



Erasmus+

Was und Bewegt

Lilian Jagersbacher

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1. Short summary:

a.) European Parliament:

There are three European Parliaments in whole Europe, that are in the city of Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg. We were able to visit the one in Strasbourg through the Erasmus Project "Was uns bewegt" in December 2016. The European Parliament is the directly elected parliamentary institution of the European Union. It exercises the legislative function of the EU, together with the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. The 751 members of the Parliament represent the second-largest democratic electorate in the world. It has been elected every five years since 1979. There are 28 member states in the Parliament. The most members are from Germany with a percentage of 12.8%, the second most from France with a percentage of 9.9% and the third most from Italy with a percentage of 9.7%. Only 2.4% of the members are from Austria. The current President of the European Parliament is Antonio Tajani, who was elected in January 2017.

Neither the European Parliament nor the Council have the power of legislative initiative, which means they don't have the power to propose a new law. The Parliament can amend and reject legislation, but to make a proposal for legislation, it needs the Commission to draft a bill before anything can become law.

b.) Council of Europe:

The Council of Europe was founded by 10 members with the Treaty of London in 1949. Only seven years later, Austria joined the council, Germany in 1959 and Finland in 1989. It's a regional intergovernmental organization which headquarters are in France, in Strasbourg. French and English are the two official languages but the committee of Ministers, the parliamentary assembly and the congress also use Italian, German, Russian and Turkish for some of their work. The Council of Europe has 47-member states, which covers approximately 820 million people. The Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland from Norway carries the responsibility for strategic management. The 47 ministers of foreign affairs meet once a year and their duty is, to discuss European problems on an equal footing, to find collective responses to all challenges and to make decisions. The Ministers' Deputies are the permanent diplomatic representatives of the Council of Europe and meet weekly. They work

in seven rapporteur groups in depth to prepare decisions for Committee of Ministers without debate, but they have no decision-making power. The European Council has an annual Budget of half a billion euros. It is an international organization whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy, rule of law in Europe and promote European culture.

c.) The European Court of Human Rights:

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) is an international court set up in 1959. Since it has been set up, the ECHR has to deal with very different problems, than they had 50 years ago. It rules on individual or state applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. This Convention was opened for signature in Rome on 4th November 1950 and came into force in 1953. This was a very special moment for the world's history, as it was the first instrument to give effect to certain of the rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Through this convention they become very binding too.

There have been 13 judges serving the ECHR since 1959. They have served as Presidents of the ECHR. The presidents are elected for a three year term by the plenary Court, which is composed of 47 national judges.

In 50 years the court has delivered more than 10 000 judgements, that were binding in the countries concerned.

Asylum is not written as a right in the convention and Refugees can only bring charges against a violation of Articles of the Convention.

The European Court of Human Rights is recognized everywhere in the world because of its architecture, which was designed by the British architect Lord Richard Rogers in 1994.

2. Shared practice and experience:

Stay in regular contact with your friends from Austria, Finland, Germany and Italy:

During my exchange and of course after my exchange and after our meeting in Strasbourg we tried to stay in touch with all the participants of the Erasmus Project through social media. We created a Facebook group where all the teachers and students are able to write

about the situation in their country. When I was in Finland we had to write some articles about the immigration situation in Traiskirchen and the interview with Jutta Kivistö. Not only me and my friends from Austria had to write some article, the other exchange students from Italy, Finland and Germany sent some reports in the facebook group too.

We also have three WhatsApp groups. The first one we created was with the students from the Erasmus project. Through this group we informed us sometimes about what we are doing with the refugees in our country or which projects we are doing. Another group was created for the exchange in Finland, where the teachers informed us, when we are meeting with the refugees from our school and we talked about what we are going to do with and or what games we should play. And the third group is one with all the refugees which attended in school. In this one we could make plans for our meeting each Wednesday, the only problem in this group was that the asylum seekers only spoke finnish so we couldn't really communicate with them without some teachers or other students.

Document practices and experiences

Was uns bewegt-working

Task 1

In 2016 Austria expected about 85.000 asylum seekers and had 42.073 applications for asylum but only 36.030 of them were accepted. The most refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. There is a refugee camp in Traiskirchen since 1955 for 1.800 refugees but currently there are 4.500. In 2015 Slovakia assumed 500 refugees from Austria, because Austria didn't have enough space. Some politicians are concerned about the safety of the refugees because they started to deal with drugs and they came into conflicts with other asylum seekers. The charge of one refugee per year is 10.724 Euros. Young asylum seekers have the right to go to public schools and some teachers volunteer to offer a German course for them. In the different communities some people also volunteer to offer some activities for their leisure time to integrate them in our culture.

