

Erasmus Programme
Student Mobility for Placement
FINAL REPORT FORM

My name is Rascacea-Onea Alexandru and I am a student at the Faculty of Automation Computers and Electronics from the University of Craiova at CR. In the academic year 2012-2013 I was in placement with ERASMUS in Rende Cosenza region of Calabria (Universita della Callabria) between March 15 and July 15. In the following report I will present to you useful information about this kind of scholarship, the advantages and the disadvantages. I hope you will find it useful.

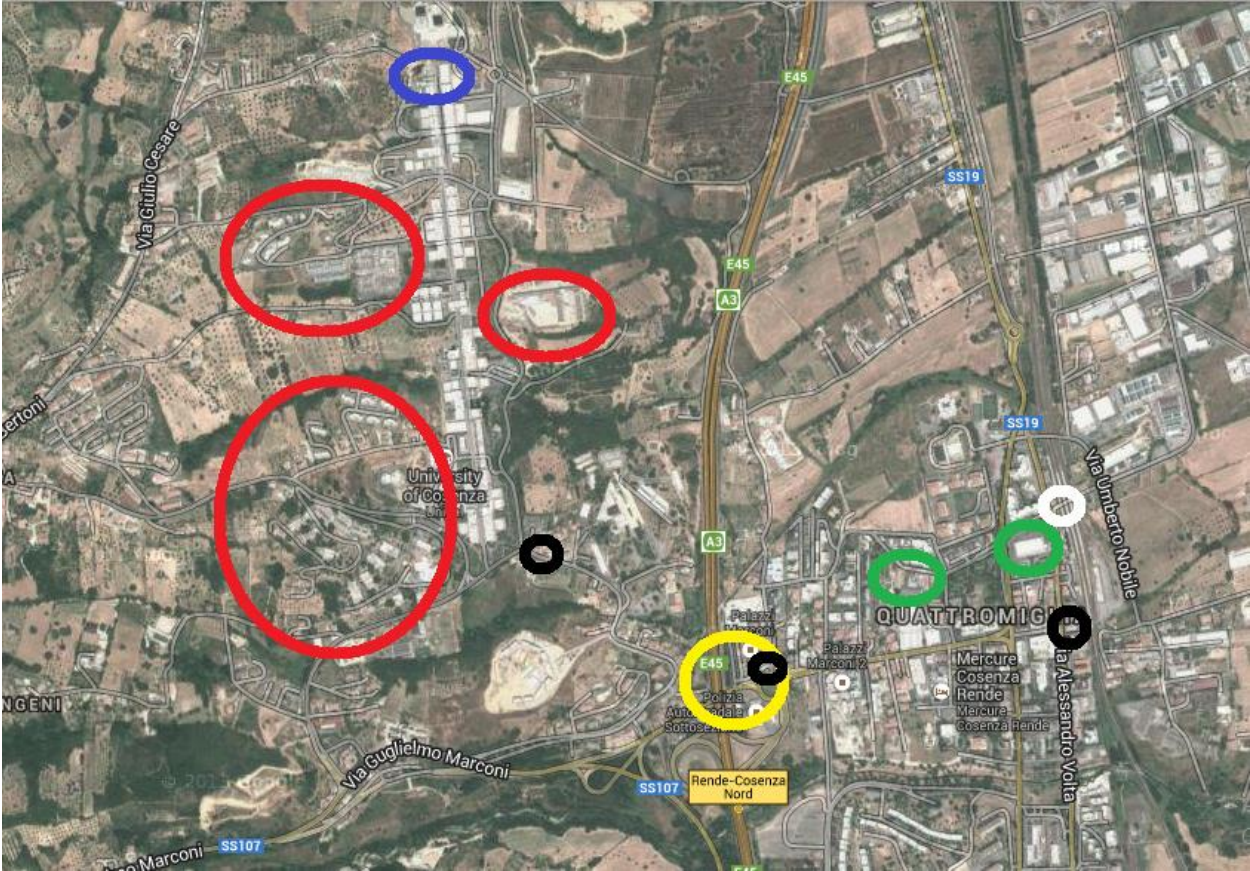
I am not going to tell you what kind of papers you need in order to go with the scholarship, all the information you need about this you will get from Mr. Spahiu-Stoica Cosmin or, from Mr. Giuroiu Marius. But, I need to tell you that you need some time to complete all the documents so, I suggest you start early. Also, you will need some photos with you for the id (you will have an I.D. from the University).

