

Inspiring Erasmus Stories
during Emergency State, due to COVID-19
University of National and World Economy

Sofia, 2020



100 ГОДИНИ УНСС
100 YEARS UNWE

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Inspiring Erasmus Stories

University of National and World Economy



COLLECTED AND REVISED

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Sofia, 2020

UNIVERSITY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD ECONOMY

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*VICE-RECTOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY*

*VICE-RECTOR
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY*

*VICE-RECTOR
INSTITUTIONAL & BUSINESS COOPERATION &
STUDENT POLICIES*



University Center for Students & Staff Mobility

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Sofia, 2020

UNWE AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY STATE

UNWE is not only a place for obtaining knowledge but also skills. It is not just a digitalization of several services, but it is part of the general strategy of UNWE.

The entire process related to the education of students is digitalized and paperless. Approved system for digital signing of academic protocols for already four years and the system of electronic general records has worked for already two years. Exams are conducted digitally, in test centers, including the Erasmus students. UNWE has developed and uses information system WEB Student for the student status, exams and examinations results with log in.

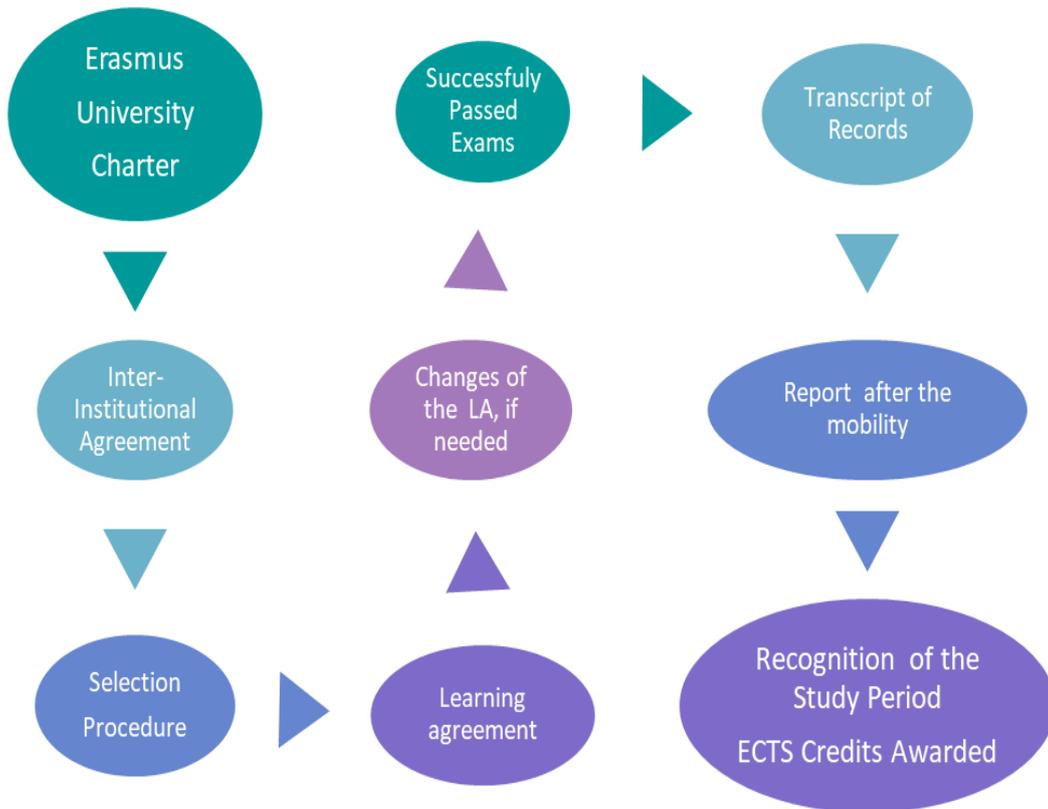
The university library - one of the largest libraries in the country gives free of charge access to the electronic database with economic, management, legal and other kinds of specialized literature, all over the world. It is natural that the following step was the E-Student Card.

