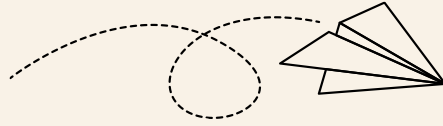


UE ERASMUS+ JOURNAL Vol. III





A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

To promote internationalization, our university has joined as a partner in Erasmus+ projects and given the opportunity to students and academics to participate in different mobility programs abroad. These experiences have shown that sharing knowledge and points of view helps not only to understand other cultures, but also allows the students to see their own culture from different perspectives, providing an enriching vision of what it means to live in a multicultural society. Erasmus+ Journal aims to share, support, and promote student's experiences and knowledge gained abroad, developing their thinking and sharing their stories with others.





PROF.DR. SKENDER TOPI

RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN "ALEKSANDËR XHUVANI"



Dear Erasmus+ students,

I would like to thank you for being part of this initiative in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the emblematic Erasmus program, one of the greatest European success stories.

Since 2016, we have managed to organize mobilities, both incoming and outgoing, giving us the possibility to exchange experiences, curriculum, and knowledge. Your presence here and sharing of experiences is an excellent example of our work and overall success as an institution. Through this program, more and more students have had the opportunity to gain knowledge, develop new skills, learn a new language and culture, and overcome new challenges each year.

Your stories and experiences would be a great guide and a good package of lessons and advice for future Erasmus+ program students. Students who have experienced Erasmus+ become motivators and role models for others, perhaps lacking a bit of decisiveness or courage.

For years, the University of Elbasan, "Aleksandër Xhuvani," has been implementing a powerful internationalization and inclusiveness strategy to give the university a European vision aimed at developing a sense of European citizenship in their students, active and aware, and continuously cooperating with our partners for fostering modernization and sustainable growth in our institution in the academic and capacity building fields.

We have the duty to be ambassadors, conveying the word, for the future students in the following years, to apply and benefit from this life-changing experience of the Erasmus+ program as you have. We all look forward to a bright future of international mobility, cooperation, partnerships, exchange of ideas, practices, knowledge, and mutual growth. And we believe it will gain even more importance and recognition. I wish you a successful future full of new knowledge, discoveries, and achievements.





Aleksandra Saraçaj

Economics
Istanbul Technical University

For me, Erasmus + is the most beautiful experience of my life. Erasmus + changed my life, my opinion, and my outlook on life. He grew me up. He taught me how beautiful and difficult it is to have responsibilities in your arms. I did my Erasmus+ mobility in Istanbul. in Europe's most visited and culturally significant city .

My host university was Istanbul Technical University, and there I found different teaching methods, innovations in some fields, and a very big campus. I will apply for Erasmus+ Credit Mobility again, especially for master's programs with Erasmus Mundus, because it is a different experience in universities abroad, with different cultures and people, and the most important thing is that those programs are funded by the EU, which is very beneficial to students.

Actually, I am sharing my Erasmus+ experience with my friends and the people I know, and I recently said, "You should try this experience to see the difference after you come back to your country." To conclude, it was my pleasure to be a part of the Erasmus + mobility program because this period changed my whole life.





Erald Muça

Physical Education and Sports
University of Veliko Turnovo
St Cyril and St. Methodius



For me, Erasmus + is one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. At the university, the hospitality was very good from the professors, with very good behavior, which I personally liked very much. In my branch, there were halls where the students developed their practical education, and they were very large with all the amenities that a student might need. If I was invited, I would have the opportunity to apply to go back to Erasmus +. I would apply because I am very satisfied with my first Erasmus+ mobility and have done many activities that have developed me both professionally and personally. As for the other students who reject Erasmus+, I would like to give a piece of advice: they don't have to miss this experience because it can change their lives as it has changed mine.





Aleksandra Çela

English language

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

I really liked it and had a great time making new friends from all over the world and exploring new cultures and aspects of the English language as a teaching tool. The special attention they paid to even the littlest details to make international students feel welcome. Also, they were available and eager to help with any inquiries. International students were entitled to every right as native students, including free use of the libraries (both digital and physical) and the student restaurant, the provision of an academic ID for student discounts, etc.