I will mention that there were two of us in this placement. At that time I was in the third year at Bachelors and my colleague was in the first year at Masters. The firm where we have worked was [SenSysCal S.R.L.](#) . SenSysCal is a spin-off of the University of Calabria founded on April 2010. Its innovative services and products are derived from academic research results in the Distributed Sensor-based Systems domain. The period of 4 months, for me was optimal, but, you can talk to Professor Giancarlo Fortino and negotiate the period from 3 to 5 months.

Related to the factors that motivated me to go abroad, first of all, as you know, it is not a mandatory part of our curriculum unlike other countries. What

motivated me was that I wanted to achieve some working experience, to acquire a new vocational knowledge, to live in a foreign country, to practice a foreign language (even that we did not learn any Italian), to make friends from different cultures and most important, it's a faster way to grow up.

About the transport, we initially wanted to go there with a car, but because of the price of gas (most expensive in Europe –around 1.80 Euro) we considered that the plane is the best way to reach there. We left from Bucharest to Bari, and from Bari to Rende we took a bus (2 Euro from the airport to the bus station and 18 Euro from the bus station to Rende-Quattro Miglia). In Rende, 2 guys from the campus came for us with a car and helped us to find our apartment (it was raining, cold and we were tired because of the 7 hours trip with the bus). I will also suggest that you get informed as soon as possible about the airplane; we took WizzAir.



When you come in Rende, you will reach in the yellow circle, there is the bus stop and also, McDonalds and some shops. The areas from the red circles are the campus. You can also find an apartment outside the campus to live in, but, it could get around 600 – 700 Euro and if you live in the campus, you will pay 150 Euro/month. The black circles are the tobacco shops, the green circles are the shops where we bought food, the white circle is the train station and the blue one is where SenSysCal is located.

We got in touch with one of the co-founders of SenSysCal almost a month before we start the placement. He was happy to give us any kind of information related to our trip. So, it was very easy for us to find the enterprise. It's at the end of the bridge on the left in the Tech Nest (the bridge is actually the entire University around 1.2 Km).

At SenSysCal there are two researchers that will help you with the project, but also they will help you integrate better in the collective. Both of them speak very good English, also Prof. Giancarlo Fortino; this mean that if you don't speak Italian at all you can still present your monthly work without any problem.

If you want to learn Italian there, you can follow the courses, you can also meet a lot of new people and make friends from around the world. The courses are Tuesday at 10 o'clock and Saturday at 10 o'clock (free of charge).

ERASMUS paid me 1800 Euro before I left to Italy and, when I came home, I got another 380 Euro and 200 Euro from the home Faculty. Another 1100 euros I had to get from home to handle the expenses. If you want to spend less than I did, don't smoke!!! Is not good for your pockets (5 Euro a pack) and the cigarettes in Italy are rubbish.

There are also some problems in campus, the rooms are not too clean, so, when you get there you have some work to do but, there is a good part, you have a gigantic balcony where you can throw out parties, make a barbecue or play tennis. Near the campus is the sportive complex. You can do any kind of sports and is relatively cheap. In the summer you can go to the sea; it's close (15 minutes with the train and a two Euro ticket). If you are a girl, you can make a shopping

once in a while, even I do not recommend (too expensive), in Cosenza is a Moll - Metropolis-. For heavy shopping it's recommended. There are even some Romanian shops somewhere and, if you are a religious person and you do not want to miss Easter, the Romanian community have a church open for the orthodox.

Overall I think that this is a great experience that helped me to develop new techniques and methods, I developed my English, I visited a gorgeous country, I have expanded my C.V., I made plenty of friends and in four words: I have grown up! Or, that is what I like to believe.

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