

Erasmus Programme

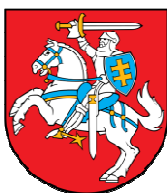
Individual work plan for staff training mobility

ISM KAUNAS – VILNIUS June 2009

Carlos Fernández-Argüeso Hormaechea

Home university (institution)	UNIVERSIDAD DE CANTABRIA	Host University	ISM KAUNAS-VILNIUS
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PRELIMINARY



Lithuania is the largest country of the Baltic States, located in Northern Europe, being country borders on Latvia, Belarus, Poland and Kaliningrad (Russia). Member of the European Union since 2004, has developed an impressive economic performance over the past years, though this trend has brake down this first semester of 2009. In my opinion, the 3,3 million population, the current official money (lita) and not enough

developed infrastructures; aren't the ideal figures to solve these problems. At least, it's said that population stands a right health, education and cultural level, as I could realized.

I've judged important to describe the most important Lithuanian Universities. Just missing Siauliai and Klaipeda centers. And sure that Vilnius University deserves a more extend description but I just made a short visit inside.



VILNIUS: 2009



Vilnius represents more than the capital of Lithuania. The motor of the economy and political life. For example, you can see many embassy buildings, foreign people working, bus and railway stations working as “hubs”. Officially established in 1323, has a rich history and one of the biggest old towns in Eastern Europe. Because of its uniqueness, the Old Town was added to the Unesco World Heritage list, and personally I’ve to admit that the numerous churches, old buildings and beautiful parks deserve this consideration. Add than, this year 2009 hosts the European Capital of Culture, <http://www.culturelive.lt/en/main> performing lots of concerts or cultural events in which I was involved and, can assure, the music and performance there played, were delightful.



As I detailed in the final certify, I contacted Vilnius Major staff as for promote our 2016 Santander’s candidature for European Culture, and try to promote any kind of common activity, well considered for the European Union final voting I did also share out lots of distinctives among staff and teachers, getting interested by this initiative and our town.

ISM campus in VILNIUS

In the very heart of the stare miesto (polish word for downtown, easy to understand for Lithuanians as I could probed), located in a historic building, a former Basilian Monastery. In fact, ISM hires the property, and has reconstructed just the interior, in order to preserve the historic heritage, and due to some urban laws. It happens the same with spanish normative.

Once inside, I got surprised by the harmony between old and new style. Antiques halls but newly, fully equipped classrooms. New, practical furniture design in spacious offices where you could breathe history. Modern mirrors outbreak classical views, like the one I made everyday a glance, from the Vicerrektor’s Hall. Always arriving at deeply early hours because the premature june’s sunrise on these lands; having a glance outside, there at the old round table the sun lightning over the old monastery, the brilliant green gardens... Let’s return to the other dependences, as the Library, computer rooms, reading room and conference multipurpose room.

The architect should have been really skillful, how he could managed to create space and let light coming into with so sharp restrictions? This doubt and other more were explained to me in Infrastructure department, within other doubts I’ll explain later on.



KAUNAS

Closed to Vilnius, located between the Nemunas and the Neris rivers (forming a large body of water, one of the pair I saw in Lithuania. The other I visited was in Trakai, surrounding a beautiful fortification.

Either Second World War and soviet period influenced greatly this town. Many signs and museums remind these tragedies. History Museum, located in front of Kauno Techn. exposes lots of collections, arms and maps of all sort of Lithuanian life periods and historical facts.

Mostly of it population are ethnic Lithuanians, in contrast Vilnius offers mixed population based on polish, Russians, and European workers.

Called as *city of students*, holds about 50.000, which represents exactly 12% of citizens.

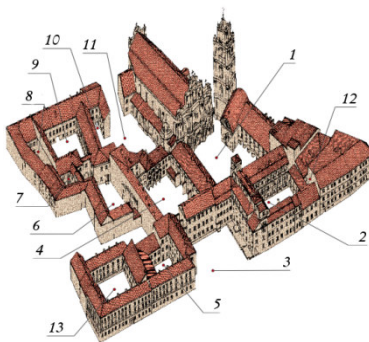
Kaunas University of Medicine, Agriculture and Veterinary; Art, Humanities... of course ISM and Kauno Univ. Technologies compose the main study offered.