Sources:

<http://derstandard.at/2000055148547/Soziologe-Oesterreich-zog-aus-Fluechtlingskrise-falsche-Lehren>

<http://diepresse.com/home/innenpolitik/5100067/Fluechtlinge-kosten-zwei-Milliarden-Euro>

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traiskirchen>

Task 2

We heard that you were one of the founders of this organization which helps asylum seekers and we wondered what inspired you to support the asylum seekers?

What does this organization do exactly?

Of which country do you the have most refugees?

Why is the financial support from Veikkaus?

How many asylum seekers do you have in your organization?

How many employees do you have in that organization?

In which language do you communicate or do you have translators?

Interview with Jutta Kivistö

TUTUKSI is getting to know each other

We interviewed Jutta Kivistö at the beginning of May. We are taking part in an Erasmus project called "Was uns bewegt" which is a project financed by the EU. Many youngsters from Europe belong to this project that is dealing and working with the refugee situation. That's why we went to see Jutta Kivistö, an activist who is one of the founders of Turvapaikanhakijat ry. We had some tea and cookies and talked about her job and the refugee situation. Turvapaikanhakijat ry. is an organization that is trying to help asylum seekers and immigrants to integrate in our community.

Currently millions of refugees live in Europe. Dealing with the refugee crisis is one of the biggest challenges of our time. It's not only giving them a place to stay, it's about giving them a chance for a fresh start, a new life in countries that are more different to their own than we can imagine. Far away their home they have to get used to another way of life.

Without people who help them integrate, this is a task that is nearly impossible. But luckily volunteers all around the world stand up for these people and help them. And we the students that are taking part in the "Was uns bewegt" project try to do our part as well.

Before she and her friend Susanna started the project Jutta Kivistö was studying art. After that she was working for Elisa for 10 years. She quit her job, and went to work for community café where a lot of asylum seekers came and hung out. She realized that she wanted to make a difference and help others in need, so she gathered some volunteers and started Turvapaikanhakijat ry. with her friend.

The organization is helping refugees and asylum seekers in 14 cities in Finland. Right now there are about 670 asylum seekers involved in the project. In the organization only Jutta and the other founder Susanna are getting paid for their job. Other people involved are volunteers. In Turvapaikanhakijat ry. there is a project called "TUTUKSI". The name comes from the idea of getting to know each other and other cultures.

What they basically do is that they help asylum seekers and refugees to integrate to the community by searching them a group that shares the same interests. Those groups can be for example some football teams, cooking groups or art groups. There are many choices and the staff makes the decisions based on their interests and wishes. Many groups are willing to take and help the asylum seekers voluntarily but some groups are called and asked by the organization. Turvapaikanhakijat ry. advertise themselves on Facebook and look for groups and volunteers.

When a person gets to go to a new group, often one volunteer goes with them, so they don't have to go alone and they feel more comfortable.

All in all, the work Turvapaikanhakijat ry. organization is doing is one of the most important things you can do to help refugees and asylum seekers in the first place. Talking to Jutta inspired and motivated us even more to keep doing the help we are already doing. Thank you Jutta, for giving us this opportunity!

Text Lucas Hellström, Nea Rastas, Joel Christ, Lili Jagersbacher, Nadine Harrer, Natalie Heindl

Status quo during the Strasbourg meeting in Dec. 2016

Before I participated in the Erasmus „Was uns Bewegt“ project I didn't really know that much about the refugee crisis in Austria or the other countries of Europe and I didn't put much interest or thought into it. But when we were in Strasbourg we had to deal with the crisis in Europe, especially Germany, Austria, Italy and Finland. Our teachers told us to deal with the situation in my village, Gratwein-Starßengel, because we are going to do a lot of projects with the asylum seekers here.

In our hotel we were allowed to use one of their conference rooms and there, our teachers presented us all the information about the Erasmus project, what we will be doing during our stay in Strasbourg and a lot of information about the refugee crisis. For me it was really shocking to see all the numbers of people fleeing from their country and to get to now the reason why they did this or what they had to leave behind to get a small chance of having a new life. It was really scary to see all that because, they were living a regular and normal life like me and then suddenly they have war and terror in their country.

I think it was really good to inform us students about the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Court before we visited it, so we had the chance to prepare ourselves a little bit and to follow the tour guide. Also after our visit there, that we reflected what we saw and liked or did not like was really good.

Another thing I liked was that we had mixed rooms because we didn't really know each other. In each room was one of each country and so we got to know each other really well and we became good friends. I thought it was really nice that each school made a presentation of their school so you could really see what it's like to be there, so we could see where we are going on our exchange. It was also a nice experience to explore the city because I have never been there before and it was really beautiful too because there was a lot of Christmas decoration and we also could do some Christmas shopping.

