



EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism
Scholarship Fund

ICELAND NORWAY LIECHTENSTEIN

through the eyes of Czech students and teachers

“By far the best proof is experience.”

Francis Bacon

NORWAY

Aurora Landskap AS
BI Handelshøyskolen
Høgskolen i Agder
Høgskolen i Bergen
Høgskolen i Gjøvik
Høgskolen i Hedmark
Høgskolen i Østfold
Høgskolen i Sør-Trøndelag
Høgskolen i Telemark
International Peace Research Institute
Norges Handelshøyskole
Norges Idrettshøgskole
Norges musikkhøgskole
Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet, Trondheim
Universitetet i Bergen
Universitetet for miljø - og biovitenskap
Universitetet i Oslo
Universitetet i Tromsø

ICELAND

Háskólinn á Akureyri
Háskólinn á Bifröst
Háskóli Íslands
Háskólinn í Reykjavík
Kling&Bang gallerí
Listaháskóli Íslands
Samisk videregående skole, Karasjok

LIECHTENSTEIN

Hochschule Liechtenstein
Internationale Akademie für Philosophie im Fürstentum Liechtenstein
Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium



The aim of this publication is to summarise the experiences of students, teachers, and administrative workers who, thanks to the financial support of the Fund for Support of Cooperation among Schools/Scholarships of the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism, had the opportunity to study or work on Iceland, in Liechtenstein, and in Norway.

The publication contains cumulative statistical data for 2006-2007 and, in particular, articles by the participants themselves. Through their experiences, impressions, and observations, the students and teachers will guide you around these three countries and present them from various perspectives.

We hope the experiences – study-related and otherwise – will motivate other students and teachers to travel abroad.

PREFACE



What is its aim?

The main aim of the fund is to initiate and strengthen cooperation between educational institutions in the Czech Republic and educational institutions on Iceland, in Liechtenstein, and in Norway.

What does the fund offer?

The fund for Support of Cooperation among Schools/Scholarships provides grants for mobility of students, teachers, and administrative workers for the purpose of study, internship, teaching, participation in course, seminars, workshops, conferences, job shadowing on Iceland, in Liechtenstein, and in Norway.

The fund provides also grants for project cooperation at the institute level for the purpose of organisation of joint seminars, conferences, workshops, courses, creation of publications, development of teaching curricula, development of human resources, development of ongoing education, organisation of specific activities such as information or student centres in cooperation with educational institutions from Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.



Whom is it intended for?

All students, teachers, and administrative workers in public, state-run or private secondary, vocational secondary, and post-secondary schools can take part, as can non-profit organisations involved mainly in education.

Who is the fund administrator?

The National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP) is the administrator of the fund. NAEP is a part of Centre for International Services of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport.

www.naep.cz

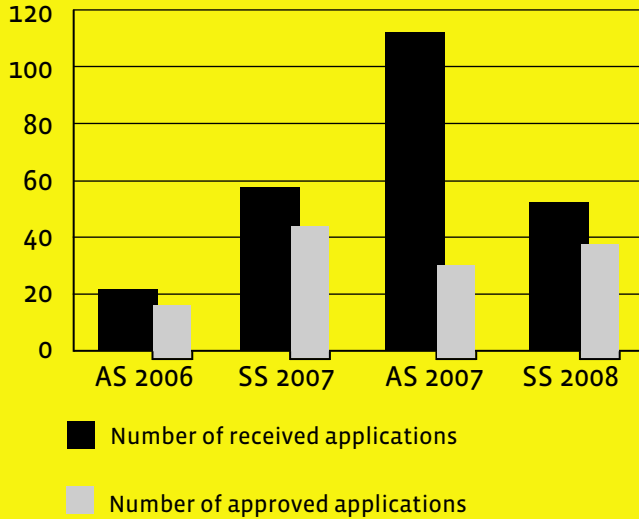
“Before my trip, I told myself that I was going to Norway neither to “exchange my life”, as the motto of the student organisation there proclaimed, or to “make new friends”, but to do something a bit more humble: just study. Thankfully, the first did not come to pass; the second, however, could not be avoided. If you don’t want to socialise, then you will be socialised. You will like it and be happy for it. And that’s exactly what happened.”