Yes, of course, especially to another country. Mostly because I enjoy this type of experience where I can learn about new cultures and make new friends, and because my previous experiences with Erasmus have been positive. I would advise them not to be afraid to participate in such types of mobility. Do not fear if everything is a lie, because it is not. Do not worry if you can make it and live alone in another country, because surely there will be many international students who will be in the same situation as you. Moreover, ESN is there to help you through any difficulty.

And lastly, do not hesitate to take part in activities organized by the receiving institution. The experience will certainly be great for everyone. You will learn new things and develop new skills, as well as get inspired and motivated. For me, Erasmus+ is a life-long, mind-opening experience. It is a way of connecting and interacting with people from all over the world, learning new things, exploring new places and cultures, traveling abroad, and making new friends.



Marin Balle

Degree in Nursing

University of Cordoba, Spain



Erasmus+ enabled me to have one of my most beautiful life and academic experiences. For me, it was the first time I studied in a foreign university, where I got to know other and new methodologies in terms of teaching and information exchange in the auditorium.

I don't think there was any big difference compared to my university in Albania, both in teaching and in literature. But what impressed me was the way the discussions and debates took place in the auditorium, where the students felt equally engaged and interested in the issues and topics in the seminar classes. In addition, we developed projects through Google platforms and actively participated by exchanging our experiences and information with each other, mainly in relation to very current topics such as the role of the nurse in the psychological support of the patient, mental health and the Spanish and European systems regarding mental health care, population education regarding the importance of mental health, the health system in Spain, etc. Teacher-student communication was open, flexible, and very supportive. Finally, the syllabus and subject literature were well-planned, orienting and guiding every nursing program student, and were published on the official website of UCO. Even in our university, this information is not missing, but the students should be aware that the official website of UNIEL offers them a lot of information that even I did not know about before. Yes, I would gladly apply for another Erasmus+ study opportunity at another European university because my experience in Cordoba, Spain, convinced me that such exchanges are extremely beneficial both academically and professionally, as well as culturally. Albanian students should dare to look for such opportunities, which the University of Elbasan always offers. They have to change the concept of living in and adapting to another country, with another culture. Thus, they give themselves the opportunity to enrich their lives with new academic experiences, new cultures, and new friendships. Living alone in a foreign country makes you grow up and become independent in your future life decisions. For me, Erasmus+ is a real school, a great and valuable opportunity that grows, expands, and enriches knowledge and changes the mentality regarding new cultural, human, and life experiences and contexts.



Erisa Kushta

English language
University of Pitesti, Romania

I can definitely say that going on Erasmus was the best decision I've ever made. Being an Erasmus student is a "once in a lifetime experience." This experience is thrilling because, as a student, I took the first step into a new journey. This first step is not just about going to university but also taking the first step towards independence. I also made unforgettable friendships and memories. Traveling around Romania during our mobility there was really amazing. I will miss all these beautiful places and people. Although my education was online and difficult because of the pandemic, I improved my academic skills thanks to the University of Pitesti and its lecturers. The professors always approached us so kindly and patiently answered all our questions, which helped us feel more comfortable abroad. I would definitely apply again. One of the most important reasons to apply again is that I will have the opportunity to get to know new places. Since my four-month Erasmus in Pitesti, Romania, had brought me so much happiness, I decided to apply again for another semester abroad. I think that studying abroad is something that everyone should experience at least once during their university years, for the following reasons, such as the spontaneous trips you will take during your mobility abroad will leave you with so many stories to tell, making new friends, learning new language, practice English. For me Erasmus +, is about learning to love the different, exploring the world, discovering the uniqueness of every single person you meet and every landscape you see.

independence



travel



learning



new friends





Andri Gjini

Nursing
Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal
University

My Erasmus+ experience was absolutely the most exciting experience of my life. The fun, the knowledge, the culture, and the friends I gained through it are always going to be part of who I am now. I met so many people from all around the world. Only a few months, but unforgettable. The host university was so welcoming and helpful. They made me feel like I was not just another Erasmus student; they made sure I felt safe and at home. I would 100% apply again because I would like to experience again what I did during my last Erasmus mobility. To everyone hesitating or wanting to apply, do it. You may feel anxious about it, but it will go well and you will never forget this experience, as every Erasmus student all around the world says. For me, Erasmus + is a life-changing experience and a story I'll be telling to many people.