Status quo when starting the exchange in Spring

I am on an exchange in Helsinki, Finland for three and a half months. In the first days it was a really strange feeling, like I am just on a vacation, but after a few weeks I realised that I am going to stay there a little longer. At first it was a little bit hard because the language is incredibly unfamiliar and the people there were really



Here, I am with my host parents on a ferry.

different than what I was used to, but I am really lucky to live at a host family like mine. I already knew my host sister because she was staying at my place for three months last year and we became really good friends and bonded really well. And of course the rest of my family is really nice and funny too. It took a little while for them to get used to me but it's fine now. The house that I live in is really cool and huge and I even got my own room. I live a little bit outside of the city, next to a park, so it is taking a little bit longer to go to school and it is still a bit confusing with all the names but I am getting better with the public transport system, which is by the way so much better than the one in Austria because I am always travelling by metro. I mostly used the metro because there was no rain going to the direction where I live, but that was really okay for me because I really enjoyed using the metro, which was coming to my station almost every ten to fifteen minutes. I also had to use two buses to go to school. It was a bit confusing and complicated at first but from time to time I got used to it and enjoyed it because I could still relax before school started.

In school my host sister introduced me to all of her friends and they were really nice and friendly too. In school we even have some same courses with our new friends and they are always helping us if we have some complications or misunderstanding with some teachers or other students. I am really glad that I didn't do this exchange all by my own. Two of my friends are doing the same exchange and we keep each other company. Sadly we live all really far away from each other but thanks to the public transport system it is easier for us to visit. In school there are also some other exchange students from Germany, France and Zimbabwe. Some of them were already there for a long time so they helped us in school. For me it was really interesting about their experience what they told us and about their organisation, with which they did their exchange. We also met them outside of school to go to some museums, or just go to the city and drink some coffee.

I am really looking forward to the rest of the time I am staying here and I will enjoy every single moment of it. I want to use the time to get to know new people and a different culture. I hope that I will learn if all the stereotypes are true or wrong. I also hope that some of them are true but if not it's not that big problem for me because I am really open for everything. For instance my host family is a typical Finnish family, because they are really shy and calm but when you slowly get to know them they are opening up and if you get to know them they are really funny and so friendly.

Status quo when finishing the exchange

On the 7th of June my exchange is coming to an end and I am really sad about leaving soon. My host family became my second family now and I am definitely coming back to visit them. I became really close friends with 3 Finnish girls, which were my host sister, Linnea, my best friend's host sister, Sini and the girl who was in Austria with my host sister, Elina. We spent almost every day together and they showed us the city and all the sights you could possibly visit. In the middle of the exchange a friend of mine and of the girl who is staying in Helsinki too, visited us and we went to some amazing places in Helsinki. Even though it was really cold we went sightseeing around the city and we also did sleigh riding on the ice on the sea which was pretty cool because I have never seen the sea frozen. They showed us the city and my host sister already agreed that she will come to Austria in our Christmas break and that me and my friends will go back to Finland in our summer break. I was able to go to the northern Finland to my family's cottage and we went skiing there and we visited a museum there about the culture in the north. Then I visited some members of my host family near Helsinki and we spent a week-end at their summer cottage and it was an amazing time. Me and my host family also drove to a small and cute little town called Porvoo where we did a little bit of sightseeing and ate some ice cream. We also got the chance to visit some other countries for example, me and my friends' host family travelled to Sweden by boat and went there on a sightseeing tour and did some shopping. I also visited Tallinn twice to do some sightseeing and shopping there. I learned that some of the stereotypes of Finland are true but others are completely wrong. For instance Finnish people are really shy and calm but when you get to know them they are really lively and really nice and it was nice to see that not all stereotypes are true.

I really enjoyed the time here and I made so many friends for life. It was a huge advantage that my host sister introduced me to her friends. They helped us to fit in too and we not only met in school or did some school projects together, we also met outside of school to drink some coffee or eat some lunch.

In my school, called „Oulunkylän yhteiskoulu“ we got along really well with the other students and the courses we took were really fun. We participated in a German course, an arts course, an English course, a mathematics course and a Finnish course. I preferred the arts course because we did a lot of pottery and we also made some books by ourselves, we could

really be creative. The teachers in school were really nice to us and tried to answer all our questions. We tried to follow the lessons even though we could not really understand that much of the finish language but everything worked fine and we did not have any huge problems. In general I really like the school were we went and the school system. It's nice to choose what you want to learn like they can with their course system.

I learned a lot about the finish culture and their habits. It was very interesting to learn so much about an unknown culture and their history. What I learned about the finish people is that they are really proud to of their country and that they always defend their country.

I think I gained a lot of this experience and I am definitely more independent and have more self confidence than before my exchange.