Ondřej Buddeus (participated in the study stay at the Universitetet i Agder in the 2006 autumn semester)



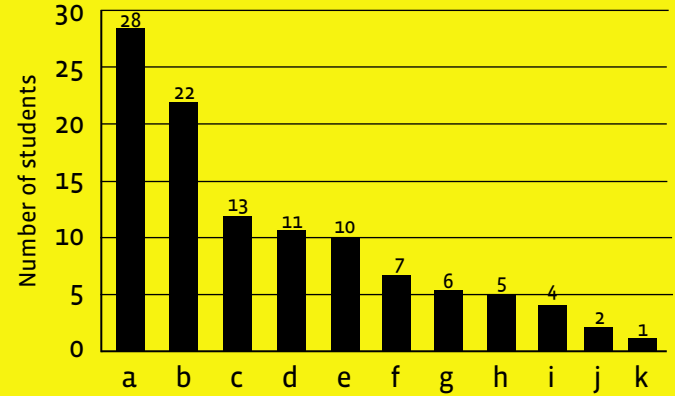
STUDENT MOBILITY

The number of students interested in study stays in Norway, in Liechtenstein, and on Iceland has been on the increase since 2006. The approval rate of applications is as high as 75%.



STATISTICS

Students represent a wide spectrum of institutions from the entire Czech Republic

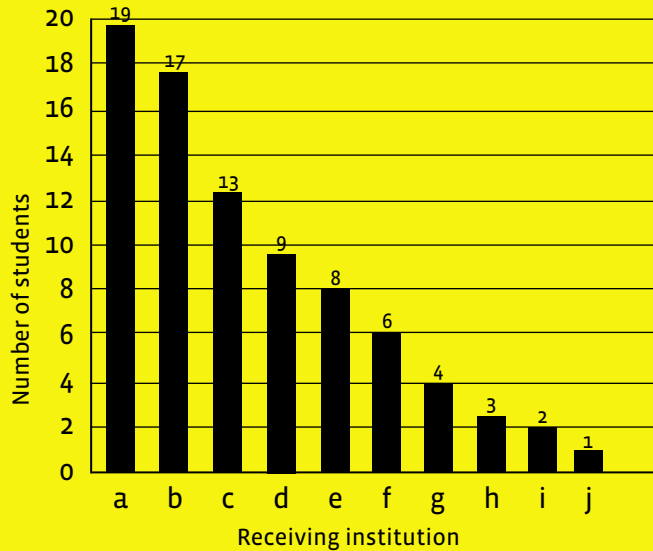


Home institution

- a / Univerzita Karlova v Praze
- b / Masarykova univerzita
- c / Vysoké učení technické v Brně
- d / Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze
- e / Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita v Brně
- f / České vysoké učení technické v Praze
- f / Západočeská univerzita v Plzni
- g / Univerzita Pardubice
- h / Vysoká škola chemicko-technologická v Praze
- i / Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci
- i / Vysoká škola báňská – Technická univerzita Ostrava
- j / Akademie múzických umění v Praze
- j / Univerzita Jana Evangelisty Purkyně v Ústí nad Labem
- j / Vysoká škola evropských a regionálních studií, o. p. s.
- k / Gymnázium Matyáše Lercha
- k / Gymnázium Na Pražačce
- k / Obchodní akademie a Vyšší odborná škola sociální Ostrava
- k / Ostravská univerzita v Ostravě
- k / Univerzita Hradec Králové
- k / Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně
- k / Vysoká škola finanční a správní, o. p. s.



For their study stays, students chose these foreign institutions



All three countries offer a wide selection of programmes in English or German across all fields of study. Czech students who go abroad usually study economy, philology, or chemistry.

Of the three countries, Norway is the largest and has the greatest representation of institutions of higher education.

a / Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet, Trondheim

a / Universitetet i Bergen

b / Universitetet i Oslo

c / Universitetet i Tromsø

d / Høgskolen i Telemark

e / Hochschule Liechtenstein

f / Háskóli Íslands

g / Høgskolen i Agder

g / Høgskolen i Østfold

g / Norges Handelshøyskole

h / Háskólinn í Reykjavík

h / Norges Idrettshøgskole

i / BI Handelshøyskolen

i / Høgskolen i Gjøvik

i / Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium

i / Listaháskóli Íslands

i / Norges musikkhøgskole

j / Aurora Landskap AS

j / Háskólinn á Akureyri

j / Háskólinn á Bifröst

j / Høgskolen i Bergen

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j / Høgskolen i Sør-Trøndelag

j / Internationale Akademie für Philosophie im Fürstentum Liechtenstein

j / Kling&Bang galleri

j / Samisk videregående skole, Karasjok

j / International Peace Research Institute

j / Universitetet for miljø - og biovitenskap

NTNU, Trondheim

Martin Pulicar

The Faculty of Science of Masarykova univerzita in Brno

Field of study: Geographic cartography and geoinformatics

Period of stay: Autumn semester 2007

The teaching system takes into consideration each student's study capacity and is based on communication between the professor and the student and on the student's motivation to study. Early in the semester, we began to address the professors using their first names, which significantly facilitated communication.