UNWE is the first university in Bulgaria which brought into use the E-Student Card. The project E-Student Card of UNWE is an innovative business solution 3 in 1 - Student Book, Bank debit card and International Student Identity Card (ISIC), Their first owners became 4 000 first year Bachelor students who began their education in the academic year 2017. The plastic is like the identity card and contains a microchip with digital seal of UNWE, full student information about the owner as well as an individual sign of the student whose name is written in Cyrillic and Roman alphabet. There are two types E-Student Cards: complex one containing three components - E-Student Book, debit card and ISIC and single one including only E-Student Book. It is digitalized also the entire process related to the education of students on the base of key certificates for 200 lecturers and 30 officials, during the pilot year to eliminate any possible mistakes and unscrupulousness, valid for a year and issued by the UNWE to each lecturer, electronic signs, electronic general records, etc. At the UNWE there is an approved system for digital signing of academic protocols for already four years and the system of electronic general records has worked for already two years.

Moreover, UNWE has WEB Student In which a student can find actual information about student status, exams and examinations results if log into the information system WEB STUDENT in the UNWE website. For the purpose the student needs a PIN or PFN as well as a faculty number. Faculty number is obtained upon enrollment as students at the UNWE and PIN/PFN - when is issued an Identification Document. The same information as well as a lot of additional one could be find also directly by the information system STUDENT on the ground floor of the university. A faculty number and PIN/PFN are also needed for entry. Through it each student at any time at any of the nine devices located in the building of UNWE can be informed about the student status - grades, scholarships, health insurance, dormitories, all administrative services, academic schedule - sessions, lectures, exams, etc. There is also an application for smartphones to read the information in the E-Student Book.

UNWE has high capacity in digitalization and was fully prepared for the online education during the Emergency state due to the COVID9-19.

ERASMUS COMMON LANGUAGE OF RECOGNITION & IMPACT



ERASMUS REFLECTIONS

on Impact and Feedback

Erasmus certainly is seen as a European success story. The figures easily support this view. The Erasmus programme was established in 1987 and is among the most popular EU programmes in education and training. During its first year, only 3,244 students went abroad and now enriched the lives of more than 10 million direct participants. Each year, more than 300,000 students now study or train under the Erasmus+ umbrella.

There's more than 80 per cent of Erasmus+ graduates are employed within three months of graduation, with 72 per cent stating their Erasmus+ experience helped them to have their first job. Nearly half of Erasmus+ trainees were offered a job in the company where they trained.

It is expected that this international experience has a positive impact on the personal development of the students and in particular on intercultural understanding and foreign language proficiency, but also on their academic development. Finally, the Erasmus experience is seen as beneficial for students to find their first job after graduation and for their early career.

Reports on the Erasmus experience by students often tell about an outstanding experience having a long-lasting impact on their lives and making them discover a new European identity.

Evaluation of the Erasmus teaching period abroad is overall positive. The most often reported beneficial effects are an enhanced intercultural understanding, an intensified use of scientific foreign language publications for teaching, new co-operations with partner programmes at the host institution, improved research contacts and a broadened own specialist knowledge.

The feedback of the Erasmus Students and Staff is considered a basic pillar in studies of the impact of the Erasmus mobility.

To monitor the on-going effectiveness and sustainability of the Erasmus mobility in compliance with the indicators set in the University Strategy for internationalization, the Incoming Students and Staff under Erasmus KA107 project from Morocco, Albania and Kosovo presents their successful Erasmus stories.

WHO WE ARE?

**UNWE — University with a history of 100 years
& 20 years of ERASMUS Experience**



University of National and World Economy (UNWE) is located in the capital city of Bulgaria – Sofia. It is the largest and the oldest higher educational institution for Economics and Management in Bulgaria.

The University originates from the Free University of Political and Economic Sciences established by Order No.2155 of July, 5th, 1920 of the Minister of National Enlightenment. In 1940 / State Gazette, iss. No.126 of June, 7th, 1940/ it was transformed into State Higher Institute of Finance and Administrative Sciences and in 1947 it was reorganized as a Faculty of Economic and Social Studies at Sofia University.

The autonomy of the University was restored under the name Higher Institute of Economics by Decree No.26 /"Messages", iss. No.10 of February, 1st, 1952/. In 1953 it was named after Karl Marx by Decree No.89 /" Messages", iss. No. 23 of March, 20th, 1953/.

On April, 27th, 1990 the Academic Council made the decision to reorganize Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics as a University of National and World Economy. It was officially done by Decision of the National Assembly for establishment and transformation of higher educational schools /State Gazette, iss. No.68 of July, 7th, 1995/.

