

Groupreport - IUW 2022 Girona



University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer

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Online Meeting (20.04.2022)

The International Week started with an online meeting. The group of girona introduced themselves and gave us some information about the upcoming week. Afterwards a keynote speaker called Peter Beresford held a short presentation. At the end they asked us to tell our name and what we like about

our country or city and the spanish group invited us to join a whatsapp group and helped us with our questions.

Our Travel to Girona

We started our trip to Girona by flying to Barcelona on the 23rd of April. We decided to spend the first night in Barcelona due to our late arrival. We used the 24th to do some sightseeing in Barcelona and took the train to Girona in the evening. When we arrived in Girona we checked in into the hostels and whiled away the evening being excited for our following adventure. Because I (Riikka) am Finnish, I was signed to a different hostel than the German students, by the organization team. The hostel I went to first was a disaster. I arrived there, and some students from Belgium were leaving the place, because it was moldy, dirty and a very old building. The next day, me and the Danish people I shared room with changed the hostel to the same with students from Germany and other countries, so that story had a happy ending.

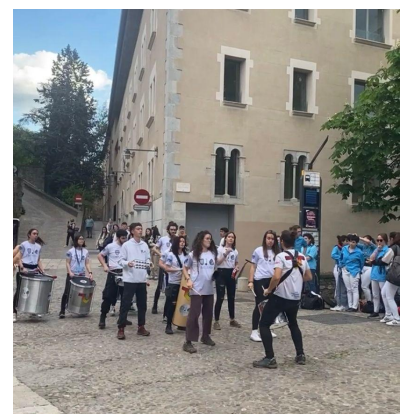
First day (25.04.2022)

When we arrived at the university of Girona on our first day, the Spanish students were already waiting for all of us. They gave everyone a bag with useful items like a map of Girona. Before we started to get to know each other we had the chance to sign up for the workshops and field visits that we were interested in. Afterwards the organization group of the university in Girona welcomed us and started with some activities to get to know each other. All the visiting students had to bring an object that is common in their country or city. We presented these objects in the plenum, which lightened the mood a lot and helped us to start communications with students of the other countries. As



soon as we finished the get to know activities we went outside, where a group called Xoriguers was already waiting for us. They showed us a typical catalan activity called human towers. The Spanish students told us that the goal is to build the human towers as high and stable as possible. Afterwards the percussion group Batucada played some live music, which made some students and lecturers dance and clap their hands. With that positive atmosphere we had an

international Buffet and ended the day by all going to a bar together.



Second day (25.4.2022)

On Tuesday morning we arrived at the campus yard at 9 for our Warm up activities. At 9:30 our workshops started. We had 6 different options to decide 2 where we wanted to join. Workshops were held by visiting teachers, students or some other guest. My first workshop was titled "How do we prevent radicalization and extremism in Europe". It was held by the visiting teachers from Denmark. First they had little introduction to the subject and after that different countries went to their own groups to talk about how radicalization and extremism occurs in their countries. After some time different countries presented what they discovered about the subject. We didn't actually talk a lot about how we prevent those things, but more about the subject in general. For example in Finland we have some laws and build systems to try preventing radicalization and extremism. My second workshop was titled "Resilient glo-cal experiences to debunk rumours on migration".

At 13:00 we had lunch on our university patio. Food was mostly some spanish/catalan type that I enjoyed. 15:00-17:00 we had some outdoor activity. On the first day we decided if we wanted to join "Discovering Girona" or "Game of Thrones" themed. I went to the second option, on that city tour we got a map full of different locations where the series "Game of Thrones" was filmed. It was interesting to see those places, even though I haven't seen the series. First option had different locations, where Spanish students were waiting and giving different photo related tasks to do. The activity was fun for everyone and a good way to get to know the city a bit better! In the evening, after the activity we had some free time. Most of us went to spend the evening with some other students from different countries and the Spanish hosting students also joined us.

Wednesday 27.04.2022:

On Wednesday we woke up and walked to „Placa de la independencia“ where we teamed up for our field visits. Our first field visit "La sopa" was in Girona so we did not have to go by bus but walked. "La sopa" is a homeless shelter specialized for people living in the streets, newly emigrated people who yet have no papers and elderly who can not live by themselves anymore but have not reached the minimum age for federal retirement home.

The main building consisted of several floors which followed a ladder system: a sleeping room for new arrivals was at the bottom floor. It was not very big

and contained 8 beds. The rooms on the upper floors were more spacious, contained less beds and more furniture. These were used by people who were planning on staying in the shelter longer. The very top of the building had a little terrace, which had a very view over Girona. On the top floor the women and elderly had their long term rooms. The social worker who gave us the tour was very nice and explained their work in the shelter to us in detail and answered all our questions.

Afterwards we went to the 2nd location, which was the “Centre Civic”. After a short presentation, we were given a tour of the building. It also consisted of several floors and had many multifunctional rooms for all kinds of activities such as theater, sports, painting and cooking.

After a short lunch break, we got on the bus which took us outside of Girona, to a place called “LA FAGEDA”. La Fageda is a farm which mainly produces yogurt and jam, but only hires people with special needs who can not work on the first labour market. The working conditions are tailored to the workers needs and even offers possibilities to live on the premises.

At 6 pm we drove back to Girona and then we had free time. In the evening we met in a restaurant where we ate, drank and enjoyed time together.

Thursday (28.04.2022)

On Thursday we started the day with “limbo” as warm-up while listening to music from the playlist the organising students made for the IUW. After that we went to the very interesting workshops: “Human rights”, “Social Innovation: Hospi-adventure” and “Economization in Europe, Economization in the Social Sector”, where we were able to discuss and exchange our international perspectives on these topics. With new energy from the coffee break we went to the next workshops: “The world is our neighbourhood” and “Social innovation: Battle pitch”, where we got new ideas on crossing perspectives from the lecturers and the other international students. We relaxed during the lunch break, ate and went to a café. Then we continued with a “Kahoot” quiz, for which we formed internationally mixed teams and tried to answer the questions right. The winner team got a prize and the winner of the “funniest picture” from the city tour on Tuesday was announced. Afterwards, we went back to the hostel to relax a little and get ready for the Farewell Gala Dinner at the University. We ate, drank and danced there before we went to a local club to continue our last night in Girona with our IUW-Group.

Friday (29.04.2022)

On Friday everyone woke up tired from a long night of socializing. As a last morning activity, we all signed posters to commemorate and thank the team for the week we had together. Afterwards we all met in the small auditorium. We were divided into teams to play a round of kahoot. The questions referred to things we learned about Girona and about each other during the week. It was a perfect game to round up the week and although tired we all had a lot of fun. After the kahoot game, it was time to name and give prizes to the winners of the kahoot game and of the photo contest.

After a little coffee break on the patio, we called the other universities to share about the week we experienced. It was interesting to see the other students and universities and hear and see their experiences through a recap video every university prepared. The real time online evaluation worked well and gave everyone the chance to comment on what they thought went well and which parts needed improvement. After this, it was time to say goodbye, get our suitcases from the hostel and leave Girona. We were all a bit sad to say goodbye to the group, as we had gotten to know each other quite well and had such a good time together.

Our group and a few other groups took the train back to Barcelona to spend the weekend before going back to their hometowns.

All in all we had a great time and learned a lot in the international university week!