held in the first semester, but I managed to do everything on time and with no problems. During the preparation and application period I got help from the Center for Career Development and Student Counseling. Mobility has brought me many things, primarily the ability to go and visit, for the first time, the major cities of Western Europe, the opportunity to study at one of the prestigious universities in Europe, the opportunity to meet young and perspective people with whom I created, as I sincerely hope, lasting friendships.

I would just shortly give the advise to the future students that they must try, they must apply for this or for other mobility programs, because, for me, each day I spent in Ghent and at the Faculty was absolutely priceless in all respects, as a person and as a student. I would definitely do this again and use some other mobility programs, and there are a lot of them now.



Franka Gulin

Home: University of Zagreb
Host: University of Sarajevo

"This scholarship was the one of the best things that happened in my life. I met fabulous people, made friendships, ate fantastic food and collaborate with some excellent professors and colleagues. Now I am at the end of this life adventure and I am still trying to find a way to stay a little bit more. This was a very very good year for me. Sarajevo, I got you under my skin! :)"



Luka uljak

University of Sarajevo

University of Zagreb, Croatia

I finished first year at the faculty of Philosophy, literature and librarianship and I applied for BASILEUS program, picking Zagreb as my first choice, and Ljubljana as the second one. I got Zagreb and I was very excited for the new experience from the city which was not Sarajevo. I applied for the third semester. There are no

words that could describe my experience from Zagreb. It was very easy for me to finish all the administrative procedure. I started to get known the professors and students; I lived in the student's dorm which helped me in my social life there. I lived with a guy from Moscow, and I can call him a true friend today. I have expanded my views and definitely took advantage of every aspect that this scholarship offered me.





Jelena Savi

University of Pristina in Mitrovica
Faculty of Technical Sciences

When I first heard of student exchange, it sounded very interesting to be a part of it. Considering that I come from Serbia where such programs were rare at that time.

I have to admit that at the beginning I applied just to try my luck, I had no expectations. The application process was not difficult at all. I had to fill in an on-line application, and collect some additional documents.. During the summer I even forgot that I had applied. And then, by the end of August, I received a mail informing me that my application has been approved for a 10 month scholarship at the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis as an exchange student. When you least expect, you get it.

The next period was a bit complicated; by the beginning of September I had to start my visa procedure and get the necessary documents from my home university which was on a summer break. The most unpleasant detail for me at that time was that I found out that all the courses were in French. It was a tough decision to go despite the knowledge that my French was no better than 'I don't speak French.' I contemplated for a while but at the end the result was one of my best decisions.

Before the departure I got all the details and help from the host advisor. All BASILEUS students that were accepted from the University of Nice got the opportunity to stay at a student's dorm. And when it came to the visa procedure, we just had to show up at the

embassy of France in Belgrade and the visas were ready the very same day.

I must admit that the first day on Cote D'Azur and in Nice was one of the worst days in my life. I had such big expectations from the dorm, the university, and organization of it all. All your life you think about Nice as the most exclusive place on the earth, and then when I got there, the first welcome was that the student's dorm was not better than prison. It's funny now but I cried a lot that day and the next one. I didn't like the program, I couldn't speak French, I felt as if I were all alone in a big world. The only positive things for me were the beautiful sunny days and the amazing color of the sea. Actually those were the reasons why I chose Nice in the first place but as a second choice.

At some point I decided to take the things into my hands, so I changed the department and took classes of French which were organized for the Erasmus students. The things were getting better.

Visa procedure was finished in Nice, because it was a visa for a period of one year. And this was my door and ticket to experience and visit the Europe not just France.

During my school year I had an opportunity to do my internship at an architect bureau in Nice, which was very helpful and important to me. At school, all the professors were understanding and helpful.

When you find yourself far from home, experiencing new things, you open your horizons, move your boundaries and at some point you get a wider perspective of your previous life and what you are capable of. That different perspective was extremely important to me. Yes, you get a lot, even with that effect that you had learned a new language. But trying yourself in a completely



different environment brings you much more.

I strongly recommend to everybody to go abroad to do their masters or just for an exchange. I spent a wonderful year in Nice, met a lot of great people, and visited a bunch of interesting places. Not to mention that I fell in love.

Dare and do it.





Elvedin Tahirovi

University of Sarajevo
University of Sophia Antipolis in Nice, France

I am a student of 3rd year at the Physics department at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Sarajevo. My professor informed me about Erasmus Mundus program which consisted of exchange and cooperation between EU universities and Western Balkans' universities. The biggest advantage is very simplified application, which does not take too much time. This was also easy because of the help of International Relations office at the University of Sarajevo and the Embassy of France.

I received scholarship to be an exchange student during the 2009/2010 academic year at the University of Sophia Antipolis in Nice, France. This is one of the newest universities in France. I contacted the coordinator of the program who helped me with my next steps in France. Administration procedure was done quickly, I opened bank account, received different student Ids as the France was the country that gives so many beneficiaries to the students.

I chose the subjects that were relevant for my home university. It was hard at the beginning, but my new French colleagues helped me to get accustomed at the French education system.





Ivana Đalovi

**University of Kragujevac
Faculty of Technical Sciences**

I'm Ivana Đalovic, student at the Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac and last year in the period from January to June I was exchange student at the level of undergraduate studies at the University of Nice (France), Sophia Antipolis, as part of mobility program Basileus. For this program I heard from my friend from Faculty, but from the Department for German language and literature. She told me that there were two girls from her group that got this scholarship. And so she passed this information to me and I to my colleagues in the group for French language and literature.

Going back to the period of preparing I would say that the application process was more or less simple. Vantage is that the application was online. It took only some time to get a few documents, translate them into English (I have done it myself), to write a motivation letter, scan the passport and that's about it! So nothing was particularly difficult. The only what was a bit hard, was to wait for the signature of recommendation from professors, because they were not from Kragujevac, and in September they had lectures so I had to wait. Although that was not some problem, but still just not to say that everything was perfect. The difficulty occurred when I found out I got the scholarship ... The period since I find out that I got the

scholarship to the moment I went to France was actually the most complicated period. I had less than a month to collect several documents (within this one month I have to count in Christmas and New Year, with the fact that no one is available during the holiday), including the student visa. Not to mention the packing and saying goodbye with many people. ?