The University of National and World Economy (UNWE) is the oldest, most prestigious and largest economic university in South Eastern Europe. Annually, it offers training to more than 20 000 students. In 2018 the UNWE obtained for the third time the highest institutional assessment (9,65/10) among all Bulgarian universities from the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation (full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)). The University holds also a certificate of quality management system according to ISO 9001:2015 awarded by INTERTEK.

Human resources/Expertise - With its capacity of 505 academics, 86 of which professors and 195 associate professors, UNWE trains students in 47 undergraduate programs and 108 graduate programs (regular and distance learning). The university also offers training in 37 doctoral programs. Training is delivered at 8 faculties and 33 departments.

UNWE develops scientific knowledge in the areas of Economics, Sociology, Political Sciences, Management, Law etc. The research teams carry out in-depth research in the field of: strategic analyses of the Bulgarian economy and forecasts for its development, macroeconomics, analyses of the financial sector, social policy, entrepreneurship, the competitiveness of Bulgarian companies, agricultural policy and sustainable development, social management, foreign policy, national security etc.

For the previous year, UNWE implemented more than 100 research and education projects, comprising: 77 funded through the targeted subsidy for research activities; 11 projects funded by the National Science Fund and 10 projects funded by international programs.



UNWE further contributes to the publishing activities of its research staff through the university scientific editions – Yearbook of UNWE, Economic Alternatives (in English), Research Papers of UNWE, Economic and Social Alternatives. As of January 2016 the edition Economic and Social Alternatives has two new sections: “European Union” and “Economics Education”. The magazines Economic and Social Alternatives and Economic Alternatives are registered within the EBSCO indexing system through EconLit – the bibliographical database of the American Economic Association. In December 2017 UNWE began publishing the new specialised legal journal “Business and Law”.

In 2018 a total of 225 publications were published in UNWE’s scientific editions: Yearbook of UNWE, Research Papers of UNWE, Economic and Social Alternatives magazine, Economic Alternatives and Business and Law journal.

Infrastructure and Facilities- The university Academic Complex comprises 367 lecture rooms with 5298 seats and an overall area of 7166,40 m². UNWE’s central building houses 196 tutorial rooms, research centres and labs, covering an area of 2496 m².

UNWE’s Congress Centre offers excellent conditions for hosting academic and research forums. All halls are equipped with multimedia projection systems, free wireless Wi-Fi communication and a system for video capture, live streaming and storage of records in a digital archive.

The University Publishing Complex addresses the objectives of the educational and research process at UNWE by publishing textbooks, research conferences proceedings, materials for university projects.

The university library is keeping 542 616 volumes. Library’s e-resources provide free access to widely known electronic databases such as: EBSCO, Emerald, Elsevier (Scopus), Springer Link, Science Direct, Thomson Reuters (Web of Science) etc.

Since its establishment 100 years ago the UNWE faculty members and alumni are eminent scientists, government figures, prime ministers, ministers, deputies, politicians, the first Bulgarian European Commissioner after the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, the first Bulgarian - Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund /IMF/, the first Bulgarian - Director General of Eurostat, ambassadors, representatives of our country in authoritative international organizations, mayors, public figures, businessmen, bankers, etc. Over the last years graduates of UNWE are six of the Bulgarian Prime Ministers including the first woman prime minister.

Holders of the honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa of UNWE are authoritative persons from Europe and the USA and among them are: Prof. Joseph Stiglitz and Prof. Paul Krugman, holders of the Nobel Prize in Economics, Franz Fischler, European Commissioner for Agriculture, Prof. Václav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, Prof. Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner, Prof. Francis Gurry, Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Jean Claude Trichet, President of the European Central Bank, Prof. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization /UNWTO/, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, etc.

ERASMUS STORIES
of
INCOMING STUDENTS & STAFF
from
Morocco, Albania and Kosovo
2019/2020





BEKKOUCHE Salma
ENCG K (National School of Commerce and Management Kenitra), Morocco
4th Year student
Finance

February-June

I count myself very fortunate to be able to participate in this ERASMUS program, this experience was very positive. This was due in no small measure to the help and concern of all the staff departments. I was extremely excited about discovering a country very different from my own, Bulgaria this very warm country. The culture shock combined with studying within a different education system, in an initially unfamiliar language (THE BIGGEST INITIAL HURDLE) was very challenging.

Erasmus is a powerful experience, it made me discover a different side of mine and getting out of my comfort zone. Not to hide anything from you, I had planned a lot of trips, traveling around Bulgaria, discovering other neighboring countries, but fate decided otherwise, and it put us CORONA virus on the way and that's the worst that can happen to an Erasmus student.