In Norway, the emphasis was on information that is truly necessary, without having to learn complicated but easily accessible information by heart, and on practical exercises. Lectures were always two hours long with a fifteen-minute break, which was like a fresh breeze blowing through a tired mind. Exercises and constant tests do not function like a key to a door that you can throw away just before the examination.

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Universitetet i Bergen

Martina Zahradníková

The Faculty of Science of Univerzita Karlova v Praze

Field of study: Environmental protection

Period of stay: entire 2006/2007 academic year

Norway is a wonderful country, and it becomes even more wonderful for Czechs when they discover that Norwegians love Czech fairytales and children's stories. Not only are Krteček (Mole), with his blue trousers, and Pat and Mat, who are a great example of house work in Norwegian homes, very popular, but almost all of Norway watches *Tři oříšky pro Popelku* (Three Hazelnuts for Cinderella) on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, the Norwegians have never heard Libuška Šafránková's chirrupy voice or Pavel Trávniček's youthful baritone because the entire story is narrated by one dying male voice.

The traditional Christmas food in Norway is smoked sheep's head and mashed rutabaga and potatoes, which I had the opportunity to taste at a party.

When I was in the middle of my meal – which means when I was removing the *musculus masseter* and *musculus temporalis* and the molars and incisors began to appear – music I knew well started to play. Kája Gott started to sing behind me “Kdepak ty ptáčku hnízdo máš” (looking at the half-picked brain I felt a bit sick, and I swear the eye of the unfortunate sheep winked at me), and, at that moment, Norwegian students wrapped in white sheets began to do ballet to Kája's tune. Long live Norwegian customs and traditions!

Universitetet i Agder

Ondřej Buddeus

The Faculty of Philosophy & Art of Univerzita Karlova v Praze

Field of study: Norwegian, Translation/interpretation – German

Period of stay: Autumn semester 2006

When a moose gets ready
for bed then –
at least according to Tacitus
– it leans against a tree and
sleeps
the tree shakes
as a moose
is not
the smallest of creatures

when the leaves fall
the trees are no longer
just directions
branching out to the heavens

that's how begins
the great moose vigilance

and the moose patiently
persistently
med elgs godmodighet
with a moose's kind
heartedness

await

in their rooms
with ceilings
exactly
so high
that their antlers
don't catch

NORWAY

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Eva Olgyaiová

The Faculty of Economics and Administration
of Masarykova univerzita in Brno

Field of study: Economic policies and administration –
Financial business

Period of stay: Spring semester 2007

For my studies, I chose the university in Akureyri, the second “biggest” city on Iceland. Those who have travelled around Iceland understand that this is truly a metropolis for the place. I was a bit concerned about how I would get used to life in a town of only sixteen thousand inhabitants, but I got used to the peaceful atmosphere and comfortable infrastructure.

I found the education system more interesting, even though more time demanding, but nevertheless less stressful than at my home university. All in all, the “dependence on myself” thousands of kilometres away from my family helped me grow up, and the subjects that I studied helped me to understand where I would go with my professional career.

Even now, when I think about Iceland and Akureyri, I have a smile on my face, and I know that I will go back there again.... At least to explore the beautiful nature with its unique atmosphere.



Pavla Waldhauserová

The Faculty of Science of Univerzita Karlova v Praze

Field of study: Physical geography and geocology

Period of stay: Spring semester 2007

After spending a certain amount of time on this young island, most of us become “Iceland fanatics”, and more than half of us like to go back for visits. Perhaps it is the lonely, bleak landscape of the tundra covered in glaciers and interlaced with volcanoes, which create sources of strange energy from which you cannot hide. Perhaps it is the daily baths in thermal salty pools and lakes from which you can observe the northern lights during the long winter nights or the midnight sunsets in summer. Perhaps it is the excellent local vegetables and fruit produced in greenhouses or the proper flavour of salmon farmed in the local waters.