Eriona Faci

Psychology

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Erasmus + was a very nice experience for me. It was my first trip to Poland and to a foreign university. From this experience, I learned a lot, both academically and in life. I have gained knowledge from my academic studies, and I am also very impressed by the behavior and cooperation of the lecturers. After this experience, I know better how to live independently and manage my things. During this time, I visited many beautiful places and had a great time. I also made some friends with whom I went out and had a lot of fun. I have many beautiful memories from this experience that I will never forget. The thing that impressed me was the very friendly attitude of the professors towards the students. And they were very correct in announcing everything and responding to our email. Yes, I would apply again because I want to experience such an experience again. I would call it a beautiful experience but also valuable at the same time. I would suggest it to any other student because this experience teaches you many things, starting simply from the fact that you will have to live alone in a foreign country that will soon become a family place. And I believe it will be a valuable experience for you to add to your resume.





Kledison Kalallari

Computer Science
University of Pitesti, Romania



A very enjoyable and educational experience that taught me how to be a better person for myself and others while also teaching me how to live by myself and others, as well as interacting with students from various countries, races, and traditions. The teaching was exemplary, and I got all the help I needed from them when I needed it. I strongly recommend Erasmus exchange to anyone who wants to have a memorable experience while also becoming more mature and responsible. Erasmus +, in my opinion, is a way for students to learn and experience a new lifestyle, as well as a way to travel to other countries with assistance that you would not have received otherwise.

When you get the chance to do something new in your life, don't give that away.



Kleida Koburi

General Nursing

Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University

My favorite thing about Turkey is that, as an international Erasmus student, I can express myself as I want to without limits, all of the new friends I make are supportive, and of course the traditional food is amazing. I will always suggest Erasmus to everyone. You will know a part of yourself that you never knew before. The university was very big, and at the same time, the explanations given by the teachers were very easy to understand. Yes, I want to apply again for Erasmus, because there I spent my most beautiful time and also gained a lot of knowledge about my profession. I would advise others to apply to study abroad to meet new friends from all over the world, get to know a new culture, be independent, and also have the best time of their lives. Erasmus + is a memory for me, an experience that I will remember as the most beautiful experience I have ever had in my life.

Creating



NEW



Memories





Ferzilet Skilja

**General Nursing
Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal
University**

It was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. Erasmus programs are more about cultural exchange than just studies. The chance to live in a different country and meet people from such diverse backgrounds is the most attractive part of the program. The facilities and structures were new and highly developed. Practices were more developed than in our country. All the students and lecturers were very welcoming and ready to help us acclimate to that new place. Yes, I would really like to apply for a second Erasmus+ program. The reason is clear: the experience of learning a new language and a new way of life, with



practical teaching different from what we have learned, makes us know ourselves better. Everyone should try to be part of an Erasmus+ program. It is a chance that's going to change everyone's life. My only suggestions will be, Say "yes" to every opportunity that is offered to you, save enough money to enjoy it fully. Do not take the experience for granted. Enjoy it as much as you can



Eriona Qosja

English language

University of Pitesti, Romania

It was an amazing experience for me. I can say it's the best choice I've ever made for myself. I was very pleased with what I gained in a short time. Embracing this new culture was a chance to step out of my comfort zone and experience unfamiliar situations. Throwing myself into this experience, for example, by taking part in local activities, trying the local food, and making friends with a variety of people, gave me a better understanding and appreciation for that country and its people. The host university, including my professors, Erasmus+ officers, and others, were available and willing to answer any of the students' inquiries. Every Erasmus student also had an ESN buddy that was in our class and who helped us even outside of the university. They were pleased to be asked to help us in any difficulty. Yes, I would love to enjoy another experience with Erasmus in another country. It is worthy because during my studies I can explore another country, another culture, and meet more friends who are experiencing the same thing as me. I would suggest not hesitating to be part of Erasmus+. I regret not applying to be an Erasmus + student since my second year of studies. It's a great opportunity for students; there will be many international students who will be in the same country as you. In any case of difficulty, ESN buddies are there to help.

A lot of organizations and events are made in which international students take part, and it helps them communicate and understand each other. For me, Erasmus+ is more about cultural exchange than just studies. The chance to live in a different country and meet people from diverse backgrounds is the most attractive part of the program.