Projects concerning refugees in Austria

Not only during our long-term exchange in Finland (Helsinki) we concentrated on working with the refugees, by having several activities with them, but also now in Austria, after our stay in Helsinki, we are continuing to work with the asylum seekers, espacially the ones from our school.

Already before we joined the Erasmus project, we knew some asylum seekers in our school, because we met them in our courses like maths, biology and physics. They have always really been nice to us and we could see that they put effort in integrated themselves in our classes. In our municipality, there is an event, once a year, called „Fest der Begegnung“, which allows the citizens of Gratwein-Straßengel to get to know the refugees living in the surroundings. They also have the opportunity to gain insight into their culture, traditions, and local specialities. The first time me and my school colleagues participated at the „Fest der Begegnung“ with some of our teachers, was in 2016. We met two of our classmates, Moschtaba and Popal and they held presentations about theis experiences in their home countries and after their escape, in Austria. All the refugees prepared some of their local specialities and everybody had the chance to taste anything they wanted. The main focus of the event „Fest der Begegnug“ in 2016 was spotive activities.

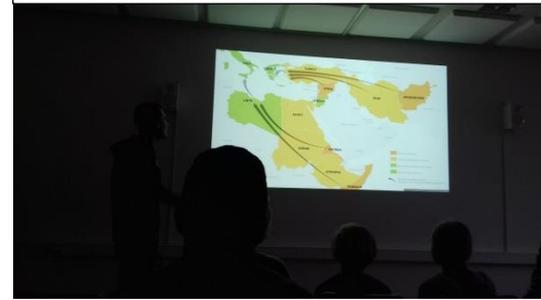
The already mentioned event took place in 2017 again. This time the main focus was food, games, traditional clothing and presentations. Just like in 2016 the asylum seekers prepared

Was uns Bewegt, Lilian Jagersbacher

some of their local dishes again, but Austrian specialities were also served. Again, everybody could eat whatever they wanted. In another room, which was located next to the meeting room, we could play games. The refugees prepared typical games of their home countries, me and my school colleagues brought a game called „Mikado“ and „Skipo“, which are Austrian. Since two of the finish exchange students were currently on their exchange here, they presented two card games called „Ristiseiska“ and „Kolme Homoa“. We could play whatever we liked to and the ones that brought the game with them were responsible to explain the game and teach us the rules. It was really nice experience to play games from Afghanistan or Syria. After the games some Austrians and some of the asylum seekers organized a fashion show. Austrian women presented the traditional „Dirndl“ and Austrian men the traditional „Lederhose“. Of course every other country presented their traditional clothing very proudly. Furthermore one of the refugees of our school called Anas, from Syria, had a fascinating and touching presentation about escape routes. Just like the previous year the mayor of Gratwein-Staßengel had a short speech at the very beginning to welcome all the participants and to start the event.

The following month we got the opportunity to interview Astrid Schatz, an integration commissioner, which means that she is responsible for the integration of the refugees in our community. I gained a lot of new knowledge and it was very interesting to hear about her work and experience in that area. Astrid helps the asylum seekers who contact her to fill in important papers which are mostly written in German, because they might not be able to understand everything. Her office is located in the so called „Kostnix-Laden“, where asylum seekers get things what they need for their daily lives for free. In addition, she is looking for volunteers who can help the refugees, these volunteers can provide strollers or prams or other things which are needed for them. Moreover, they can get furniture, like wardrobes, chairs and desks. The integration commissioner also helps to find jobs for them, because it is very complicated. The asylum seekers are not allowed to earn more than 110 euros per month and they are only allowed to work in the municipality. They can do jobs like building up stages for small concert, cutting hedges, cleaning up

Here is a refugee from our school talking about the common escaping routes.



That picture was made at the interview with Astrid Schatz, with some exchange students from Finland and Italy.

the mess after a football match, mowing the lawn, painting walls and renovating in our primary and secondary modern schools.

Astrid Schatz told us, that there is no special education for that job, it is more or less learning by doing. It is not only hard work and a lot of organisation but it also affects her emotionally, because many of her clients are not allowed to stay in Austria since some of them get negative decisions. Never the less she puts a lot of effort in her work and we had the feeling that she really loves what she is doing.

One of our other projects was the ZEBRA workshop, which presented us one man and one woman who work for ZEBRA. We have done the workshop in our school in Rein, during our school lessons for four hours for two days. ZEBRA is a non-profit organization which was founded in 1986 in Graz. ZEBRA has an interdisciplinary offer that addresses different levels (legal, social, political, medical, psychotherapeutic and psychiatric). Audiences are especially Asylum seekers and Convention refugees, Torture victims, traumatized person, migrant workers and their family members. Zebra is also a Department for Migration-Specific Legal Issues and they are free, freely accessible and supported by interpreters.