Fortunately I got a brief description of the Basileus program and brochure from staff from the Center for Career Development and Student Counseling at the University of Kragujevac and also the great help from Olivera Mijatovic from the IRO Office at the University in Kragujevac. She instructed me how to go through the steps in the application and was willing to give answers about the application. And after that, bearing the good things in my mind, I can only say that this mobility period was the most beautiful, biggest and the most important experience in my life and the best thing during the period of mobility is certainly meeting new people and socializing! I made some good friends and I am still in regular contact with them.

When I think about less nice things, there were some, but I won't write too much about them ... In the beginning there were a lot of hardships. In the dorm where I was there was



no heating almost the entire month of February and also it happened sometimes that there was no hot water. That period was very bad because I got ill because of the cold in the room. So, thinking about bad things, this is the first thing I remembered, and there were some other situations which I would rather not remember (fortunately, there are so much more beautiful memories).

Mobility brings a lot, a lot of good things, both professionally and personally, and above all mobility has brought me, as I have already mentioned, a few good friends, opportunity for cultural and geographic exploring the Côte d'Azur, better knowledge of spoken language, independence (this was my first time in my life that I lived alone) ...

I would like to encourage the future colleagues and students who want to apply for some scholarship/mobility program to prepare themselves good before going abroad, because that will surely be one of the most beautiful period in their lives! So, if you are questioning yourself, whether to do it or not, my advise is: Definitely yes! No matter where, you can find something interesting and worth exploring and learning in any place. I, myself, would do it again, went abroad with some mobility program and come back ... because nowhere is so well, as it is at home! ? ?

As a scholar of Forecast exchange programme, I spent the 2009/2010 academic year at the Minnesota State University in the USA.

I must admit that I heard about this programme by chance – I saw an info poster about Forecast at my faculty and since I had a break between two lectures, I decided to visit the presentation that World Learning organized that day. After the presentation, I had no doubts whether to apply for Forecast scholarship or not. Considering that all costs that a student may have during his studies in the USA are covered by the organizer (travel, accommodation, books and health insurance) and bearing in mind a unique opportunity to spend an academic year at an American university, Forecast exchange programme was the right choice to apply for.

It took me two weeks to complete my application. I devoted my energy to make a good one. One fact that I would like to point out is the recommendation letter. My suggestion is to ask for a recommendation from a person who knows you and your qualities well and is willing to share his/her opinion with others. For example, my recommendation letters were written by an assistant I had worked on a project with and my judo trainer. It does not have to be a person who speaks English. It is acceptable if the recommendation letter is being translated into English by a court interpreter.

By studying in the US, I had an opportunity to get familiar with a completely different kind of higher educational system. While students in Serbia get much more information from their professors, students in America gain the basic information on lectures and they have to research in order to gain more knowledge. Students' obligations are much more intensive in the States – they have “home works” every day, so it took some time until I got used to it. Students in America have many available facilities, including digital data libraries, available computers and internet in the campus. Also, professors are willing to answer students' email at any time.

The most positive experience regarding this exchange programme is the fact that I met people from around the world and gained many new friends. The American students were amazed with the fact that I traveled hundreds of miles just to study there. They were curious to find out more about Europe and Serbia, so I often talked about our culture but prepared traditional Serbian cuisine as well. Academically, I learnt something completely different which will be useful in my future career for sure.

After returning back home, I did not have problems with academic recognition. My faculty recognized all the examinations that we had agreed about in the Learning Agreement. If you plan to take part in a mobility programme, do not forget to make a Learning Agreement with your home institution.

By studying abroad, I widened my horizons and I grew up. Learning new languages, meeting with a different culture and mutual understanding are values that are priceless. Above all, I have applied for Erasmus Mundus master programme and I will study in Spain from the following semester. Is there anything better than travel and study abroad and even get a scholarship for that? Do not waste your time, apply for available mobility programmes!

Ana Gebejės

University of Novi Sad
Faculty of Technical Sciences



Ivana Matejin

**South East European University - Tetovo
Law Faculty**

Hello, my name is Ivana Matejin. I'm 23 years old and I live in Skopje, Macedonia. My story with Basileus mobility starts in 2008 when I discovered the opportunity for this scholarship. I saw the announcement on the SEEU official web page and I decided to apply in August 2008 in order to start the mobility from the spring semester starting in January 2009. As a first choice I have selected Ljubljana, Slovenia and that is the place I went. If I have seen the notice earlier I would apply for whole year mobility (10 months) but since it was late my only choice was a 6 months exchange program in University of Ljubljana, Law faculty. As I remember the process of application was not complicated at all. It required a couple of administrative documents to be renewed or reissued from institutions such as proof for a regular student, proof of not being criminally convicted, proof of nationality which none of it found difficult to take. Then I had to apply for a visa, get the learning agreement signed and approved from the dean at the Law faculty, SEEU – my home institution and it was all set. I have to mention that I strongly encouraged many of my colleagues and friends to apply for the scholarship but unfortunately all of them gave up at the beginning with the excuse of the difficulty in the application process. I can ensure you that it was just a lame excuse and lack of ambition. The process was even easier than I expected to be. And of course I had all the support and help from our IRO at SEEU and their representative Luan Eshrefi. He helped us and supported during the application process. So, once I had all the documents collected it took me just a couple of hours to complete the online application from the basileus web page, submit the final application including a good motivation letter and 2 signed recommendation letters from my professors. The most complicated thing during the application was writing a good motivation letter which is very important for the selection of students and

second I would say, choosing the three options of universities for your stay. The project includes partner universities from all around Europe and it was really difficult to decide where to apply for because they all seemed to be a good decision. I have decided for university of Ljubljana as my first choice because I like Slovenia a lot, and I had a couple of friends who already studied there who were very satisfied with the student life that Ljubljana offers. I know I made the right choice.

