Erasmus Exchange and Student Life in Kehl
Exciting opportunities to travel and enjoy different way of life

Author: Petra Savkovic, Slovenia

Hochschule für öffentliche Verwaltung Kehl is a partner university of Faculty of Administration in Ljubljana. In September 2011 I was part of a study visit in Kehl. There I had a chance to see Kehl for the first time. It was a diverse and interesting study trip. And so one year later I decided to do an Erasmus practice here in Kehl. For me it seemed like I was living a whole different life – new country, city, street. Everything had changed in one day.

One of my internship assignments was a preparation of an English brochure with information about University of Applied Sciences Kehl, which was meant to be used for purposes of a study trip in Turkey at CAG University. This is why I also joined a group of 22 students on bachelor studies in Public Management, where the courses are held in English. I joined a variety of different lectures about European Public Management, European Union and its institutions.

I have never imagined that while staying in Germany I will travel as much as I did. The biggest advantage of European Public Management studies is that students have the opportunity to see how universities for public administration function abroad. Our first study trip was in Turkey in October 2012. We spent a week in Mersin where we attended 3rd International Cyprus Symposium which was hosted by Mersin University with the collaboration of Cyprus Association of Turkish Culture, Çağ University, and Çukurova University. During our study trip in Turkey we also had a chance to see Istanbul. Afterwards in November 2012 we had a second study trip in Stuttgart. The topic of this seminar was Migration and Integration in Germany. It was an intensive and diverse one week seminar with a lot of workshops and practical cases.
The last and the most memorable was a study trip in Africa. We spent two weeks in Mayotte, a small island of the Comoros and an overseas department of France, situated in the Mozambique Channel of the Indian Ocean, next to the Madagascar.

As part of the partnership with the CNFPT Organization and University of Applied Sciences Kehl we spent a week participating in the French-German seminar where we shared interesting topics and projects. The aim of the seminar was the development of public services in both countries and to compare as well to exchange governance structures in both countries. We found many similarities between Germany and France.

Being an Erasmus student meant for me improving my German language and gaining new work experience. It also gave me a chance to meet some wonderful people at HS Kehl who became my very good friends.

To conclude, in general, you would never expect all this possibilities in a small city like Kehl. I would say that is the main advantage at the University of Applied Sciences Kehl – you really become a member of the university and you never feel alone.

So young students shouldn’t hesitate to come and study in Kehl! Erasmus Programme enriches students with the experience of studying and working abroad.