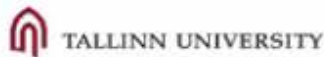


VIRTUAL MOBILITY

FOSTERING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING BY COMPARING CULTURES

MARIS SAAGPAKK (TALLINN)
NEELAKSHI PREMAWARDHENA (KELANIYA)
RAMONA BÄTZ (TALLINN)



Sites of memory in Germany, Estonia, and Sri Lanka

- ▶ Site of memory – sth that has a symbolic meaning for people from a certain culture (a statue, building, landmark, but also a historical event, person, festivity).
- ▶ Design of the project
- ▶ Desired outcomes of the project



Design of the project

German Erinnerungsort – reading, pinpointing the main essence for the German culture today in joint group work (I & GD)

Research of an equivalent in the students' own culture (Estonia & Sri Lanka). Presenting and discussing the object. (I & GD)

Designing the presentation (GD)

Introduction into the topic, lecture (class discussion)

Warm-up activity to agree on the shared needs of the group members. (CD & GD)

Feedback & feedforward meeting (CD)

Presenting and listening to other presentations (2 x CD)



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Learning outcomes

History in its relativity

- ▶ The meaning of cultural objects, events, phenomena can and do change in time and can only vaguely be captured in their full capacity.

Intercultural understanding and personal growth

- ▶ Being part of an international team, getting the experience of negotiating on both content related issues as well as practicalities and the aesthetic presentation of collaborative ideas.
- ▶ Acting as an expert, the students' linguistic and symbolic competence in the project was unique and irreplaceable.

Language skills

- ▶ Using German as Lingua Franca both for content-related tasks as well as for interactions relating to the organizational aspects of working in teams.



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Vielen Dank!



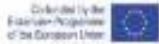
ERASMUS + CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION TOOLKIT PROJECT

CASCADE TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA, SRI LANKA



TOOLKIT - DESIGNING AND MANAGING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, EDUCATIONAL PROJECT AND MOBILITY SCHEMES IN ASIAN UNIVERSITIES



Project Details



Name of the Project : Erasmus Mundus IMPAKT Project

Type of Mobility: Academic Staff – Onsite

Duration : 01 Month

Host Location : University of Szczecin, Poland



al. Papieża Jana Pawła II 22a, 70-453 Szczecin
tel. centr. (+48) 91 444 11 72, fax (+48) 91 444 11 74

UNIwersytet SZCZECIŃSKI



University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka

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& සේවා

About Me

Prabhashini Wijewantha

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – MSU, Malaysia

Master of Business Administration (MBA) –

University of Colombo

B.Sc. Human Resource Management Special –
SJP

Associate Member of CIPM

Senior Lecturer, Department of Human
Resource Management, Faculty of Commerce
and Management Studies, University of
Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.



Activities done



Presenting at a Conference in Spain

Wijewantha, P. (2018). Doctors Look After Our Well-being, But How To Look After Theirs? Testing A Model of Work-family Conflict (WFC), Perceived Social Support (PSS), and Employee Well-being (EWB). Paper Presented at The 15th International Conference on Human Resource Management, Madrid, Spain. (Extended Abstract)

Contributing a Chapter to an Edited Book Chapter Collection

Wijewantha, P. (2018). Empathic Listening in Organizational Communication: Putting Oneself in the Other Person's Shoe, In: S. Misiak-kwit, M. Wiścicka-fernando (Ed.), Communication. Relations. Management, Volumina. Szczecin. Pp. 31-38. (Isbn: 978-83-7867-790-1)

Activities done contd.



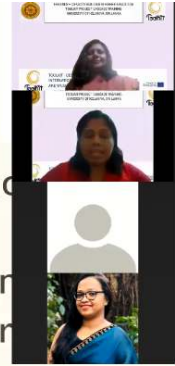
Presenting at a Conference in Poland

Wijewantha, P. (2018). Occupational Health And Safety (OHS) and Organizational Commitment: Evidence From the Construction Industry of Sri Lanka. At III Human Capital In Enterprise and Economics – Perspective of Management and Economics Conference, University of Szczecin, Poland.



International Staff Training Week

Travelling and exploring Poland and few other countries in the EU (e.g., Paris – France, and Spain)



Challenges



Travelling abroad alone for the 1st time

Getting familiarized to a country whose main language is not English

Delivering a lecture to a foreign students group in Poland

Getting myself adjusted to meals without rice

Staying alone in a dormitory room alone



How to Overcome?