ISM campus in KAUNAS

In contrast with Vilnius ISM, this is an example of modern architecture. Imagine yourself and old tobacco factory –could anyone think that Lithuania used to produced tobacco? - transformed into an academic building. That's right, the seven classrooms offered enough capacity to about 500 students, and some other useful spaces. Though, the entire campus doesn't propose sportive or cultural offer. The environment looks like the town, bit grey and rude. But, as same as Vilnius, the workers inside take care of the visitors. Between Kaunas and Vilnius campus, a minivan journey is provided. I was also given an umbrella and other facilities in my step-way to other Institutes.

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

Established in the 16th century, represents the concept of the classic University. I could visited just a facultie, a colege and the library. Searching in the database, and surprising by the numerous beatiful buildings forming the Campus, I found the several dates: 12 faculties, 8 institues, 10 study and research centres, botanical garden and the rich pretty library I visited. Even St John's Church is included into the Campus, which really is formed by 5 different campus.



<p>Score Comparison (from lower € to higher mark €€€€€)</p>	<p>Studies Wide range of studies Studies for exchange students Study programmes in English Teachers qualification Level of English spoken Course tutors</p>	<p>Infrastructure Campus Student's residence and accommodation Location Connections Sport services Cost of living</p>	<p>Research Programmes and projects Scientific events Networks Summer courses</p>	<p>Erasmus International Bilateral cooperation & LLP/Erasmus agreements Associations Easy contact Partners</p>	<p>EES Implementation Grading System Diploma Supplement ECTS credit system International Awards</p>
<p>ISM VILNIUS</p> 					
<p>ISM KAUNAS</p> 					
<p>VILNIAUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY</p> 					
<p>KAUNO TECHNOLOGIJOS UNIVERSITEAS</p> 					
<p>VILNIUS UNIVERSITY</p> 					

Source: From my own point of view, based on the info given by official brochures and study guides.

From official meetings and conversations.

Some conclusions taken after reading figures and databases, Official Lithuanian University fact's book.

Meetings at ISM – Vilnius – Kaunas

Erasmus Programmes:	<p>Dr. Rūta Kazlauskaitė. Being one of my two main contact, I enjoyed fluid contact with this versatile teacher plus manager person, from the very first moment. We exchanged information, brochures, ideas and details about study structures, learning programmes and students. Their teaching method, almost exclusively in English language. I was informed about their rules, organization, schedule. About their history, awards, and future plans. I attach some official documents and brochures, extending all this information.</p>
At Kaunas	<p>Tadas Sarapovas At the top rank (ISM KAUNAS) emerged this tall well-mannered man. Main responsible, within Rūta, of exchange programmes and Erasmus students. We both reviewed a couple of new agreements signed up with Indian and Russian universities, respectively. We did also study our common process from international students.</p>
Undergraduate School	<p>Vice Dean D. Ivanauskaite Though at the top of the ISM rank, we enjoy a long fluid meeting. Talking about Human resources, the coming next High European space. Their administrative functions and system, which I was able to watch. How they contracted teachers, staff. How they face expenses, plan investments; fill gaps and controlled incidents.</p>
Senior studies	<p>M. Sueldo Amazing and polyglot southamerican professor. Not only teaching as founding resources, coordinating teaching activity, even translation were normal functions. Active learning methods and modern teaching, plus cross cultural experience and well balanced approach (I mean they mix theory and practical exposure of subjects) are they identity signs.</p>
Executive School	<p>Lina Rimkutė The aim was clear: Special teaching for postgraduate students already working, whom aimed to improve their competences. Some of them were old students, but an importance percentage were new professionals, whom could afford the money for the registration</p>
Marketing	<p>Jurgita Gaukstienė She was the responsible for promote, develop meetings, sign new teachers, acquire new trends... Always worried about recruiting new students, their promotion is based in several medias as academic brochures given in cultural encounters. Just small budget for media commercials. Basically being active in the schools and academies. Assisting to any event related to graduates. Printing brochures. Uploading news. Renewing the website.</p>
Library	<p>Jurgita F. Entering at their library, I found a small, cozy useful stance. Just few steps from the book hanging shelves to the common study tables. Only a narrow corridor and access to a kind of living room specifically prepared for students. Brightly, powerful coloured walls around armchairs and some students amazingly preparing exams. Soon was opening a bookstore, within Infrastructure development.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Aurelja Kazinaitė Another weakness of ISM, either in Vilnius than in Kaunas. How to manage to grow in limited urban space. We checked several structure drawings and architectural plans of Spanish and European campus. Finally, after an exhaustive review of the ISM dotation and plants, the future new buildings at ISM were showed to me. New services (as a new bistro or kavas=cafetería, addition of new room (to the library, for example) and kind of reorganization of spaces.</p>
Graduate School	<p>Ieva Martinkaite I learnt how they have adopted northamerican rules in some ways: opening ceremony of the new academic year, introduction lecture... The Graduate system is based on two year, full-time programmes, taught entirely in English as I explained. Besides, They could earn two degrees. Also offering Master's International Programme.</p>