ZEBRA explained us two different definitions: 1) asylum seekers, 2) Refugees / Asylum-entitled. Ad 1) Persons applying for refugee status and are currently in the process, i. about their application yet has been decided.

Ad 2) have asylum from the Austrian state within the meaning of the Geneva Convention received awarded.

Then we spoke about the different life situations of the asylum seekers in Austria. They are accommodated in special accommodations for refugees. Often the accommodations are empty gymnastic halls, old schools, old and empty hotels or only in some tents. The asylum seekers have often to wait long time for the examination and so most of them are really bored, because it is also really difficult for them to get an employment opportunities and so they are often the whole time at home and do nothing. But they have a chance to do some volunteer work, like landscaping, take care of parking, leisure and sports facilities and maybe they can get a service check can earn a little bit money. A lot of them are also scared about their other family members, which are still in their home countries and maybe surrounded by war.

Then, our presenters, told us some numbers, data and facts about refugees. Nowadays there are sixty-five millions people on a flight on the whole world. In Austria the most people who want an asylum came from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. In our federal state, Styria, we have now 8.825 asylum seekers housed in this special accommodations. The most of the accommodations are accessible with the public transport, so the asylum seekers do not need a own car. They also told us, that the turkey, Lebanon and Pakistan housed the most refugees. But also Ethiopia and Sudan host a lot of refugees from Syria and Afghanistan.

The most people flew, because of War, armed conflicts, terror Personal pursuit Attacks on the civilian population: missing or murdered relatives Forced recruitment and forced marriage No / insufficient medical care No educational opportunities for children and adolescents Lack of food supply.

At last point we learned how to organize a project with asylum seekers and how we can get a support by money from the state. In small groups we started to fill in one of these application lists. My group decided to organize a football tournament in Gratkorn with the asylum seekers from our school.

My classmates and me were also in Rothleiten, it is a little village between Graz and Bruck/Mur. In Rothleiten there is a kind of a UMF-Quartier (Unbegleitete-Minderjährige-Flüchtlinge = Unaccompanied minor refugees) with the name "Welcome"-Quartier. Currently there are about forty unaccompanied minor refugees who live in an old and empty castle in the countryside of Rothleiten. Some of them attend also our school and we see them sometimes. At the "Welcome"-Quartier they get help from social workers, who worked for caritas. Also, they get all the things they need like food and drink, clothes and pocket money.

We went there on Monday the sixteen, October 2017 after school together with our teachers, by car. At Rothleiten the unaccompanied minor refugees prepared for us drinks and a lot to eat, which they have cooked. We ate the traditional food "Bolani". "Bolani" is a flat-bread from Afghanistan, baked or fried with a vegetable filling. I ate a lot of it, because it was so good and I tried to cook it at home but it was not as good as the refugees cooked it. After the perfect meal we played tabletop football, listened to music and tattled about the champions league or the last football-league games in Italy, Germany, England and

Spain, because some of the asylum seekers are interested in football like me. We talked also about a lot of other current things in live. We were there for the whole afternoon and we really enjoyed it. Before I went to sleep I was really thankful for the wonderful day in Rothleiten.

3.) Diary during the exchange

One of the best experiences of my life was my exchange in Finland, which was from the fifteenth of February to the seventh of June. I got the possibility to take part at a project which was sponsored by the European Union. The project is a part of the Erasmus project and it's called „Was uns Bewegt“ and it is occupying with the refugee crisis in Europe and the immigration in some countries. In Finland I was really lucky because I lived with such a nice family, with which I did so many things.

The first thing I experienced in Finland was, that the oldest classes from every school in Helsinki and in ours, dressed up really crazy and made some jokes about school and the teachers in the gym hall from school. After that they threw a lot of candy everywhere in school and then they got out and there were already some trucks waiting, with which they were going to town. In the city were already so many trucks and they were driving in a circle. The students were screaming and singing songs and continued throwing candy on the street so all the small kids could collect them. The trucks they rented were really cool because they designed them with some jokes and a logo of their school. This event is called „Penkkarit“

