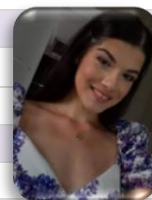


## ERASMUS+ student report on the academic mobility

### About the student

**Zorana Aleksić**

Economics (undergraduate – 6<sup>th</sup> semester)



### Basic information on the mobility period

Semester:

Summer (1<sup>st</sup> March - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022)

### STUDIES

Which courses did you attend?

*English language*  
*Entrepreneurship*  
*Corporate finance*  
*Tourism Economics*

Describe the general teaching system. How much and in what way does it differ from the system you nurture at your faculty? How important is such a different experience to you in terms of education?

The educational system is different. There are small classes with up to 10 students. The professors are using more practical examples to help students understand the topic better. The way of teaching is the same as at my home university, but you must be active and participate. Also, one thing is different than at my home university, besides the oral exam at the end of the semester, you write two tests after the beginning of the semester and mid semester. Because of that, you need to study continually. I liked it because at the end I did not need to study a lot and could travel more. There were also a lot of projects we had to do. Personally, my favourite project was in *Entrepreneurship* where we had to create a business plan and present our business idea.

What was the language of instruction? Was the foreign language an obstacle to acquiring knowledge and taking the exam? How much has this mobility influenced the improvement of your language skills?

I attended classes in Serbian because I wanted to improve my mother tongue. There is also an option to attend classes in English. I did not have any problems with communication, nevertheless English is not a problem in Serbia. Furthermore, I also took English classes to improve my English.

### COURSES

How often did you have classes?

4 days a week

How much of the knowledge were you familiar with before the mobility? How much of the acquired knowledge is completely new to you?

I had knowledge in a few classes, but I also learned a lot. For example, I had never taken classes in Tourism because I study economics, so I learned something new. My favourite class was *Entrepreneurship* because I learned a lot for my future career and gained practice.

What are the specific acquired skills and teaching characteristics that you would share with your professors and fellow students? Why?

That the final grade does not depend on one exam and that the whole semester counts, like projects, tests and participating.

How much is the acquired knowledge useful for continuation of your studies and in practice? Explain.

I learned a lot of and gained knowledge for my life not only for my studies.

### EXAMS

Have you passed the exams at all the courses you attended? Explain.

I passed all four exams with excellent grades. I am proud of it.

How difficult was it for you to pass the exams? Why?

It was not difficult because the professors prepared us well and the topics were interesting. It is important to choose the classes that are interesting, so it is

	easy to pass all exams.
Are you satisfied with the grades and acquired knowledge? Why?	I am happy that I passed all the exams. I expected to pass but never with excellent grades.

LIFE	
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	
What kind of accommodation did you stay in? Describe in detail.	I stayed in a hotel called "Villa BonnaDea", located in the centre and about 5 minutes from the faculty, so I could reach everything on foot.
Are you generally satisfied with the accommodation? Specify positive and negative aspects.	The owner and the staff were really kind and always asked if I needed something. I felt like home because of the hospitality. The room was large with TV, Internet, air conditioning, underfloor heating, a bathroom, a little kitchen and a balcony. It was a newly built hotel, so everything was clean and new. The hotel also had a lot of cameras, so I felt safe. Hygiene and service was at a high level. There was also an option to wash clothes. There was breakfast, so I could choose every morning what I wanted to eat and they would prepare it for me.
Would you stay in the same type of accommodation? Why?	YES, it was a great time! I had everything there what I personally needed and wanted for my stay in Valjevo. There were also other options for accommodation, but according to my feeling, it was something that suited me. I could not say that there was anything negative.
How much did it cost on a monthly basis?	It cost 500 euros per month.
<b>FINANCIAL ASPECT</b>	
How much money did you receive as the Erasmus+ grant?	I received about 1,500 euros
Was the amount of money enough for the life expenses?	No, it was not enough.
Did you have to add your personal money?	Yes, I added my personal money.
<b>SOCIAL LIFE</b>	
Describe how you spent your free time.	I travelled a lot and explored Valjevo and surroundings. I liked going out and just talking with people, sharing experiences, and meeting new ones. I also did solo travelling.
Did you meet a lot of new people? Describe the experience.	I met a lot of people, during and after classes but also in restaurants, cafes, clubs, bars, bus and taxi while travelling. I personally liked it talking with strangers and meeting new people.
Did you travel to other places? Describe.	Yes, I travelled to Belgrade (the capital city, which is beautiful and modern but also a lot to see), Smederevo, (calm city), Šabac, Lajkovac, Obrenovac, Ub surrounding Valjevo. Also, Niš and Pirot, the southeast of Serbia. In Valjevo I visited everything. The river Gradac (where you can swim) and Kolubara promenade, a lot of parks (Marko's chair viewpoint), Park Pečina, forests, old town Tešnar. I went to Mionica, Petnica Cave and Petnica outdoor pool. I also visited churches, monasteries, and temples, museums and historical monuments. I also explored a nature park Obedska Bara. Clubbing was also part of my student life which I liked the most because I adore Serbian music. I also liked Serbian folk, so I went to Kafanas. The highlight was flying with a glider. I could see Valjevo and surroundings from above. At the end of my stay I was invited to the graduation evening and had the best