During the application I did not really need a lot of help except a few advices from my English teacher while writing the perfect motivation letter. The rest of it I did all by myself. At the host university I stayed for 5 months since I have arrived a little later than expected because of the visa issues. Once I got there it was all like a dream came true. My friends that were studying there helped me find an accommodation. I also got a lot of help from the student office in Ljubljana where you can find help and information for everything connected with student life like: accommodation, party events, books, fitness ideas, language courses, places to visit, ride to and back from cities around Europe, 'lost and found', seminars, shopping etc etc ... I made a lot of new friends just the first week that arrived. You can find the exchange program it's all about experience, everyone who comes for such thing share the similar friendly open-minded and outgoing free spirit so it is pretty easy to get along with. It is amazing how many international people you meet every day and stay friends forever. It is hard even to mention one best thing from my stay because I enjoyed every second of it. The possibility to see and experience different culture was amazing. I made friends for life. I have another 'home' in a different country. I was really surprised from the whole organization of the mobility program; very supportive and dedicated to the Erasmus students. The host faculty organized a visit to the Court of Human rights and Council of

Europe in Strasbourg, European parliament in Luxembourg, we have attended a public hearing for two cases and it was one of the best memories from the program. I had the chance to travel around Europe in my free time with friends and that is the best part from the program. And speaking of the opposite, worst experience I cannot name one at the moment, maybe because there is not any and I am happy about that. As post mobility unpleasant outcome were the exams that I had to take at my home university because most of the credits were not recognized as a result of the different syllabus and topics that were covered in those specific courses.

I strongly encourage all the future interested students to apply for this mobility program because it gives an opportunity that nowhere else could be found. Do not be afraid to try your luck and meet the new country. You will blend in the society much better than you would expect before the application. I hear that every year the number of new applications is growing fast and that is just one more proof for the efficiency and the premium rewards a student can gain with this type of studying. Take your chance; it is maybe the only one you will get in your lifetime!

From today's point of view; all I can think of my mobility program is benefits. Personally I grew a lot in my soul; I gain a lot of self-confidence and high ambition, I always know that I can do more and I never give up on anything until I try first. I believe that my mobility is the reason why I have decided to open my world with new opportunities and travel exploring more new cultures. I just came back from a one year stay and working in the USA. I could never do that without the lesson of the exchange program. And of course I would not get the job that I had if I did not improve my English, became more communicative, outgoing and independent, and if I did not studied in Ljubljana. I also have to mention that on all the job interviews I have been so far, the employers are interested in my mobility experience rather than my professional experience. I am really happy that I got the chance to experience the best thing a student can ever have. Now I am enrolled in postgraduate studies and again I'm exploring the opportunity for another mobility program.



Jeton Jonuzi

South East European University - Tetovo
Faculty of Business and Economics

Jeton Jonuzi is a master student that studied in Lund University (Lund, Sweden). He was granted with a scholarship provided by the "Basileus" project year 2009/2010. He claims that he first learned about the programme through the IRO and advertisement at the Faculty of Business Administration at SEEU.

He says that "application procedure was quite simple with the great assistance by the IRO, since they were the main actors in helping students internationally".

When asked why he has chosen this university he told that the study programme of the Lund University was luckily included in the "Basileus" programme.

The only difficulty that he reflected on after being granted with a scholarship was finding an accommodation in Lund, but he somehow managed to find an apartment in the city, because of the busy schedule of the dormitories in Lund.



When he spoke about his time in Lund he said that "experience is above all that he can not forget during his life with lots of ups and downs, but keeping in mind that benefits and opportunities always ascend".

Finally he suggested that "enjoying and working hard will bestow the seed".

Marija Kova evi is a student that obtained a one year scholarship in Groningen, within the Join EU See scholarship program (she applied in October 2009 and was still there when she provided us with her insight). She learned about the programme while, in her own words: 'I was searching about possible scholarships on web, and hence I found the advertisement...'

She said that the application procedure was quite simple, and stated that, when it comes to IRO of the University of Montenegro, 'I didn't need help for the application procedure, and hence didn't ask for it'

The University of Groningen was her first choice, and she chose it because she liked the study program and research offered.

This is how she described her experience after obtaining the scholarship, concerning issues such as: obtaining, finding accommodation, making friends?

It was very easy to obtain the visa, since the International Student Desk office at the University of Groningen applied in name of a student. All I needed to do was to send the required documents and to pick up the visa once it was ready. Concerning the accommodation, the Housing Office provided me with the list of all agencies in the city and some students' web pages where I could apply for the accommodation. But, there are more students than rooms offered for renting and it can be a problem if one start to search for accommodation quite late (the best is to search 3 months before coming here) One can meet students from all over the world in Groningen, since the university is internationally oriented, and yes I made friends.

Regarding her best experience and worst experience of the stay, she mentioned the following:

There are a lot of things that I like and enjoy here. For example, I enjoy riding a bike and it become my daily routine. Contrary to the situation in Montenegro, traveling by bus or train is perfect!

It is a pleasure indeed! I love Dutch people very much. They are kind, nice, and like to respect your private life. Everybody can speak English, which makes your stay perfect! But, I must admit I enjoy at the faculty the most. I am writing my thesis here, and I enjoy in the research very much. My supervisor is a very famous person in the scientific area and he has everything in his hands! I can learn very fast, and it makes me happy. Also, I love attending the classes. The atmosphere on classes is very nice, students can ask a lot of questions and we all have long discussions about the problems and phenomena we are interested in.

I don't like wind, it is very strong. I didn't like the weather at the beginning but I got used. There is one more thing I don't like - the possibility that one day you will not find your bike, since someone stole it.

It seems Dutch people do not like those from Eastern Europe much, and foreigners in general. My friends from the Netherlands admitted that. Some people wouldn't like to hear that, but I don't mind.

Anyway, my worst experience is a dentist. Even if you have an insurance that covers dental costs, you need to pay. One would expect to get a good treatment if he / she pays, but it is not the case. I am personally very disappointed with a dental service here in Groningen. I heard from the friend that he had a problem in the hospital also.

Next, as benefits of her mobility- personal and professional, her words were as follows:

From the personal point of view, this is probably the best year I ever had in my life. And, of course it is very much connected to the professional line - I think I'm doing a good job here. It will have a significant impact to my future career.

Finally, she suggested to future applicants this:

Well, if they really want to come because of (primarily) studying here, it's a perfect place.

Marija Kova evi

University of Montenegro



Vuk Cuci

University of Belgrade - Ghent University

I learned about Basileus student exchange program through conversation with my colleague who has won the scholarship he wanted and went to Nice. When I examined the website of Basileus program and the faculties involved in the program, I decided to choose the study stay of 10 months at University of Ghent in Belgium.

I must add that my case was specific because I wanted to go together with my girlfriend. We applied together, for the same scholarship, in hope that we will be both accepted.

Application process was not complicated but it lasted longer than I expected. It is important to say that that it is most necessary for students to begin collecting of the required documentation in time, because, although it is not complicated, there were certain procedures that required a lot of time. I received substantial assistance in the application process from Foreign Relation Office staff at the University of Belgrade, which meant really much to me, especially when I realized that some documents can not be obtained. At the end, both - my girlfriend and I got the scholarships. I emphasize this because I believe that there are plenty of students who are in the same situation as the two of us - to have the necessary qualifications to receive a scholarship, but do not believe that it is possible to go together.