The next thing from our school was the prom called „Wanhat“ where my host sister danced, because it was her prom. They danced two times, the first time was for their family and relatives and the second time was for the whole school. I saw both times and I think that it was really cool. Wanhat is completely different than our Maturaball because they are literally just dancing. I think they learned around thirteen dances from a teacher and then they did one by themselves. It was very beautiful. What I really liked were that every girl could wear whatever colour of her dress she wants, so it was all very colourful and gorgeous. They all looked like princesses and I had a really good time. On the next day of Wanhat the students organised an afterparty where only the kids from that grade were only allowed to attend, of course I got an invite too because my host sister was one of them. Directly after Wanhat was

a break where my host sister Linnea, two of her friends, and a friend of mine were going to my family's winter cottage in Lapland. We went there by train, which was pretty exhausting because it took around sixteen hours. When we arrived in the village, called Ylläs, where the cottage was, the grandfather of my host sister picked us up and brought us there. On the first day we didn't go skiing, we just unpacked and ate some Finnish food which was made for us, but on the other days we went skiing on the hill that was nearby. It was really cool to get the opportunity to go there but it was really cold there too. I think it had always around minus twenty degrees and there was always blowing the wind really hard. One day we couldn't even take the gondola because it was too risky so we went up the hill with a drag lift, which was horrible because of the wind. We made a lot of pauses and went really often to some ski cafes and drank some hot chocolate to warm us. When we went back to the cottage we immediately went to the sauna or ate some warm soup. We also visited a really cool sight near to the cottage, which is a hotel completely out of ice. It was really cool because some people were really staying there for one or two nights.

When we went back to the city we visited some museums in Helsinki with some other exchange students and some teachers from our school. I think the first one we visited is called Kiasma, a modern art museum. The statues and paintings that were there, were really cool and so interesting. Another museum we visited was the Ateneum, where they exhibited so much about the Finnish history. It was really interesting because Finland is only 100 years old so it's a lot about the Russian and Swedish history too.

It was, I think, one month after we left Austria, when my friends visited me and my other friend in Helsinki. She stayed at my house for four days and we showed her our new life. We went sightseeing through the whole city and then we came across a really cool thing. The sea was frozen at that time of the year so we could stand on the ice because it was really thick. So we went to walk there and then we saw some people driving with a sleigh on the ice. Of course we tried it too and it was so much fun.

Short time after my friend from Austria left some of my friends organized a surprise party for a friend. It was really fun and we even had a dress code, everyone had to wear something black or white because she was wearing a red dress. She was really surprised when we were at her house and she was really excited about her gift we all bought her. Her party was super fun and we laughed a lot. Somehow after the party almost everyone who was there got sick.

Me and my host sister of course too and we got some virus. I think I had to throw up really often and I couldn't eat anything. It was really horrible because I didn't know what I could take or do. Thank god I had the virus only for a few days and then I started to feel a bit better. After me and my friend got back to our normal rythm, we visited an ice hockey game between the team from Helsinki called HKI against a team from Oulu. We went there with my host father my host brither and two of my friends.

A few weeks after that ice hockey game, my friend Natalie had her seventeenth birthday, she is also on an exchange in Finland. We celebrated her birthday at her pace with all her friends and it was so much fun.

After Natalies birthday we went to Tallinn with the boat and went on a small sightseeing tour there. After visiting some monuments we went shopping because it was pretty cheap there and they had a lot of cool stores.

In the Easter break me any my host family went to there summer cottage and had a great time there. I even baked some typical Austrian food for them and they really liked it.



That's me and my host mother on a paddle

The last big trip I did during my exchange, was to Stockholm with my friend and her host family. We went there by boat and spent a day in the beautiful city. It was lovely there and I had a great time.

Sadly soon after that my exchange came to an end. I am so glad that I was able to see and do so many things !

b. Personal report in form of an essay "Tell your own story/experience as a student short term migrant

I have been taking part at the Erasmus „Was uns Bewegt“ project and one part of this project was a longterm stay in one of the three countries, Finland, Germany or Italy. I chosed to stay for three month, from february to june, in Helsinki Finland. My exchange partner is not taking part at the „Was uns Bewegt“ project, but she is a part of the Erasmus project and she spend also 3 month at my place in Austria.

On the fifteenth of February me and one of my friends, we started our exchange by flying to Helsinki. I was really excited to start a new chapter in my life and i was really nervous too

because I had to leave all my friends and family at home. But I was really excited to meet so many new people, culture, traditions, family and landscape. It was kind of a relieve that I already knew my host-sister, because she stayed already three month in Austria, from august to december 2016, at my place.

When we landed in Helsinki it was really the start of a new chapter and I could really feel how much is going to change in these three month. The first time I met my host mother, Tuula, and my host brother, Tommi, they where really friendly but distancted. It felt a bit weird because when I meet some person in Austria the first time I am really open to them and I treat them like they are already friends or we know each other, but they really treated me like some stranger and espacially my host brother wasn't that excited to meet me. Of course my host sister Linnea was really nice to me and it was like we never were seperated for such a long time. I met my host dad one week later because he was on a business travel but when he met me he was really excited and so nice to me. He was not like a typical finnish person, he was really funny and made a lot of jokes right when we met, Kari, that's the name of my host dad, was immedeatly open to me.

