

## Exchange experience University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Fall 2018

### Introduction:

Being a full-time student of the International and European Law in Groningen, an exchange constitutes a mandatory part of my program. My approach towards choosing the right institution for the Erasmus was trivial. I was seeking an interesting place with less rain and more sun than I can see in Groningen. Moreover, I wanted my exchange to happen in a well-communicated place which would allow me to easily travel around. Moreover, among the greatest advantages of the University of Ljubljana is the fact that the academic year starts on October and if one will manage to pass all the exams in the first attempt – the semester ends before the Christmas.

### The city:

The capital of Slovenia without doubt a charming place. It comparable size-wise to Groningen. The city of dragons can undeniably make you fall in love in the tiny streets around the center, which are always vibrant and vivid. The whole scenery is completed by the castle on the top of the hill, which can be visible from everywhere around the city center. People in Slovenia speak really good English and I almost never encountered any difficulties in communications.

### Accommodation:

The situation with the accommodation is quite similar to the one we know from Groningen. There are not many places to stay and they tend to be quite overpriced, especially for short-term tenants like us, the Erasmus students. I was extremely lucky to find a room in a shared apartment for a decent price of 220 euro – but the usual price for a single room is 300-400 euro. There are also dormitories available, where the double room starts at around 120 euro per month.

### Costs of living:

The prices around surprised me. Slovenia is placed amongst the cheapest Erasmus counties, but nevertheless the grocery prices are quite similar to the ones known from Groningen. The transportation in the city is fairly easy and cheap. The students are offered discounted monthly tickets for the public transportation. Ljubljana also has a well-developed system of the city bikes, which allow you to bike around pretty much for free. Besides the expensive groceries – the average prices in Ljubljana are lower than the Dutch ones. Many people go shopping on the weekends to the BTC, which is a very big shopping mall on the suburbs of Ljubljana.

The situation with expensive food is saved by the system of Studenckie Boni – which entitles you to subsidized meals at the restaurants in the whole city. In practice it means that most restaurants offer special deals, where a student can pick a whole meal (soup, salad, main dish and a piece of fruit) for a discounted price. The range is from 1-5 euro. Every student is

entitled to five meals per week, so once going for an exchange to Slovenia one might be sure to spend a lot of time visiting many restaurants around the city.

### Student life:

The University of Ljubljana is huge. It has over 60.000 students spread across 23 faculties. Thanks to this the city has the vibe of the student city. Young people are everywhere and there is always something to do. The facilities are new and well equipped. The university offers a wide range of sports activities, but due to a very bureaucratic approach, it is quite hard to join them. There are quite a few organizations, taking care of the Erasmus students and organizing events for them.

Very important fact, which needs to be mentioned is that for people who are following the regular track of European and International Law – an exchange in Slovenia can provide with abundance of free time. The academic year starts on October and it is doable to finish all the exams before Christmas (depending on the picked dates of examinations)

### The courses:

1. International and European Social Security Law

The course itself is interesting. It is based mostly on the European legislation and academic papers wrote by the tutor. It provides with a nice insight on how the EU is attempting to harmonize a sector which is extremely diverse.

2. Civil Medical Law

Another really interesting subject. It emphasizes the role of the ethics in the development of nowadays medical culture and also targets the soft principles of the modern medical law and the approach of different countries towards them.

3. European Private Law

This course I would not recommend to anyone. The tutor did not bother with any explanation of the course, nor with attending his own lectures. The syllabus is vague and expectations on the exam are really high, which results in massive confusion.

4. Diplomatic and Consular law

A really interesting subject with the course tutor, who is attempting to provide her students with insights from the work of the Diplomatic Corps. This subject requires attendance on the MUN conference, which is a really worthy experience on which we can challenge our legal knowledge in front of the fellow students.

5. Mergers, Acquisitions and Corporate Restructurings

Last but not least. A very interesting subject, which does not deal with the strictly legal knowledge. The tutor is really passionate about his subject and always attempts to invite guest lecturers from the companies connected to his field in order to get the interests of the lecture hall.