Studies in Belgium have been refreshing for me. Being an assistant at the university, I had a great opportunity to realize that, on the one hand, in terms of capabilities and ambitions, Serbian students are not far behind students of the world's best universities. But, on the other hand, I realized there are different teaching methodologies that, if applied at home faculties, could give better and more efficient results. Certainly, new experiences that I gained about different teaching methodologies I will not only use, but try to further develop in my career to come.

As far as studying in a foreign language concerns I have had no problems. Being a student of doctoral studies I didn't have any exams but I attended lectures, and I considered them very useful. If someone goes to the exchange program as a PhD student or postdoctoral, he should pay particular attention to the selection of a mentor, because quality of studying will depend largely on this. Before applying, students should investigate thoroughly the situation at the university for which they want to apply, to find out who would be appropriate mentor, is he available for mentoring, etc... The best would be if student could first, still from his home country, come into contact with potential mentor and explain to him what are his ambitions and plans for studying abroad. From my experience, professors are open to such communication and they usually explain very directly if they are interested and available to help or not.

I find outcomes of my studying in Ghent to be fantastic. My mentor has informed me about the possibility for me to take part in some scientific researches that are performed at European level, and he also connected me with colleagues from other universities. This resulted in publication of two articles in excellent international journals, as well as in the possibility to publish the entire research in the form of monograph.

Besides studies, there are few things aside that I must describe and draw attention to. First of all, finding good accommodation is not easy. Before going to exchange, my girlfriend and I went to Belgium, to look for accommodation on-site. At the end, we found great apartment but it was not easy to finding it. Some of our friends, also from Serbia, that have arranged accommodation over the internet, were not that lucky. Students going for an exchange should pay much attention to the issue of accommodation, because a period of staying abroad is not short.

As for the visa, there were no problems in managing it, but I have to mention two remarks on this issue. First, gathering of required documentation may take a while. Second and more important, students need to know that their student visas do not cover the entire time of staying, but only three months. Also, when students come into the country of selected university, they need to wait for month or two until they get a temporary residence permit from the police. This process also takes some time and requires collecting of documents and waiting in line. Most importantly, the student must not leave the current country of studying until getting a residence permit. It could lead to problems, and student can even be banned to return to the country of study.

In the end, going to the student exchange program is life experience that goes far beyond just studying and learning. It is a unique chance for students to meet new people, new cultures, to visit different countries... to learn foreign languages and enjoy staying abroad in way different than just touristic... Without any exaggeration I may say that it is a unique chance for someone to enrich and enlighten. I would recommend anyone to go on exchange abroad, because, at least to me, it was the most beautiful experience in life so far.





I am a student at the Faculty of Economy in Kragujevac and I went on a shorter period of mobility in Germany. The program I used was a internship program, organized by the Fond dr Zoran Djindjic and by using this given chance I was in Stuttgart, in Bosch company. The Center for Career Development and Student Counseling of University of Kragujevac organized the presentation of mobility and internships program of Fond dr Zoran Djindjic in the Rectorate of the University of Kragujevac, which was great opportunity for me to get all needed information. The application process was not complicated, I can even say it was one of the simpler, because the list of documentation that the candidates should submit is standard. I got the assistance and help from the Center, preparing my motivation letter and CV, but also during the whole process. I would like to stress out the importance of mobility, exchange programs and internships, because these

experiences are contributing to the professional development of young people and future academics. During this 6 months I have gained so much experience and new knowledge, I also had opportunity to visit Berlin with other grantholders from Balkan region, but also to visit a numerous cities in Germany. So all together it was great professional experience and world experience for me as person and student.

I can only recommend to all of my colleagues and students in general, not to rely only on the knowledge gained at the faculty, but to search for other sources of new knowledges and skills and these they can surely get on the mobility programs. So it is very important that they inform themselves constantly about all kind of scholarships and mobility programs, that can and definitely will contribute to their studies and careers. These things and the fact that I try to be informed have brought to me this scholarship. This was my biggest life experience until now.

Regarding her best experience and worst experience of the stay, she mentioned the following:

There are a lot of things that I like and enjoy here. For example, I enjoy riding a bike and it become my daily routine. Contrary to the situation in Montenegro, traveling by bus or train is perfect! It is a pleasure indeed!

Bora Jovanovi
University of Kragujevac,
Faculty of Economy

Vildana Kari

University of Sarajevo
Gent University, Belgium

Jakov Milatovi, as an EU supported student exchange program "Basileus" participant I attended Sapienza University of Rome for 10 months during the academic year 2009/2010.

He said he learned about the programme through the Faculty of Economics web-site, since they have it constantly updated with the information about the available scholarships for studying abroad.

When asked about how difficult it was to apply and was the overall application procedure complicated, he said that 'it wasn't difficult at all', even though at the time he 'honestly didn't remember anymore how the application procedure looked like', but as he recalled, 'the application procedure was very simple'. However, he said he got the needed assistance from the IRO, even though 'Nobody helped me with the application. I had participated in two student exchange programs before applying for the Basileus and therefore I was familiar with the procedure.'

His first choice was Sapienza University of Rome, and Lund University in Sweden was his second choice.

When asked why and how he has chosen the particular university, he said:

'My second foreign language is Italian. Furthermore, Sapienza University of Rome is one of the best-know European universities and Rome is one of the most vibrant and interesting cities in the world. My decision to apply for Sapienza University of Rome was based on the abovementioned facts.'

After being granted the scholarship, the 'practicalities' came in...this is how he reflected on some of them:

Obtaining an Italian visa was very easy since I had the invitation letter from Sapienza University of Rome.

Rome is one of the favorite "Erasmus destinations" among the European students and therefore being a part of the Erasmus family in Rome was exceptionally enjoyable experience for me.

Finding an accommodation in Rome was difficult. Rome is special because the majority of students stay in apartments rather than in dormitories. Sapienza University of Rome is the largest European university in terms of students; it is situated in the city center and simply there is no space for more student dormitories.

Speaking of the experience, he said:

'I often say that being an exchange student in Rome was the most beautiful period of my life. Living in Rome is the experience per se and being able to enjoy every-day some of the world's most famous master pieces (opere d'arte) is inspiring and memorable.'