From time to time it got better and I really felt like at home. My host mother just needed a bit of time until she could open up but then we became really close. Like with the rest of my host family. I really felt that they wanted me to feel at home and make my stay as comfortable as possible and I think they succeeded.

I came along a few stereotypes I had before my exchange about the finnish people and culture. For instants, my parents told me before I went to Finnland that everyone there is going to sauna everyday and for a really long time an when I visited a few houses in Finland I saw that it was true because, I think, every house in Finland has a sauna. Of course in the bigger houses the saunas where bigger but they have to have at least a small cabin. I personally did not go to sauna as often as my host family invited me to go with them because I do not like that feeling in there. In addition tot hat, all of the finnish people are going to the sauna naked togehter. I mean I could go there along naked but they wanted me to go with the whole family naked and in that area I am not that open as the finnish people are. But I think I was five or six times in sauna and that was always in the cottage. I was two or three times in Lapland, in Ylläs in the sauna. There I really needed to go there because it was so cold when we were skiing and that way I had to defrost. The other times when I went

to sauna were when I was in the summer cottage and there my host sister. There my host sister and me went to the sauna and then we went swimming in the lake which had around three or four degrees.

Another stereotype is that Finnish people are very calm, shy and closed. I have to say it is kind of true and kind of false. When you don't know the person with which you are talking, they are very shy and they also don't greet you or smile if they see you. But when you have to get the chance to get to know them they are going to open up and are going to be very funny, nice and sometimes pretty crazy. Of course there are some exceptions, like my host father or a good friend of mine, which are really open the first time you meet them and joke around immediately.

The next prejudices I came over is that everyone thinks that Finnish girls are all tall, blond and have blue eyes. I mean my host sister is all of that but that does not mean that every girl is like that. The bigger part of girls I met were not blond or tall, only a small part of them. I would describe Finnish girls, after my exchange in Finland, as rather smaller and only a few of them are tall. I don't know about their eye colour because I can't really remember their eye colour. And about the hair colour, I would say that of course some of the girls have really blonde hair but a lot of them had rather dark blonde hair. I also think that most often people confuse the Finnish people with the Swedish people because when I visited Stockholm, in Sweden, I really could see that so many girls there have these light blonde hair and I think they match so much better with my stereotype than the Finnish girls.

I had some dreams before my exchange in the unknown country and I hoped that all would come true, but sadly they did not. Let's start with my dreams that did not come true. When we visited my host families winter cottage in Ylläs, Lapland, where we went skiing and visited also a hotel out of ice, which was pretty cool because you could really stay there for a night and sleep there. I personally really hoped that we would see some wild reindeers on the street or pass by a reindeer ranch and go there to feed them or pet them, but sadly we did not see one single reindeer, even though my host sister's grand-dad was driving through some woods and really slowly. Another thing that was really depressing was that we didn't see any northern lights even though the time was the perfect time for the northern lights or aurora, that's how they are called in the North of Europe. That was really one thing I really

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wished that I would see but unfortunately the weather was always so bad and cloudy that we never were able to see them.

One thing that definitely came true was that I wanted to learn about their culture, traditions and habits, what I did and I really enjoyed it to learn and experienced so much.

Another thing which was pretty nice and where I had all my happy moments were when I travelled with my host family in Finland or with my friends outside of Finland in some other European countries. As I already said was my first trip during my longterm stay in Finland to their winter cottage, where I went with my host sister, two of her and my friends and another Austrian girl. I really liked it there because it was so different to home and we could really bond there. What I didn't like was the skiing there because there was only one hill and my ski weren't that good either. Furthermore the weather was not that good. It was so cold, that we could not really ski because our feet were so cold, I think it had around minus twenty degrees. In addition to that there was blowing a wind so the main gondel was closed.

What I thought was really cool was that we were allowed to travel to Ireland, which was organised by our school in Austria, with all our classmates. I think it was halftime of the exchange when we flew to Dublin. There I met all of my classmates again and I really enjoyed being there with them. We spent so much time together and just talked about my exchange and the people there and they told me everything about what is going on at home and what they were doing. Saying goodbye to them was really hard, especially to my two best friends because I knew I wouldn't see them in such a long time. Another place I visited, sadly only for one day, was Stockholm, in Sweden. I travelled there with a friend of mine and her host family by boat. We went there overnight so we could sleep on the boat and then spent the day in Stockholm to go sightseeing in the gorgeous oldtown. We also did some shopping on the boat and in the new city.

I think most of the moments where I was really happy, were the moments I spend with my new friends or my host sister. I made a lot of new friends during my longterm stay in Finland, not only Finnish people also other exchange students from other countries. I think the first friends I made were actually two girls, friends from my host sister, which visited her when she was staying at my place.

On this picture are my friends and me on a special occasion.