ROMANIA





Jonida Bicja

Economics

Istanbul Technical University



My Erasmus+ was a powerful experience. Living abroad and studying in a different way is something that I will never forget. The way of life with new people, cultures, and places caused me to bring back many memories. Erasmus+ changed my life completely. The special feature of the host university was the way the students were free to listen to the lesson or not.

If he was bored, he could leave the class. It is a very clever thing, as it is the responsibility of the student, no one forces you to achieve what he wants. Another feature was the numerous study opportunities available to students; for example, the lobby of each building was filled with study spaces where you could always see students grouped with their laptops studying.

Yes, I would definitely apply again. Because it makes you look at the world from a different perspective, always for the better. First of all, don't hesitate. Because once you are there, you will meet people you will never forget. Make the most of each day: go out, get surrounded by people from all over the world, learn from them, travel a lot, get lost in every corner of your host country, and please, live it to the fullest. Trust me!

For me, Erasmus + is a new window full of new perspectives and many possibilities that make you enjoy life to the fullest. It is an opportunity where you can challenge yourself in every aspect and be ready to succeed in everything you want to achieve.

Our Projects



University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani", is a winning institution under Erasmus+ programme Jean Monnet Chair, with the project "Financial Aspects of European Integration of Albania FARINA"



University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" is going to take part in a new Eit-funded project for boosting innovation and entrepreneurship

The University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" is happy to announce that it will be taking part in a new project called HEI4FUTURE. The project aims to transform technological

capabilities into new skills in order to create new products and services in collaboration with various industries. HEI4Future is going to be achieved through a wide range of activities to promote entrepreneurship (training workshops for teachers and educational staff, students, managers, and new entrepreneurs), workshops for teambuilding, direct support through mentoring or coach networks, and mobility programs to promote synergies between teams of entrepreneurs. The project will receive funding from the EIT HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education. This initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aims to boost the entrepreneurial and innovation capacity of higher education institutions (HEIs) across Europe. Under the EIT HEI Initiative, the project will receive funding of €55.000, and it will run until December 2022, with the possibility of getting extended for 18 more months. The EIT HEI Initiative is a key objective for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology as part of its new strategy. The initiative aims to support HEIs with expertise and coaching, access to the EIT innovation ecosystem, the largest in Europe, and funding, enabling them to develop innovation action plans complementing the needs of individual HEIs.

Our Projects

This is the EIT HEI Initiative's second call for proposals, following the success of the 2021 Pilot Call. So far, the initiative has provided funding for nearly 50 projects. The next call for proposals is expected towards the end of 2022.

About the EIT

The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, among leading companies, research labs and universities



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



EntrAL is a project funded by ERASMUS+ Capacity Building program of the European Union. EntrAL project aims at increasing the entrepreneurial awareness for pre-university teacher, university teachers and students in Albanian HEIs and

schools. Therefore, the project will bring an entrepreneurial mind-set at the university and school levels by encouraging entrepreneurial teaching methods, nurturing entrepreneurial behavior of the students and to support the creation of new ventures. Coordinator of the Project will be University of Turku, Finland.

Results

- Need analysis report on entrepreneurial activities for teachers and students
- Trainings on entrepreneurship education
- Training courses on entrepreneurship education to pre-university teachers, university teachers and university students, delivered through the LLL centers
- Entrepreneurship pilot modules
- Entrepreneurial Albanian Network
- Towards an integrated entrepreneurial mind-set kick-off seminar and International Conference
- Handbook of deliverables
- Web platform (website and Facebook page)
- Newsletters



Our Projects



Higher Education –Enterprise platform for fostering, modernisation and sustainable growth in natural stone industry in Western Balkans