Radoš Lazarevi

University of Belgrade
Sapienza University of Rome



I participated in Basileus student exchange program for one semester - from February to August 2009. My home faculty was School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Belgrade, and the host University that I was going to was La Sapienza, Department of Information Engineering (Ingegneria Informatica), Rome.

For Basileus program I learned by receiving regular newsletters from website Infostud.com

Application form that Basileus program required was extremely easy to fill in. It was completely in an electronic form. Everything that a student was required to do was to fill in the required details, probably scan a few documents and send them to the website. For me this easiness of application process was most important. No one was helping me, and there was also no need for that, because everything in the process of application was pretty simple and straightforward.

The hardest part was collecting letters of recommendation because I had no previous experience with it. I also remember that there were some administrative problems with the Learning Agreement, but it all ended well. I think this problem happened because I was one of the first students from Serbia to go on Basileus exchange program. I don't think that students can experience such problems now.

In Rome, studies were held in English, which I'm good at, so I didn't have any problems. But, even those who do not know English well should not be discouraged because the level of English needed to follow lectures is not high.

The study program was interesting. We worked in small groups, and that I found to be the most striking difference between the way we studies are performed at La Sapienza and at my home faculty. All in all, I have gained unique experience on how it is to study at a large European university.

My impression is that the exams at La Sapienza were easier to pass than in Serbia, and that came as a great relief to me, because at time of my first test I was very nervous. It was actually hard to fail an exam, there were no unfair questions (placed to confuse and discourage students), and all in all, in time of exams atmosphere at the faculty was relaxed and very friendly. Of course, cheating is absolutely unacceptable and strictly punished. Also, since you are an exchange student, you are in some way a representative of your country, so this form of behavior would be highly inappropriate.

Student life was also very vibrant. I think that student life is as important if not more important part of whole exchange experience as the studying. Rome is full of events, tourist parks, attractions, and students who, just like you, came to spend several months getting to know foreign country and other people.

I went to Belgium, specifically in Leuven (KU Leuven), which is a part of Join EU-SEE program, for one semester. I heard for this program from a friend who went to Nice, and also a few friends who were preparing to apply for exchange stay in Spain. I choose this program primarily because it was held in English, which was good, but not so common. Most of the undergraduate programs are taught in native languages of the countries in which faculties are situated.

Process of application for Join EU-SEE program was not too demanding. It was necessary to collect some papers, which I gathered for approximately 7 days, and some signatures which was also not a problem... the rest is up to you - to write a CV, cover letter, and more. My trip was organized by the contact persons at the University that were in charge of matters like that. I obtained visa very quickly, and without any problems... there were no waiting in lines or any uncertainties about it. All of my papers arrived on time and regularly, which made things much easier for me.

My impressions about studies abroad - including lectures, requirements, exams, professors... are unfortunately quite mild. Being a student of Ethnology and Anthropology, I went on exchange wanting to hear and learn something new. Frankly, I expected much more. The lectures were well organized, in a solid way. There have been attempts from the professors to organize some student work groups and presentations, but it was of poor success and, in general, natural bonding between professors and students was never developed.

I had no problems with exams, since I have already known many things that were required. It would have



probably been different if I went before and not in my fourth year of study. On the other hand, all the praise I have for our organization at the University, they recognized all the exams I passed in Belgium, without any problems.

Fitting into a new environment was going very slowly for me and quite spontaneously. I also must say that, unfortunately, I had some difficulties making new friends. I lived with five Belgians, who I didn't relate to, so I was very active on the side. Primarily, I met several people in the hostel whom with I continued to hang around, even after we were no longer in the same room. Also, when studies begun, sports center was also opened, so I started to train kung fu. This is something I would particularly point out, because it meant to me much more than lectures. I dedicated more time and attention to trainings than to studies. After a month of regular training, I started to go to morning practices. The most beautiful friendships I made were with the people from the training. We became very close over time, so now some of them are planning to come to Serbia. This

Irina Djuki
University of Belgrade
University of Leuven



In addition, I should say something about accommodation. Rome is crowded and expensive urban area, and it was said to me that it would be difficult to find good and affordable accommodation. But I had no problems. Through ESN (Erasmus Students Network) I found out about some flat, where other foreign students were already living and that they needed one more person to pay the rent. I moved in and started living with them without any problems. Other students from Serbia, which did not find accommodation via the ESN message board also managed accommodation somehow in the end. The assistance you can count on is mostly from the local ESN and other student associations, other international students, and also Serbian students who were already on the exchange in the city in which you go, or are currently there.

The point of students exchange program is meeting new people from different countries and adapting to new academic environment. All foreign students that you will meet also came to gain new friends, so you won't be the only one looking for friends and fun. In addition, there would be also a lot of local, Italian students who want to expand their horizons. Knowledge of local language is a big advantage if you want to get friends with them.

On my exchange stay I had a lot of positive experiences and it is difficult for me to choose the best. For example, one of them was the discovery of the students' district of San Lorenzo in Rome, for which I have never

heard before... then going to the oldest ice cream shop in Rome, cooking specialties and dishes from different countries for fun, and so on...

The hardest thing for me, during the whole exchange experience, was that I had to say goodbye to a lot of people I became friend with. But, this is one component of the exchange staying you must be prepared to. Nowadays, there exist various social networks, so you can keep in touch with friends you want to.

I would say to students who are thinking about going to exchange: if not now - when will you try this? To those who worry about exams, I'll say that in 20 years they will not remember which exams they passed and when, but they'll remember the exchange experiences for a lifetime. Poor financial condition is also not an excuse because the scholarships are sufficient to cover all your costs.

Also: do not worry and don't think you're not good enough. You probably will satisfy all the requirements. And if not, what is the worst thing that can happen? You'll get No, and that's that.

Do not be afraid of complications and uncertainty because overcoming them will make you more experienced and more confident.

Going on exchange changed and improved me in many ways. Leaving the home environment even for couple of months dramatically change the way you look on many things in life. I found many illusions that I had about Serbia and Europe to be false.

In addition, besides outer, there is equally significant, the inner journey you'll experience - you will get an opportunity to show yourself that you are independent, resourceful and mature, capable to manage your life in completely new environment.