MEETING AT GEDIMINAS – VILNIUS

Located in the northeast part of the town, I arrived by trolleybus to this public University. Just took me a 10 minutes trip from the downtown. Surrounded by vaste forests, and composed of different buildings, hosting 20.000 students, offered a pleasant campus for the student.

**VILNIUS
GEDIMINAS
TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY**



LILIJA GONCAROVIENE

We had a long conversation and common exchange of info, graphics and ideas.

So after learning the study programmes in English, and analyzing cost of living, I decided to propose an agreement between Geminidas and UC.

Our Industrial Engineering ECTS Coordinator agreed the programmes.

Basically, consist on Courses from 1 semester to 4 years, avalaible in periods (spring or autumn), equivalent to our quarters.

Building Energetics, Environmental Management and Clean Production, Fundamental Science, Construction Engineering, Mechanics and Electrical Energetic Systems Engineering, among some else more, offer an interesting ECTS catalogue for our students, including the possibility of registration in Master´s Thesis.

Searching at partners, specially Spanish partners, we can read 10 of our most important universities. <http://urd.vgtu.lt/en/?id=7108.8181>

About cost of living, and average monthly living of a single student in Vilnius:

Accomodation ... 130 eur (residence really closed to the classes)

Food ... 130 eur

Local Transport ... 15 eur (trolleybus, as I said)

Miscellaneous ... 130 eur

Total cost: 400 EUR/month.

Add a considerable cultural and musical offer, also at lower prices in comparison with Western Europe. Low cost air fares within Kaunas (1 hour bus from Vilnius).

LLP ERASMUS INFO <http://urd.vgtu.lt/en/?id=7332.6304>

ERASMUS COORDINATORS <http://urd.vgtu.lt/en/?id=7345.6310>

(Including Lilija´s email. See her functions below:

Institutional Applications and Reports to Education Exchanges Support Foundation, Department of Science and Higher Education, and to European Commission; Monitoring of LLP/ERASMUS bilateral agreements and projects; Administration of LLP/ERASMUS funds; Coordination of teaching staff and students' exchange flows.

Meeting at Kaunas

**KAUNO
TECHNOLOGIJOS
UNIVERSITEAS**



Robertas Kupstas

As main Administrator at the International Office, explained me how they prepared their Bachelor´s, Master´s and Doctoral degrees. Their main target was preparing young specialists, becoming good professionals in the future.

We also reviewed their study plans, English programmes and other courses.

Further explanatation on official brochures I attach.

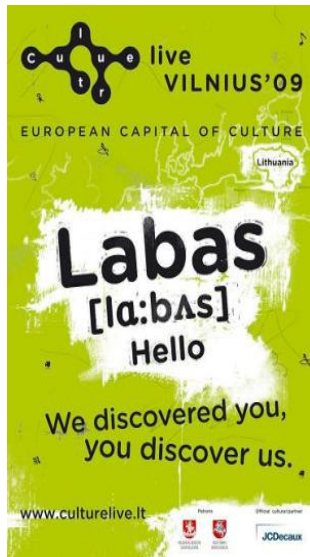
In conclusion, Kauno TU is quite interesting, also receiving lots of Erasmus students. And offering a wide range of Degrees.

Aknowledgements

I would like to thank the support of my International Office (Águeda and Gema and the staff behind them).

To my promoters and supervisors in Vilnius/Kaunas Dr. Rūta Kazlauskaitė and Tadas Sarapovas.

To the Responsible of Santander Tourism Bureau Council, Gema Igual, who gave me info and support for promoting Santander 2016 candidature.



& Conclusions

This broader initiative was really well-spent, being on the target, I mean knowing new staff and teaching culture, new universities, getting in exchange information and processes, from each part.

The reception and treat were constantly polite and open-minded.

Besides, I was involved in some of their academic acts and normal life; either in several cultural acts developed in the town.

Finally, I've got more experience on my English language, speech skills and Training learning.



CD FRONT COVER

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