I had the opportunity to discover different cultures, to meet different nationalities and the least I can say is that I had a wonderful time. I would also like to thank all my teachers who were very kind, extremely helpful and who taught us a lot, we were able to discover and learn from different techniques and methods of teaching and they accompany us during the whole semester.

Finally, I would like to thank especially all the members of ESN for their welcome, their kindness, their encouragement, they were amazing and without them I would certainly have had a hard time, they were there, and they are always there for us.

Of course, I would like to thank my buddy Rali from the bottom of my heart for everything she's done for me, for her patience, for her efforts, for her kindness, for her lively soul, you rock girl I love you.

This is an unforgettable experience, if you ever read this I invite you all to do it at least once in your life.

#OnceErasmusAlwaysErasmus



Mouna Bekkali

My sending university: University of Ibn Tofail, Morocco

Specialty: Finance

Period of stay: From February until June

My Name is Mouna Bekkali from Morocco, 21 years old, I've never think that one day I will left my country or my parents home to live a new experience, I thought that I wasn't prepared yet for that. Until one day I decided to sign up to the opportunity offered by Erasmus + in my country, I postulate for Turkich and Bulgaria, and after 2 weeks our erasmus office announced that I was taken to live this new experience in Bulgaria, a country that I never thought that it will be my first destination abroad, I was happy but also afraid, afraid of something that I don't know well. Meeting local people is one of the best things that happened to me. Being abroad as a tourist is completely different from being abroad as an exchange student. You start making closer friends, more intimate relationships, better food, and wonderful memories.

When I came in sofia I was fascinated first by the history of the city, by the greatness of the cathedral of Alexander Nevsky, by the architecture of the city, and then the oldness of the University that will study in for approximately 5 months.

I also enjoyed the ski mountain, I had the opportunity to visit Vitosha ski station with my friends and had a lot of fun enjoying the nature and the purity of the weather. Plovdiv was the second city that I discovered in bulgaria, **Plovdiv** should be **visited**. **It's** laid back, atmospheric and has a bit of everything: Orthodox churches, mosques, Ottoman-style buildings, Soviet monuments and Roman ruins. **It** epitomizes Bulgaria's diverse history.



Mounia RHAOUTI
Business and Management School - Ibn Tofail University, Morocco
4th year : Master Cycle
Specialty: Finance
Period of stay: February 2nd until June 26th

My Erasmus journey has started on the 2nd of February, just a week before the classes started. This being my first Erasmus experience, and having never visited Bulgaria before, I wasn't sure what to expect. But I was pleasantly surprised when my ESN buddy welcomed me at the airport, right on time. His help was precious, especially since I couldn't speak a single word, other than "Добър ден". I settled, grabbed a bite to eat, got a bit of deserved rest after the 20 hours flight, and then a day later, I was ready to get all the administrative paperwork done, with the aid of my buddy and the Erasmus office, who were very present and helpful during the whole process. This part done, I was finally free to enjoy Sofia as I wanted, and not even the pretty heavy snow was a barrier! The sceneries were magnificent and as I discovered this city's quiet charm bit by bit, I fell in love with it. The courses then started, and I can't help but emphasize the professor's consideration towards Erasmus students, and the patience they displayed, throughout the semester, answering all questions, making sure we feel welcome and at ease. It made the learning process very pleasant, and all my worries were erased that way.

And then, the worst and most unexpected happened; the Covid-19 pandemic, approximately a month after my arrival. No one could have seen it coming, and yet there it was. The pandemic didn't start out early in Bulgaria, but once it did, the little pleasures I learned to enjoy in Sofia got cut down. It was a bit of a disappointment, knowing I wouldn't be able to get immersed in the Bulgarian culture any further. Although it was a bit harsh, but I made sure to respect the rules diligently, staying home and decreasing the frequency of my outings to the strict minimum. The Erasmus office was very present during these hard times as well, emailing constantly, making sure I was okay and if I needed anything. The courses online were instilled pretty quickly, and as we all started discovering a new way of learning together, two months passed by, very quickly. On May 13th the lockdown measures were softened, and as the weather started getting better, so did my spirits.

My stay isn't over yet, and I'm still looking forward to many good things to come, but all I can say is this was a unique experience, and I'm grateful for all the people that made it possible and who contributed to making it so pleasant. Thank you!