	time.
<b>CULTURAL ASPECT</b>	
Describe your experience and your attitudes to new surroundings, language, lifestyle, traditions and people's mentality.	<p>First of all my heritage is from Serbia, so I spent a lot of time here during vacation and visited a lot of places and cities before. I did not have any problem with the language because I speak Serbian fluently besides German. Serbia is a hospitable country, and everyone is welcome.</p> <p>The people are kind and always want to help indeed.</p> <p>Serbia is a country that I personally love the most. Here you can feel free.</p> <p>The best thing in Serbia is food. Whether you are vegan or not you will find something to eat. From fish to lamb everything is tasty. Traditional food like <i>sarma</i>, barbeque, <i>ajvar</i>, <i>banica</i> or <i>ćevapčići</i>.</p> <p>I was eating out a lot, so the staff in restaurants would know me by name and always greeting me on the streets. They always want you to feel like home.</p> <p>If you are in bars you need to drink <i>rakija slivovitz</i> or taste some beers or wines from all around Serbia. Serbian people adore eating, drinking, and partying.</p> <p>Serbia has a lot of cultural sightseeing and a bright history.</p> <p>I can tell you that everyone is welcomed heartily and comes back with positive impressions.</p>

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE (MOBILITY)

<b>PERSONAL IMPORTANCE</b>	
Would you take part in the mobility of this kind again? Why?	YES, I would take part in the mobility again because it was a great experience in Valjevo.
Could this experience open a new door for you in the future?	Of course, I think coming to Valjevo just opened a new door for my future and my career. It was just a step to something big.
Describe the importance of the experience for your personal development. How has it changed you?	It changed me a lot. I could experience the student life in Serbia, talk with Serbian people and improve my language. I love Serbia even more after my stay here in Valjevo.
<b>POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR OTHER STUDENTS</b>	
Would you recommend this experience to your fellow students? Why?	I can recommend it to my fellow students because it is a great experience, and the people are kind and hospitable. You will feel like home and never want to go back to your actual home.
What do those who apply for the experience need to be prepared for? What are potential downsides?	<p>You need to be open for new things and cultures. It is way different from Germany.</p> <p>It is a different way of life; in Serbia everything is easy-going and relaxing.</p>

#### YOUR ERASMUS+ EXPERIENCE IN ONE SENTENCE

What is your message for future Erasmus+ exchange students?	I can only recommend everyone to come to Serbia and especially to Valjevo because it is a calm and beautiful city. The people are really kind, and it is a place to be.
<b>ANYTHING ELSE TO SHARE?</b>	
What did we forget to ask you?	<p>I want to thank everyone for this experience. It was the best time of my life.</p> <p>I will come back soon!</p>