At the end, I'll pay attention to one more thing. When you go for an exchange, it is very easy to fall into trap and spend all your time socializing with other students from Serbia (Montenegro, Bosnia, Croatia ...). It is of course the easier way to quickly get friends - you can more easily express yourself in your native language, you have more common topics, jokes and so on. Try to resist this trap and get to know people from far and different countries, because it would open many horizons for you, and bring you new and special friendships. After all, if you spend all your time abroad socializing with students from your home country, what is the point of going on the exchange at all?



is definitely the best experience I had in Belgium and certainly the biggest impression from the whole exchange stay.

The hardest thing for me was the first month of staying in Louvain, because at that time the city was quite deserted. Most of the time I was completely alone, except for a few people I met at the hostel. The first shock of being separated from old friends, being alone in the world, troubles with foreign language, meeting strange people it was all slightly scary for me. But after some time I started to accommodate, not to look at street names... I even learned to speak a little Flemish... few parties, few walks and excursions outside the city... and there was no more homesick or blues...

So, all in all, I found my studies abroad to be a very positive experience. I

learned a lot more than I expected, not about studies, but about life. In particular, I learned a lot about the martial arts, also Asian beliefs and tradition ... I also learned a lot about myself, and I think that I came back as a better person, ready to share personal experiences with good people around me. I even started teaching classes of kung-fu for interested individuals. Occasionally, I plan to travel to Belgium to my kung-fu Master, for training purposes.

I would recommend to people who are planning to go to the exchange to relax as much as possible, which can be difficult at the beginning. I recommend them to try to fully live through each moment of time spent on the exchange, and to find some extra activity in addition to studies, because these little things actually make life.

Dragoljub Gaji

- University of Belgrade
- University of Pannonia, Budapest, Hungary;
- Norwegian School of Management, Oslo, Norway;
- University of Lund, Sweden;
- Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark.

About these mobility programs I was informed via the Internet. For Scandinavian countries I especially recommend websites that I found to be very useful:

www.studyinsweden.se;
www.studyinnorway.no;
www.studyindenmark.dk.

Also, by regularly visiting presentation of the University of Belgrade (www.bg.ac.rs) and another very useful website for students www.infostud.com you can find some very interesting possibilities for exchange.

The process of application for a scholarship requires a certain amount of time and effort, but in the end, experience that you will gain makes this effort really a minimum sacrifice. In my past experience, a cover letter plays a key role for the selection of the candidates, so you must write it very carefully. If you are even a little creative, this should not be hard for you. In it you must explain why especially you would be a good choice, not someone else who might even have a better average grade than you.

Study programs at the Universities I attended were organized in such manner that I found them to be much easier in comparison to the same at our University, and completely "stress free". I believe that the knowledge gained this way is much more long-lasting, practical and effective. Liabilities are evenly distributed throughout the semester, so at all time you do not feel any pressure. Student groups are much smaller and there are all the time many projects in which teams of students can participate. It is very easy to communicate with professors, and sometimes, it can happen that professors learn together with you about some things that are also new to them.

About the accommodation issue I'll say that it is very important to act quickly on the Internet, actually, immediately after receiving positive results on admission to the chosen university. There are companies that rent accommodation to students. They have their own websites, where you need to register for free, to be put on the waiting list. In this way, accommodation will be almost guaranteed to you, and you will not have to face the exhausting experience of searching for accommodation immediately on arrival. Here, I will mention a couple of useful sites concerning Scandinavia countries: www.afb.se and www.kollegierneskontor.dk.

It was not difficult to find friends. I think that students from Serbia are very open and friendly, so it is usually not hard for them to find friends quickly. I think that our students fit into the new environment very fast, I would say faster than the others.

You should have no difficulties with obtaining visa at all, if you apply for it on time, and "on time" is immediately after receiving notification that you are received.

On my studies abroad I had many positive experiences, and I have a feeling that I could write pages and pages about it... But, however, I will stress out what I consider to be most important, and that is the opportunity to speak to foreign students, to socialize, share experiences and ideas... that way you learn and accept differences among people, spread your views, and become spiritually richer and more mature.

I didn't have any specific problems on my studies abroad. I had challenges that needed to be solved, and solving them was a pleasure to me... I think I learned a lot from them. Maybe my most unpleasant experience was the stealing of my bike, which took place on a river island in Budapest, where I was preparing for the half-marathon. I was forced to return home on foot and tired.

The exchange stay is very rich and positive experience, and I would definitely recommend it to everyone, especially those who have any doubts or ambiguities about exchange programs. How much you can get by going on exchange will be clear to you after you leave and come back. Before you go, you just have to have enough courage and enthusiasm.

As for the recognition of the exams you have passed abroad, I must say, that upon returning to the country, you can experience some administrative problems, especially in student services at the faculties. Abroad, there are a lot of courses which are certainly very useful, and you should attend them, but you'll found out at the end, that in our country they won't be recognized. You should attend these courses because the knowledge you will gain is very valuable. Enjoy, and when you return to the country, you will somehow deal with the painful process of recognition of exams and paperwork.

The exchange has made my already positive view of the world to become even more so. Universities I attended in the last two years, or more precisely, knowledge and experience I gained there, is already playing, and will play in the future, a very important role in my, both personal and professional development.

At the very end, I would like to share with you one truth, that I had become aware of after one lecture held during my stay abroad. It is one simple truth that has left very strong impression on me.

Somewhere in Africa every morning an antelope gets up, he knows very well, he has to be faster, than the fastest lion, otherwise his life is over. Somewhere in Africa every morning a lion gets up, he knows very well, he has to be faster, than the slowest antelope, otherwise he will die of hunger.

*That is the same whether you are antelope or lion,
 RUN AS THE SUN RISES.*



Nikola Babi

University of Belgrade
Sapienza University of Rome



Through Basileus student exchange program I spent 9 months in Rome.

It all started one day when I was being late for class ... My colleague has kept the seat for me and told me that the professor was inquiring if anyone who speaks English has the will to help a couple of Italian exchange students. Guided by the idea that this might be an opportunity for me to improve my English, and that those two students might be actually cute Italian girls, I applied after class for participation in the workgroup. Soon after I met and hung out a while with those two MALE students, my English was not improved, but even corrupted ... But, thanks to them I found out about this great student exchange program.

First time I applied immediately after the call was announced, with the help of my two Italian friends. Unfortunately, I was placed on a waiting list and did not get a scholarship I wanted. On the one hand, I was sad about results, but, on the other, this experience helped me to finish with the whole process of application, next time when I applied, much more quickly - in less than ten days. I remember... colleague of mine reporting me that he received a scholarship... me running to log on my mail account, and - Oh what a happiness! Joy, joy to the world! I was immediately willing to go packing, but no... There was still a little more bureaucracy waiting around the corner for me...