Souad Bimekliouen
ENCG K (National School of Commerce and Management Kenitra), Morocco
4th Year student
International trade student
February-June

My Erasmus exchange experience was pretty special to say the least, I came to Bulgaria excited and very curious to discover a part of the world that is so different from where I come from in Morocco, I had no expectations at all, which definitely helped me enjoy this journey. It was my chance to give the best of me, to see how I could get by in a different place, with different people, a different language, and a different university. It was the adventure I've been dreaming of but what's more unusual in my experience is that I spent most of it in an apartment because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's the worst thing that can happen to an Erasmus student, it definitely changed everything, I had planned many trips around Bulgaria and in neighboring countries, going to parties, exchanging with students but Corona Virus said no not today.. However I still had a wonderful time the first two months in Bulgaria, got to meet plenty of Erasmus students that became friends, discovered the city of Sofia so I have no regrets, even for my online lectures I was able to experiment different teaching methods which helped me look at things from a different perspective, this exchange also provided me adaptability which is a crucial skill and most importantly I got to gain intercultural friendships that I'm sure will last forever ... I must say the ESN members were also super helpful , I would like to thank every single one of them for being so amazing during this time and a big shout-out to my buddy YULIA who's been there for me throughout this whole experience , I adore her, she's the absolute best !! Now that the semester is almost over and the situation with the virus is getting better, I have a month left to enjoy the country and have a blast!

I would recommend Erasmus to any student, it's one of the best experiences one can have in life, but in Sofia and at UNWE, it's even better.



Rahime Kolonjari
University “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Elbasan, Albania
Master of Science in “Banking”
First year

Period of Stay in Bulgaria : Since February 9th.

Being an Erasmus Student was one of my biggest wishes. I had heard from my friends that it was a very beautiful experience, and I wanted to be a part of that experience and experience those emotions.

Erasmus+ Exchange Program has been one of the most beautiful and unique experiences in my life. Thanks to this program I learned a lot of new things, met new people, made new friends and visited the most beautiful parts of Sofia. I also learned some of the most important things in the Bulgarian language and it was pretty cool because it was the first time I had learned to read the Slavic alphabet.

Although my greatest wish was to get to know not only Sofian but also other wonderful places in Bulgaria, this became impossible due to the corona virus. During this difficult time, staying locked up and away from my family and loved ones, I learned to appreciate the things that really matter in life, those little things that make me happy.

Corona Virus changed not only the general way of our daily life, but also the way we teach. At first the idea of online learning seemed pretty difficult to me, and at times it even seemed impossible, but thanks to the professionalism, understanding and care of the professors, I managed to adapt and attend every hour of online lectures. And I’m super happy with the results of the exams I’ve done so far. We also worked with Bulgarian students in a project and they were very understanding and very helpful.

I hope that one day I will return here again and have the opportunity to visit every part of Bulgaria because it is a wonderful place and with very loving and respectful people.



Sara Stafa,
Agricultural University of Tirana
Master of Science in Finance and Accounting, 1st year, Albania

I decided to do an Erasmus semester because I had heard from my friends that it's the experience of a lifetime and you get to meet many people from different cultures.

I would say that my Erasmus experience started off amazing, I got to meet so many people from different countries and we talked and exchanged information and facts about our cultures. As a really sociable person I enjoyed this part a lot and now more than ever I want to know more about foreigners and moving abroad does not scare me like it used to before. I have developed a new interest towards new cultures as well.

Everything was going pretty well the first 2-3 weeks, because the whole time I had a really big support from my Erasmus Buddy, Anna Velizarva and from the Erasmus office, until the coronavirus hit. It was really hard at the beginning as the whole virus situation and quarantine was a new and stressful experience for me. However, just like I mention above, my buddy and Erasmus buddy was there the whole time to make sure that I had everything that I needed and everything was fine.

It makes me a little bit sad that the most of my experience went on lockdown and I did not have the chance to explore nor Sofia, nor Bulgaria like I would have loved to. But now that the quarantine is over, I will for sure explore what I can under the safety rules from the government.

After this experience, I would definitely say that now I am more independent and I definitely have grown a lot personally. Going on an exchange experience like this, has made me more self-reflective. Besides the experience itself, taking into the consideration of the virus, all this has strengthened my ability to confront changing environments, and for sure it has helped me to know myself better. I faced challenges I have not experienced before (once I got lost in Sofia and ended up in the other side of the city. It was scary since it was the very first time I literally got lost and had no idea where I was. And again the biggest challenge of the 2020: Coronavirus).

