

Erasmus Report

Erasmus Mobility Academic Year 2021/22

Location: Madrid, Spain

My name is Anja and I have been working in a human rights organisation in Spain for the last six months. My internship was funded by Erasmus+, which made the realisation of this personal project a significantly easier. In October 2021, I held a speech at the Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna. One of the listeners of my speech was the Executive Director of the organisation that should later become my workplace. Shortly afterwards, Access Info Europe, a human rights organisation based in Madrid, offered me to work with them in the form of an internship, although without remuneration.

Without further ado, the Erasmus+ funding program made it possible for me to accept the first long-term internship possibility. I moved to Madrid three weeks before the start of my internship in March 2022, a city that I have never visited before. With moderate Italian and basic French skills, I moved to a Spanish-speaking country where almost nobody had a command of English. It became more of a necessity than a choice to learn Spanish.

My main work assignment was to conduct research on company transparency and anti-money-laundering in the European Union. To dive into corporate law from a human rights perspective was a highly valuable addition to my academic and professional profile. I had the possibility to work with people from various nationalities and cultural backgrounds. A personal highlight was to not only closely get in touch with Spanish, but also the broader Latin America culture. Thanks to my colleague from Venezuela and friends from Colombia, I got to understand a lot about the interplay and sentiments in between those two cultures.

Besides main linguistic advancements in English and developing a good basis level of Spanish, my decision to go abroad has taught me the value that can be gained by exploring a new country. I realised that there are a lot more opportunities for me in the international field awaiting me. "Al final", the vibrant city of Madrid and the charming Spanish language has enchanted me so much that I decided to stay here, even after my Erasmus mobility, for an unknown period of time.