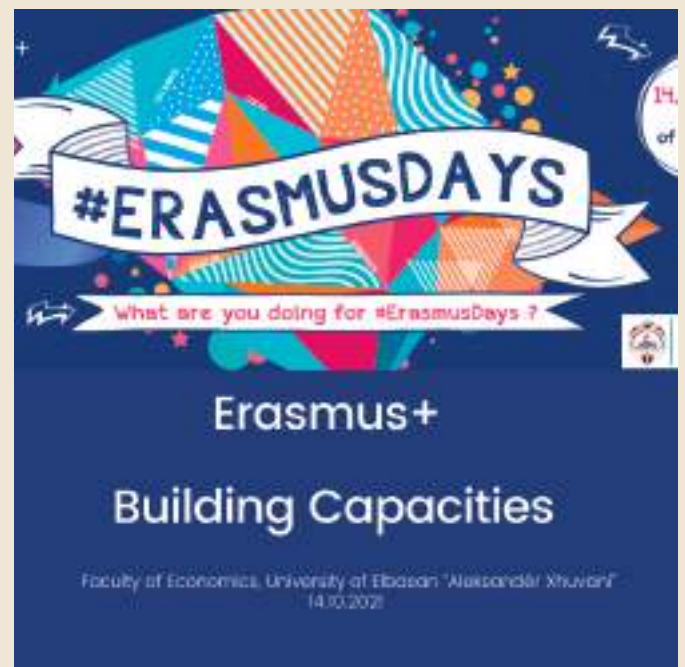
BKSTONE project has the main objective of fostering the modernization and development of the stone sector in Western Balkans partner countries through strengthening the relationship between the higher education institutions and the industry, and internationalizing curriculum and methods. To meet the requirements of current international demand of natural stone products according to EU standards, the partner countries industry has to perform important changes in quarrying methods, processing methods, quality controls following European and international standards (p.e. CE marking, ASTM, etc.), marketing strategies, international trade, e-commerce etc. These changes require the participation of all local agents, including the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) organizations, which should develop their training strategies to meet the challenges explained in the rationale of our project in terms of quality, delivery and especially relevance, in response to the industry needs. The specific objectives of the project to achieve the main goals are:

- To contribute through the outputs of the project to develop National/Regional innovation strategies for specialization in the natural stone sector.
- To put in value each country/region's strengths, competitive advantages and potential for excellence in the stone sector through benchmarking existing training initiatives and incorporating elements into the educational materials to be developed in the project.
- To support technological, as well as practice-based innovative training based on the approach and format of the courses to be developed.
- To contribute to get stakeholders in the stone industry fully involved, encouraging their participation in the conception and testing phases of the development of materials.
- To promote among students active and constructive learning as a necessary means to work in the stone sector, testing new possibilities in partner countries like Tertiary VET levels.
- To create a network platform involving Stone Sector representatives, High Education Institutions (HEI) and VET organizations of EU programme and Partner Countries based on the full implementation of the project

Other Activities

Erasmus+ Days 2021

The "Erasmus+ Days 2021" activity was held at the Faculty of Economics. The activity dedicated to the EU-funded capacity-building projects informed on the products, results, and funding realized from the completed projects, as well as promoted the objectives and goals of the projects currently being implemented. During the meeting, the participants expressed that the focus of this program and Erasmus Day 2021 is international mobility, the building of academic and infrastructural capacities, European citizenship, and the importance of the program for EU staff and students.





University of Elbasan participates in the EU4Education Fair

This activity brought together higher education institutions to present to young people of different age groups the implementation of the Erasmus+ program in Styrian institutions. The stand of the University of Elbasan presented the Erasmus+ mobility program. Special informative materials were presented for the attendees and for the current capacity building projects ENTRAL, VALEU-X, and BKSTONE, as well as for Jean Monnet's only chair, EU Enlargement and Acquiring Adoption Burden: Albanian Challenges (EEAABAC). The activity was distinguished by the fact that the presenters of these programs were EU students who had recently returned from mobility periods, as well as Ecem Erdogan, a student from the partner university, Bolu Abant zzet Baysal University in Turkey. In his stop at the EU stand, Ambassador Luigi Soreca appreciated the participation of young people and their engagement in these activities.



Erasmus+ Mobility Caffe



Erasmus+ Mobility Caffe is the first meeting of this format within the post-mobility meetings for the students of the University of Elbasan, "Aleksandër Xhuvani." The University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" became part of the Erasmus+ program in 2014 with the project KA107, which enables student mobility for all three study cycles (Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate, for studies and internships) and staff mobility (teaching, training, and scientific research) and has 50 agreements in force with partner universities. The University of Elbasan, "Aleksandër Xhuvani" has been and is part of many different projects with the Erasmus+ Program, starting with Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, CapacityBuilding in Higher Education (CBHE), and Jean Monet. UE is collaborating with different partner universities for the connection of new mobility agreements and the different projects that are in the Erasmus+ program.



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UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN

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My
ERASMUS+



CREDITS

This journal is a product of Coordination and International Relations Office of University of Elbasan