Also I have managed to see myself more of who I am through the differences and similarities of Bulgarian culture. My idea of myself has definitely changed completely after living as an Erasmus student. My self-concept is more complete now as the image that I have for myself is fuller.

The one thing that I am super grateful of Erasmus Erasmus is that it made me to think more and see what I want to get out of life. I had plenty of time to think and reflect on how to turn my dreams into real goals.

On one of my days when I was getting out of my classes in UNWE I ran into one other student that explained to me about SouthWestern Advantage, a bussines internship in the States. I went for it and I got selected, now I am waiting to see how the whole situation goes due to the virus. But the main idea is that I tried something new, that I would not try it if I was in Albania, and I got selected. The mere fact that I thinking about doing this, the influence for this idea, came from Erasmus.

I would say that my employability is improved. Going abroad for a semester is linked to an increase of qualities which employers look for. This means that now, I am more open to new experience, I can be independent, and I have at least some intercultural sensitivity that in my opinion is valuable to international companies. I also learnt the basis of Bulgarian language, so now I can say that I know 3 foreign languages (or to be fair 2 and a half cause I still got to learn a lot).

As for the educational experience it sure was on a whole new level, since most of it we did it online.

It was the first time I was studying in English full time, and it really helped me improve my skills in the economic field in English as well. As my business english vocabulary has expanded a lot.

The educational system in Bulgaria is not that much different from the one in Albania, but still some professors had new ways that they did their classes. I had totally practical courses, such as Markets, Investments and marketing- stimulation game, where we were given a real life scenario like we were producing a given product and we were operating in the market. The professor managed to give us real life experiences and obstacles to teach us how to react in such situation. I enjoyed it a lot, but more importantly I learned even more from it.

I would sure have liked more to experience studying in the UNWE classrooms, because I think I would have learnt more and it would be a much better experience, but still I enjoyed it this way. Furthermore I would have managed to socialize more and exchange more about new cultures.

To whoever that would read this I would say that Erasmus changed me, it changed my life and it will change yours as well. It will be 6 months of pure excitement, dreams and adventures. You will meet friends that will become one of your closest and go through some really great adventures and challenges.

I wish you the best for your Erasmus. Best wishes from a former Erasmus who wants you to experience the best your Erasmus can give.



Lavdim Pllana

**International Business Collage Mitrovica (IBCM), Kosovo,
Master student in Business Management, second semester**

My first semester I completed at IBCM and I was nominated to continue the second semester at UNWE which makes my first Erasmus student exchange program.

I traveled to Sofia on 6th of March, where my buddy Nikolay Paraskevov waited for me at the bus station and guided me to the university and supported me to get my papers done for my dorm, bank account, transport ticket, etc. The same night on the 6th of March, I had the opportunity to meet other Erasmus students at an organized event, where we had the chance to introduce ourselves and share our experience to each other. We took part on a quiz which was very fun and interesting with plenty of useful information.

Due to the case of Corona virus, I did not have the chance to follow in campus classes since the government had to take prevention steps in order to keep safe the citizens. Immediately the week after we started the online classes which was new experience for me and for most of the students as well. Even though, it is not the same experience as in the class room where we discuss and share ideas, knowledge, thoughts and experiences, the online platform and the amazing very professional professors did their best and fulfilled the program the best possible way so far.

In spite of that bigger part of the semester was online, I have the opportunity to continue tErasmus experience for as much time as possible and create friendships and connections, learn more about other cultures and share about my culture as well.

During this period, I was able to learn a lot from professors on the classes which for sure this knowledge will be useful for my future career and everyday life. I was able to gain new teaching methods, new learning techniques etc. From my perspective, being an Erasmus student is more than just getting a university degree or education which I would recommend everyone to experience.



Prof. Etleva Muça, Agriculture University of Tirana, Albania, Teaching Staff Mobility, December 2019

Erasmus is not just an exchange scheme for students. Staff mobility for teaching has become very popular recently in Albania. The Erasmus + has been a fantastic experience for me. I had a great time at University of National and World Economy, in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The objective of my teaching mobility period was to contribute to the adaptation of the modern teaching techniques and linking our educational institutions as necessity of nowadays. Usually the lectures at Agricultural University of Tirana are taught only in Albanian language, and we consider ERASMUS program as a great opportunity not only to improve our teaching skills in English, but as well to improve our teaching curricula.

