

Report on the 3 Months Studies Mobility Program for Higher Education – KA107 International Mobility at the University of West Attica, Greece

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Host University : University of West Attica - UNIWA
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Introduction

My name is Peter Kibe Njuguna, a Ph.D. student at Kenyatta University pursuing Hospitality Management. I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the ERASMUS+ and the European Commission by extension for providing this international mobility opportunity. I would like to equally thank the host University for the quality time and the hospitality of specifically Ms. Vatou, who helped us with correspondence and documents ahead of our arrival, Ms. Zafiri who has really made our stay in Greece smooth and Prof. Katson for immense guidance, and insights through our research and tutorial activities.

Relevance of the opportunity to my career growth.

This opportunity has opened doors in terms of research and made me connect with other researchers in this domain. Greece being a leading world tourist destination has also enabled me to conceptualize the industry that I work for in different perspectives. I used the time in the country to develop my Ph.D. research proposal, synthesize literature and conceptualize the research gaps. I also interacted with the research output of the University of West Attica (UNIWA) which helped me in conceptualizing how international research should be. My research topic is ***Workforce Resilience in the Hospitality Sector***. This is a topical issue especially when the sector is under the threat of multiple human and natural disruptions. With the help of our supervisor Prof. Katson, I also managed to get access to the UNIWA library materials and subscribed to

databases that we do not have access to back in our home university. This will help a great deal in the course of writing my dissertation. I have managed to write and put together a literature review article with the title *“Building Resilient Hotel Workforce in The Era of Uncertainties: A Literature Approach”* and hope to publish it in a peer-reviewed journal.

Tutorial Activities at the University of West Attica



I was very gracious to be given an opportunity to teach and share with undergraduate students in the Department of Tourism Management. This was really a great opportunity as I reminisced about being introduced to the tourism industry. I also managed to share with the students my research interests and the differences and similarities between East Africa’s tourism industries and the tourism industry in Greece. It was also a good opportunity to mentor the young and upcoming professionals in the industry and how they should prepare for their life post-university studies. We have a lot to learn as a destination that records a peak of 2,000,000 visitors vs Greece which averages 25 million annual visitors.

Adventure and tourism in Greece - Lessons.

I am grateful for the ERASMUS+ Grant, as it gave me an opportunity to experience Greek tourism firsthand, a dream of so many Kenyans. From the mouth-watering Souvlaki to the Acropolis, the relaxing environment of the Islands as well as the Athens nightlife. This made my stay in Athens extremely memorable. Important to note is the way the tourism product in Greece is marketed and the stories behind them. Greece has too much history and this has been preserved in the museums and archeological sites. It is very easy to get the information online and also book tickets online.



Life in Greece



With the help of the UNIWA ERASMUS Office, we managed to secure accommodation in convenient neighborhoods in Athen. With the use of my student ID, I managed to get a discounted card for the public transport system that helped me move around. The Greek people are extremely friendly and welcoming. Special thanks to my landlord, Mr. Stelios, who became like a father to me. The accommodation was equipped with all the amenities that enabled us to study even while at home. I would really like to recommend his apartments for future ERASMUS students. His email is papama04@yahoo.gr.

Professional Networking in Greece

I was lucky to be invited to attend the 2nd International ERASMUS Staff Week at the University of Piraeus, University ERASMUS+. This was extremely eye-opening, especially the insights from the presentations from the partner network. The theme was: “Internationalization through European Projects, research, and innovation”. We were exposed to various ways of seeking inter-university collaborations for impact-led research with live examples of what such collaborations have led to.



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