I bored a little bit the staff of the University: "Do I need this? What about this? How does this work?" and so on. But this was not hard for me considering that they always polite and with smiling faces. Finally, there was only a matter of visa left, and I got it... but, I can't say that everything was slightly done. What is most important - everything ended well.

Upon the arrival in Rome I found a warm welcome by the staff of the Office for International Relations. They immediately explained me everything and introduced me to all bureaucratic details that I needed to know, in order to obtain my scholarship.

At college, I also found nothing more but kindness and affability. The last thing I expected was that a professor would help me in finding accommodation, but that happened! By some chance, first few months I spent in the apartment of one of the professors, and what's more - for a symbolic price. After a while I found an excellent room for an excellent price, and most importantly, my roommates were three Italians who were for the first time living with a stranger, so the whole situation was also very interesting to them.

University "La Sapienza" really shines. Buildings of imposing size, sculptures, and fountains... lawns full of students who prefer to sit on grass more than on concrete benches... In the Great Hall of the Rectorate Building a reception was held to which all students on exchange in Rome were invited.

After some time, exams followed. The first exam that I took was the exam of knowledge of Italian language. I was aware that I have made significant progress with my Italian, especially within the course organized for exchange students, but I still had doubts and uncertainties about it. In the end, I accomplished results I wanted easily, and I got the highest mark in my entire life - 26! I knew that the grading system in Italy was from 18 to 30, but still ...!

Although my classes were not mandatory, I attended almost all of them. At the beginning, they served me more as language lessons than transfer of knowledge in a particular field... So, my activity was limited to the voice recording on one side and on the other merely taking notes of what I see on the slides without any thinking. Tactics which I soon developed was to leave every other line of my notebook blank, and then, when I come home, I

would fill these blank lines with translation. A few months later, there were fewer and fewer unknown words, and slowly but surely, there was no more need for these blank lines. Then I decided that, in the second semester, I will try to retrieve a presentation from the professors before the lecture, and by that make my presence in the classroom more effective.

In the first semester, I usually ended school days by organizing my notes and audio files, after which used to hang up with my friends. Besides seeing famous sites which each and every tourist must see, student organizations and also professors of Italian language every now and then used to organize visits to exhibitions, museums and architectural achievements because of which Rome is called an "open-air museum". On all of this, as well as about many other things, we used to exchange impressions on the Erasmus student parties. They had a concept of sitting in bars with not too loud music, so we could either chat or dance, and if the DJ hit song, there used to be almost always a cheerful group of Spaniards ready to start singing. Parties of this type were organized every weekend, considerable discounts for prices of drinks for exchange students existed, so attending them was not so expensive. However, one autumn weekend was different. One of my two Italian friends (That I have met at the lecture of neuropsychology at the University of Belgrade) invited me for a weekend in his homeland. He said: "It's time to make wine."

We took an evening train from Rome to Avezzano. The next day, we woke up before dawn and went by car with Giuseppe's uncle and his friend, to the hamlet where they have rented two vineyards. Soon we found ourselves among the pillars of vine grapes on the slopes of the region Abruzzo ...

And in Rome, I repeat, it was never boring: an extravagant roommate of mine was always sharing the delight with me about sales success of young artists in the gallery where he worked, the other one I went to the movies and saw him in one of the roles on the screen... Ah yes, the third one was a business consultant and a passionate motorcycles lover... Calls for concerts by the band members that I met... Chinese New Year at the Piazza del Popolo in the company of Jin Cheng, dressed in national costume of his province... Dancing tango in the street in a Pigneto district... Iranian house parties where food, dance movements and gestures - such as public exchange of gifts and delivering speeches left me confused... Going to swim in a sea with a group of students, in April... Discovering beauty in preparing Italian food, and sometimes a feeling of uselessness when Japanese students were making sushi...

Like most people, I also think that every journey enriches the individual in a unique way, in a totally irreplaceable manner. However, the unique quality of exchange programs lies in a fact that besides getting to know new culture of the specific country you went to, you also get an opportunity to see how other foreign students react to the same. Through this experience one can indeed validate himself and gain insight into the differences between people and the beauty that lies in it: word "happiness" is written in China with two symbols placed side by side: a symbol for mouth and a symbol for food; in Tunisia almost everybody speaks both Arabic and French, most of them speak Italian also, and in schools English is required; in Iran it is a custom to kiss with friends 3 times when you meet them, and they also, like us, have cabbage rolls (but with no pork); Italians call French key English, and so on...

Positive experiences from my exchange stay are, like oranges from Sicily, all very sweet. On the other hand, it was hard being separated from the loved ones and being unable to give them support when they need it. But, something you lose, something you get!

Finally, the message to all who are having doubts: Do not hesitate!

Tamara Ristevska

South East European University - Tetovo
University of Nice



Thanks to a presentation at my University –SEEU, I found out about this great opportunity and student exchange program. From the beginning, I knew it was worth trying for it. At first I was in doubt: as how to apply and what documents I need but und the answers to my questions in the IRO. I am really satisfied with the assistance given by the IRO. The people responsible for this exchange program helped me a lot.

The application was online and I filled out it with the necessary documents. It was not very complicated. For me one, of the more difficult things was giving information about the projects I worked on. I have participated in various projects but it was a bit hard to provide detailed reports. Luckily, I am still in contact with the people I worked with on those projects and they helped me to accomplish this task.

I researched the Basileus page for more information about the Universities included in this project. One advantage in applying to some of them was to have a previous experience and knowledge about the native language of the country you applied for. I had three years experience taking French, so I considered France the most appropriate country for a six months study.

I got the chance to be part of it. That day when I got the answer from the Basileus team, that I was one of the chosen students, I was really happy and excited. I had never been abroad for such a long time and I had never had an opportunity to study

abroad. I started enthusiastically preparing for the stay abroad. My dream had come true. When I arrived there, I was impressed by the beauty of the place. Nice is considered to be one of the most beautiful places in Europe. I saw that with my own eyes. It is not a myth: Nice is heaven on Earth.

As a student, I had some difficulties with documents and adaptation to the new work system and lifestyle. It is well known that every beginning is hard, but after a month, I was part of a new country, I felt more confident and everything seemed easier.