Albania is in the first steps in preparing teaching programs in English and the experience exchange will lead us to introduce full courses taught in English.

On the other hand, the diverse academic activities I have participated in, including interactive seminars with the faculty and graduate students conference, meetings with faculty members who share the similar academic interests, excursions to the Muzeiko has been wonderful experience. As well I have to mention that I was surprised from the University staff and Erasmus office hospitality. So, under this optic I can note a positive impact on our professional development in general. I improved both the professional and personal skills such as:

1. Organization and planning
2. Practical creativity (we remarked that case studies during the lectures were very interesting for the students)
3. Inter-personal relations. My schedule was very good prepared and I had the chance to exchange experience with experts from my field of research.

The mobility activity is linked with research and teaching collaboration. Actually Agriculture University of Tirana is passing through an international accrediting process and the exchanges of experiences might be an excellent opportunity for Albanian professors in curricula and teaching programs. The short-term motility contributed to the reinforcement of the international dimensions of my career. When I was back in Albania I shared the Erasmus experience with my colleagues and as well with my students.

In the future It will be great if we can increase the quotas for both students and professors not only from sending institution but as well from receiving higher education institution " University of National and World Economy in Sofia " .

Thank you!



Mirjana Krsmanovic Vlajic

Assistant Director, Head of Administration, International Relations Coordinator, International Business College Mitrovica (IBC-M), Kosovo, Staff Mobility, December, 2019.

My trip to University of National and World Economy (UNWE) located in Sofia (Bulgaria) was part of ERASMUS+ International Credit Mobility Project (ICM) KA1 component and it falls under category staff mobility for training. I spent 5 days at UNWE and I had a chance to meet various UNWE staff members by having very constructive meetings, enjoying modern facility and learning a lot about UNWE in general.

This was my first visit to Sofia and I was really enjoying. I learned a lot about Bulgarian culture, flavors, opportunities and challenges, people and society in general. I believe that Bulgaria is worth to be visited and I was very much enjoying this visit.

IBC-M has a good cooperation with UNWE through ERASMUS+ project: International Credit Mobility Project (KA1 component) and Capacity Building in Higher Education (KA2 component) which is focused mainly on student and staff mobility exchanges between these two institutions. I would like to emphasize that I benefit a lot from this trip and I am glad to be given an opportunity to participate in ERASMUS+ Program – such opportunities maintain and strengthen further the international character of IBC-M. This staff mobility was actively encouraged by IBC-M as part of its strategy for future internationalization of the college. The visit was unique opportunity due to the fact that it will contribute to many aspects but mainly: to improve services offered by sending institution; will help me to acquire knowledge and specific know-how from good practice abroad and to develop my own competences in my field; to gain practical skills relevant for my current job and professional development but also to build up new contacts/expand my professional network; to strengthen the cooperation with a partner institution; to share my own knowledge and skills with colleagues from UNWE. Main purpose of this mobility was to spend 5 days at UNWE in order to check how Center for Student and Staff Mobility is functioning, to visit different departments, meet UNWE staff and professors, strengthening links between two educational institutions, promote IBC-M values and uniqueness among UNWE staff, explore potential fields of cooperation in the future and to share knowledge about good practices and improvements. Details regarding future students and staff mobility in both directions have been also discussed and initial plan was made. The visit was used also to meet with UNWE staff involved in CBHE project (KA2) with the aim to discuss project achievements made so far and to plan future mobilities and activities foreseen until the end of the project. Representing IBC-M in Bulgaria was a great experience for me because, somehow, I became more aware of IBC-M uniqueness. That uniqueness is present in having mix student body, faculty, administrative staff and management coming from various countries. Basically, uniqueness in having so many diversities at one place-IBC-M! Once I step out from my work place away from daily routine and when you need to present to the others who you are and what are you doing, I become even more conscious about all IBC-M achievements in such complex environment and about the success we made by bringing all these differences together within one institution! Providing high quality education, equipping students with knowledge and skills needed for the labor market in such challenging surrounding will definitely, at the end of the day, result in economic growth and stability of this region.

In general, this was really valuable experience and the hospitality was great by UNWE colleagues, along with all logistical support provided.