UNIWERSYTET SZCZECIN
ul. Papieża Jana Pawła II 22b, 70-452 Szczecin
tel. 4999 194891 444 11 72, fax 194891 444 11 74

- Guidance and support from Professor Neelakshi Premawadha and the staff of the International Office, University of Kelaniya
- Guidance and support from the staff of the International Office, University of Szczecin
- Academic friends from University of Szczecin whom I have developed connections during their mobilities in Sri Lanka



How to Overcome? contd.



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ul. Papieża Jana Pawła II 22b, 70-452 Szczecin
tel. 4999 194891 444 11 72, fax 194891 444 11 74

- Support received from my host country buddy
- Support from International Student Mobility
- My other academic friends



What have I gained?



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION
PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

A lifelong learning opportunity (an objective of SDG Goal 04)

Promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence

Global citizenship - Aware of and Understands the Wider World

Appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development (Target 4.7 – SDG Goal 04)

Qualified teachers - including International Cooperation For Teacher Training In Developing Countries, Especially Least Developed

③ ① ⑦ Countries And Small Island Developing States



My Recommendation



Would you recommend Erasmus Mobility to the other

A BIG YES



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Virtual Student Mobility Projects

German Studies Unit
Department of Modern Languages
University of Kelaniya (UOK)
Sri Lanka
22/11/2021

1) With Prof. Bartosz Wojcik from [Szczecin University Poland](#),
German Department on the history of the formation of Germany,
Nov 2020- Jan. 2021

2) With Prof. Maatis Saagpakk from [Tallinn University Estonia](#)
School of Humanities and students of German on "German Memory
Spaces" (Deutsche Erinnerungsorte),
from 19th February to 24th April 2021

- ▶ Institute for German Language and Culture, Martin-Luther University, Halle, Wittenberg.
- ▶ Heinrich-Heine University, Dusseldorf.
- ▶ Ludwig-Maximillian University, Munich.
- ▶ From 2020 April until today online events at UOK.

What we learnt and sustained?

- ▶ Project Content
 - ✓ history of Europe and Germany with Prof. Bartosz Wojcik
 - ✓ about memorial places in Germany Estonia and Srilanka with Prof. Maatis Saagpakk
- ▶ Differences and similarities between nationalities

Positive Aspects & Challenges

- ▶ Openness of each university to virtual study visits and exchanges
- ▶ Cultural awareness
- ▶ Study in a more place-independent mode
- ▶ Preventing barriers to physical mobility
- ▶ Challenges - technical areas & academic processes
- ▶ Skills development

Issues & Recommendations

Issues

- ▶ unstable of Internet connection
- ▶ lack of information technological knowledge

Recommendations

- ▶ utilized a variety of technology options
- ▶ personality skills must be developed
- ▶ more virtual events even after the pandemic

Student Presentations on Virtual Mobility

Presentation 2: 3rd year Students



THEMES



4. Duden



EKI & KKI in Estland
Malalasekara in Sri Lanka



6. Wartburg / Martin Luther

Bischofsburg Kuressaare(Arensburg)
Sigiriya

5. Deutscher Wald (German Forest)

Estnischer Wald
Sri-Lankischer Wald



Challenges faced



- communication failures
- difficulty in time Management
- absence of Participants
- connection issues
- gap between ideas

The intercultural experience



- could interact with the other culture
- get used to the time difference
- did not face language barriers
- learnt cultural importance through presentations
- could make new friends



Positive aspects of the virtual mobility



- participation of all the students
- free of charge
- group Bonding
- communication
- fast approachable
- collaboration



Thank you!



Student Presentations on Virtual Mobility

Presentation 3: 2nd year Students

29th October – 19th November

Tongji University, Shanghai,

China

University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya

Sri Lanka

Fayoum University, Fayoum,

Egypt

Mother Theresa University,

Skopje, North Macedonia

Group work - topics

- Food
- Fashion
- Cultural Festivals
- Historical Places

Challenges and how we overcame them.

- Poor Communication
- Time management
- Technical issues
- connection issues and losing time

Intercultural experience we gained.

- Got to know about different aspects of different cultures
- Opportunity of cooperating with delegates from different countries.
- Became more sensitive to different ways of life, traditions and customs and worldviews.
- Learn to respect and appreciate other values.

Positive aspects of virtual mobility

- Could gain lots of knowledge and experience outside our own country
 - Allowed for communication activities with teachers and fellow students abroad.
 - Became more familiar with the virtual platform.
 - Became more confident in Public speaking
-