I went to my classes in English, but I still had a chance to improve my French because I met a lot of new people, especially French people. Moreover, I was not the only Erasmus student there, so I had a chance to meet a lot of new friends from all around the world. It was a lovely experience: Macedonia, France, Monte Negro, Iceland, Korea, Italy, Mauritius, Canada and Spain, all in one place.

For the people who want to apply for studying abroad first, I would like to advise them to be as communicative as possible. Knowing how to be tolerant and get past the difficulties is the best way to succeed. At the end, you realize it was worth doing. This is a cherished experience which I will never forget and which positively reflects on my personality. Albert Einstein said: "The only source of knowledge is experience."



Ilona Jeri

University of Ljubljana

University of Sarajevo



My Basileus exchange in Sarajevo was very fruitful for understanding different social environments, meeting new people and last but not least my diploma thesis research. Living in a city and country that has such a strong presence of historical political components in everyday life requires recontextualization of previously obtained knowledge about environment. But at the same point this circumstance elicits different opinions in communication, which motivated intensiveness of my observations, participations and knowledge-absorption process. Also my staying at the department for Comparative Literature and at Bosnian-Herzegovian Literature Department was valuable for insight in Bosnian-Herzegovian literature thesaurus and the research questions that arise out of it. Out of the study coordinates - Sarajevo was really nice and inspirational experience; good music, good food, beautiful surroundings and charismatic people.

Jasmina Mrkonja

University of Sarajevo

University of La Sapienza, Rome, Italy



Ever since I finished high school, I knew I wanted to spend part of my „school years“ abroad. The real opportunity for me was at my third year when I found out about the BASILEUS program. Of all given universities, „LA Sapienza“ was a logical choice for me, since I speak Italian fluently and I already lived in Italy. I got the scholarship for two semesters for Master studies, and during those times I have grown as a matured person. Students who apply for these programs must know that this is not a touristic travel and it's not always easy. However, this experience brings you to meet new people and most important, friends for life. I am very grateful that I had opportunity to learn from the best experts in finances.

Also, after a hard working day, it is not hard to find fun in Rome, whether it was a visit to museums, parks, galleries, theater or different activities. In Rome, Erasmus Mundus always organizes parties, trips to other cities which was really fun.



Emina Mamedžija

University of Sarajevo

University of Heidelberg, Germany

Heidelberg left me speechless. It is a city with students, tourists, and people. It was everything as it said in their prospects. I was well welcomed and surprised with the easiness of the administrative procedures, never left lost or without help when needed. I lived in a dorm with different nations. That life with them has marked me for life in a good way. Together, we travelled through Germany and abroad. Language barriers were not a problem. I spoke German and English, and it was easy for me to communicate with other people. I was surprised with students who had low knowledge of German or English. This instantly reminded me on our students who often do not apply for these exchange programs because they feel they do not know enough language to study. However, with a small knowledge of language, through different social activities, you are able, not just to learn language so well, but to follow lectures too.

The budget for the student in this mobility program was very satisfying. I was worried at the beginning will it be enough; however, it covered all of my expenses, plus allowed me to travel a lot.



Danica Raki

This is the story of one truly diligent girl, who used two mobility programs during her undergraduate studies.

My name is Danica and I am student at the Faculty of Economy in Kragujevac. The first mobility program I used, was the student exchange program, planned as the core activity of Tempus project "Reorganization of Economics study in Serbia", with the University of Udine. This first mobility period lasted for 4 months. The second program I used was Basileus and within this program I spent one semester, as an exchange student, at the University of Rome La Sapienza in Italy. For these programs I heard at the Faculty, and I saw the information on the website.

For me, the process of applying was not complicated, we needed a standard documentation package. I also had the support from the IRO office at the University and from the Center for Career Development and Student Counseling at University

especially concerning the motivation letter and CV. The only thing that was a bit complicated was choosing the subjects at the host-faculty and matching the program and sometimes contacting the host university professors. And what was also maybe complicated, at first, is acquiring the documentation, finding the flat in new city....but that is nothing comparing to all the things I've received: all the new experiences, learning one new language, improving English language, experiencing the true students life, traveling, spending time with new friends....and now, for example, the obvious benefit and advantage of using the mobility programs is the fact I got the job in one Italian company. So, in the end, there are no bad memories, only the absolute joy of participating in these mobility programs.



I am strongly convinced that these programs are huge benefit for my further professional and personal development and will be extremely helpful for my career too. Of course, there is the aspect of experiencing the world, which is also important for every young person and making contacts and everlasting friendships with people from all around the world.

And if someone asks, I am planning to search and use other mobility and scholarships programs for my master studies.



The message I'm sending to all the students is just and only: Be sure and brave to try, there is absolutely nothing you can lose! You can only win a lot!

And if someone asks, I am planning to search and use other mobility and scholarships programs for my master studies.

And if someone asks, I am planning to search and use other mobility and scholarships programs for my master studies.

Jovana Star evi

University of Kragujevac
Faculty of Philology and Arts

As a student of French language and literature at the Faculty of Philology and Arts I had opportunity to talk with my professors and colleagues about student mobility and so I found out about exchange program Basileus. I have decided to try it, since the program was such an excellent chance for students to go and to learn something abroad.

The application process was a little complicated, considering that it was the first time I applied for a scholarship, but eventually I managed to do everything well. There were no major obstacles, apart from collecting the necessary documents that need to be signed, which was the only thing that was a little complicated. From the International Office at the University and from the Center for Career Development and Student Counseling I have received all necessary information and advice for all that was necessary at that point. There were a great help and are always very open to help us in everything we needed.

Apart from the fact I could learn more about French language and literature and I had a chance to improve my spoken language and knowledge, my greatest and best experience during the period of mobility was meeting the culture and civilization of France, the new system of education and making new friends. When I think, if there were any problems, or less nice things, I have no complains, upon my return to Serbia I honestly can not find anything that has left as a bad memory. When I think what I got from this program and this scholarship, I can only say that mobility has brought me many new experiences that will be of great benefit, both professionally and at a personal level, and it will be of great help to further development in my profession and a very important thing in making plans for the future.

The message I would like to give, not only to my colleagues, but to all students, is that they should, without doubt, apply for scholarships, because, in addition to tremendous opportunity for progress in language studies and training, they will acquire huge experience for their future profession. In any case, you have nothing to lose, you can only win a lot. Now, I am always open to mobility programs and I would always, without thinking, apply for scholarships and other students mobility programs. ? ?



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