We went to the Lapland cottage together and had so much fun there. The other girls I met and became friends with were all from my school, and they were all friends of my host sister Linnea. We had some courses together with some of the girls like arts or sport. In sport I always talked with a girl who has relatives in Austria and so it was really nice for me to talk to her.

During my longterm stay in Helsinki, there were only a few things I didn't really like or I wasn't used to them. I really liked the majority of things I did, no matter if it was in school, with my host family or in my free time with my friends. I really liked the public transport system in Helsinki because there is always going a bus, metro or a train, no matter what time or day it is. I lived a little bit outside of the city and everything was kind of far away even the city and all my friends, but it wasn't really a problem for anyone of the exchange students because the public transport, as I already mentioned, is really good. If I wanted to go to the city I just needed to take a bus and then the metro and just get out at the main railway station. Going to school was a bit complicated but I think I really managed it very well. For going to school I had to take a bus to the metro station, there I took the metro to another railway station and then I had to take another bus to go to school. It took me, I think around forty-five minutes to get to school which is something I didn't really enjoy doing. In school there were a lot of things I liked because it was so different to our school and I didn't have to learn anything there for my school, only a few things. The first thing I really enjoyed in the Finnish school was that we had no fixed curriculum, we could choose which subjects we wanted to part take and so we took some real easy ones where we could participate. Also I really liked that the school wasn't always starting at eight o'clock in the morning, because on some days I could sleep really long and just come to the lunch break, which directly leads me to my next point, the lunch. In our school in Austria we don't have a proper cafeteria, we only have a small buffet, but in Finland we had a real lunch break which was 45 minutes long and the food there was pretty good. One last thing I want to mention, about the things I liked is that I really appreciated it that my host family made my exchange so pleasant, with all the trips we made and they were always so accommodating and did everything they could to help me and they really integrated me. I didn't have any fears, obstacles or limitations before or during my exchange. I had only one hope and that was that I hoped that my family will like me and that I have a good time there.

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What I think was really nice was that we did sometimes something with the refugees in our school and that they were happy to do something with us too. I couldn't think of anything I would do different.

Interview with a social worker from Caritas in Luxembourg

During our stay in Luxembourg, on our fifth day, we got the opportunity to meet a social worker from Caritas and interviewed him. His name was Malik and he works for Caritas since 2003. At the beginning he gave some information about what he is doing and after that we started to ask some questions.

Student: Which nations of refugees are there in Luxembourg?

Malik: All together there are 45 different nationalities of the migrants, but the majority comes from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan. Before the winter we had many migrants from the Balkan, but most of them have to go back to their home countries.

Student: How many homes have you got?

Malik: There are twelve foyers and the houses have the capability of 50 beds up to 300 beds. All in all, 1500 beds are available but currently two thirds are occupied.

Student: Are there private or bigger refugee homes ?

Malik: Well, not exactly but the citizens of Luxembourg can provide them apartments or houses. The social workers are responsible to ask the hirer if they provided the apartment to refugees for a lower price, than they would offer to the inhabitants.

Student: How many unaccompanied minors do you have?

Malik: In the foyer my colleague and me are responsible for, there are about fifty minors without parents. I am sorry I don't know about the other foyers.

Student: Are the children allowed to attend school?

Malik: Basically they are allowed but at the age of seventeen, they don't have to attend school anymore. Though, they have to attend courses like french, maths and science, which are provided in their foyers.

Student: Do they get food or do they cook themselves?

Malik: They can't cook in their houses by themselves, even though they have multiple kitchen in their foyers. I don't know why but the ministry does not want them to cook. There are two or three houses out of twelve, in which they are allowed to cook by

Here are we in school with the Finnish refugees. We cooked some food together and ate it



themselves. They get the food provided and trucks bring it to their foyers but it is more expensive than in the supermarkets. We also try to give them the food which comes from their county if they ask for it, but we can not assure it.

Student: Do refugees get the possibility to work?

Malik: Yes, but they are only allowed to do small jobs like painting etc.

Student: How much money do they get?

Malik: First of all, it depends on their age. Adults get 25 euros per month, while minors only get twelve to twenty euros. If they get the positive decision, they get 100 euros for medicine, doctor visits and tickets, but they have to calculate everything on their own.

Student: Do the inhabitants of Luxembourg accept the refugees in public?

Malik: Well this is a very difficult question. Do you think that people in Austria accept the refugees?

Student: More or less I think. It depends on the person:

Malik: See, I think it is the exact same in Luxembourg. I also think it depends on the education, the origin and the background of each person.

Student: Thank you that you took your time to answer our questions.

Malik: Well thank YOU, that you are so interested in the situation of the refugees and our work, because you are the future. I wish you good luck for your further education. Merci beaucoup pour votre attention!

MERCI !!