Arjeta Mehmeti

**Head of Student Office, Career Center and Marketing Department,
International Business College, Mitrovica (IBC-M), Kosovo, Staff Mobility, July, 2020.**



My trip to University of National and World Economy (UNWE) located in Sofia (Bulgaria) was part of ERASMUS+ International Credit Mobility Project (ICM) KA1 component and it falls under category staff mobility for training. I spent 5 days at UNWE from 05-10 July and I had a chance to meet various UNWE staff members by having very constructive meetings.

This was my first visit to Sofia and I was really enjoying. I learned a lot about Bulgarian culture, flavors, opportunities and challenges, people and society in general. I believe that UNWE and Bulgaria in general is worth to be visited by staff and students.

IBC-M has a good cooperation with UNWE through ERASMUS+ project: International Credit Mobility Project (KA1 component) and Capacity Building in Higher Education (KA2 component) which is focused mainly on student and staff mobility exchanges between these two institutions.

I would like to emphasize that I benefit a lot from this trip and I am glad to be given an opportunity to participate in ERASMUS+ Program – such opportunities maintain and strengthen further the international character of IBC-M.

I want to thank the UNWE representatives for great hospitality and for sharing their experience and office practice with me;

Erasmus office: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekatarina Tosheva , Dr. Savena Borisova and from Career Department: Mr. Atanas Dimitrov, meeting the colleagues from UNWE was really valuable experience

Main purpose of this mobility was to spend 5 days at UNWE in order to check how Center for Student and Staff Mobility is functioning, to visit different departments, Career Department, Student Service-Administration, strengthening links between two educational institutions, promote IBC-M values and uniqueness among UNWE staff, explore potential fields of cooperation in the future and to share knowledge about good practices and improvements. Details regarding future students and staff mobility in both directions have been also discussed and initial plan was made.

FOR INSPIRED STUDENTS & STAFF

EDUCATIONAL STYLE

- In order to prepare your individual study program (Learning Agreement) you'll have to choose your subjects from our List of Courses offered in English which are listed on our website! It is important to know that courses may vary upon arrival!
- The Lectures and seminars are the usual way of teaching at UNWE. Students attend lectures and seminars for each subject in their individual study program, unless otherwise specified. If there is more than one option for a specific lecture and/or seminar, please select the one that is most convenient for you (regarding the day and time) and which does not cause any timetable conflicts
- The schedule for each semester is available at the beginning of the specific semester. Exchange students receive the schedule by e-mail as soon as it is available. In order to receive any important information on time, please provide the Erasmus+ Office at UNWE with your valid e-mail address.
- Any changes to the original Learning Agreement must be made within 30 days of the beginning of the semester.
- Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. In the event the student is reported as absent for more than 3 times without valid reason, he/she will not be admitted to the final exam.



GRADING SYSTEM & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Academic Calendar

/	Winter Term	Summer Term
Lectures period	Mid of September— end of December	Beginning of February— mid of May
Exam period	January	End of May— Mid of June

GRADING SYSTEM:

Your final grade can be based upon a written exam, a test, a project or any combination of these. According to the Bulgarian education system all grades are awarded using a six-point scale, where 6 is the highest score possible (excellent). The table below represents how these grades compare with the ECTS grading system.

Bulgarian Grading System*		ECTS Grading System
Grade	Definition	ECTS Grade
6	Excellent	A
5	Very Good	B
4	Good	C
3	Sufficient	D, E
2	Fail	F, FX

*The UNWE applies the European Credit Transfer System in all undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate programs. Credits earned at our university can be transferred to other higher educational institutions in any of the participating European countries.

The Erasmus Course Catalogue is published on the university website:
https://www.unwe.bg/Uploads/Mobility/mobility_7ada3_COURSE%20CATALOGUE_UNWE%202020.pdf

ERASMUS+ OFFICE

The most important contact for you at UNWE is the University Center for Students and Teachers Mobility (UCSTM) or, as it's more popular among our students, **the Erasmus+ Office**. You will receive all the information you need from the staff at the Erasmus+ Office. They are responsible for issuing all the certificates and transcripts.

The Erasmus+ Office is situated in the University of National and World Economy, main building, floor 1, room 1003.

You may contact the Erasmus+ Office by the following:

E-mail: erasmus.incoming@unwe.bg

Phone: + 359 2 8195 389

You can find all the necessary information about your exchange period on our

Website: <http://www.unwe.bg/mobility/en>

Our post address is:

University of National and World Economy

Erasmus+ Programme (office 1003)

Studentski Grad, 8-mi dekemvri St.

1700 Sofia, BULGARIA



INSPIRING ERASMUS STORIES

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