I place a great emphasis on Icelandic culture: you can always find a concert going on in Reykjavik; in each corner of the city there is work of art to discover; the country is steeped in hundreds of legends about elves and gnomes. Icelanders like to have fun: each season is welcomed with special festivities; bars begin to come to life after midnight, with dancing going on until the wee hours of the morning.

Before you leave, I have to remind you to take a swimsuit, windbreaker, bike lock, and a camera, as it is almost impossible to describe this fantastic country in words.

Listaháskóli Íslands

Kateřina Spáčilová a Marta Svobodová

The Faculty of Fine Arts of Vysoké učení technické v Brně

Field of study: Video – multimedia – performance

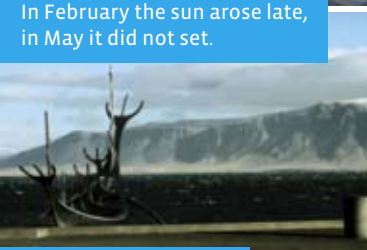
Period of stay: Spring semester 2007

You will find more information about the stay of these two students on the following two pages...

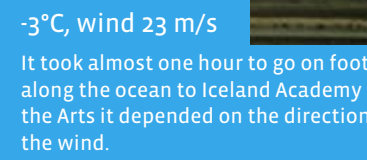




Guesthouse morning



In February the sun arose late, in May it did not set.



-3°C, wind 23 m/s
It took almost one hour to go on foot along the ocean to Iceland Academy of the Arts it depended on the direction of the wind.

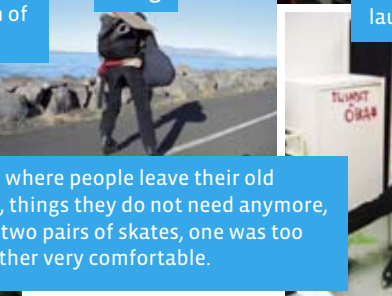


breakfast: skyr + cereals

In the picture there is bad sweetish bread, which we were only able to swallow when we had diced into small pieces and then imagined we were eating chocolate.



20kg



In the shop where people leave their old belongings, things they do not need anymore, we bought two pairs of skates, one was too small the other very comfortable.



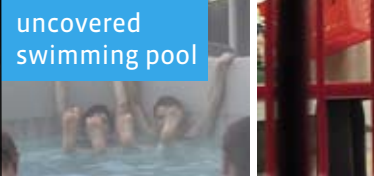
the way to school



We decided to find something faster: "I look for old bike. That is enough to make me happy. It is not performance" ... They laughed at us... but we did not succeed.

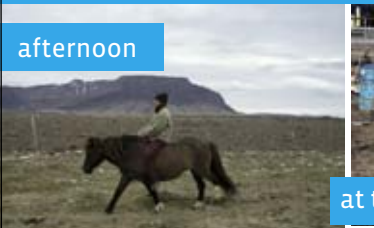


The workshop we organized was focused on the presentation of a collective animation of works being produced at our Faculty. We asked the students to produce a DVD collection of their works. That DVD set was widely released and it is shown on festivals and exhibitions in the Czech Republic. Icelandic students are not very technically capable of working with digital video. However, each boy can knit.



uncovered swimming pool

The season ticket to swimming pool offered us the cheapest and the warmest entertainment. We enjoyed it every day and caught rare kind of rash!



afternoon

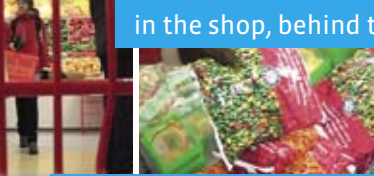
While an ideal, wild and calorific means of transport, being already saddled, was afraid to go out of the corral, we went to the dump.



On the road home we envied the ducks because people threw them a good bread, and we were starving.



evening

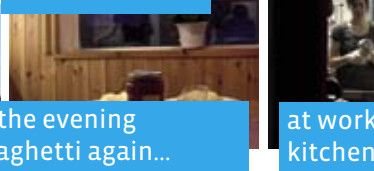


in the shop, behind the shop

We tasted all traditional products from Euroshopper. In case we were not able to find anything „behind the store“, we went to buy it in the shop.



at the dump

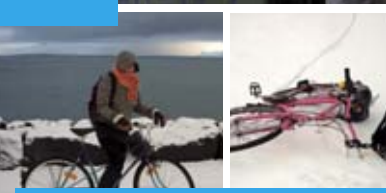


at home in the kitchen

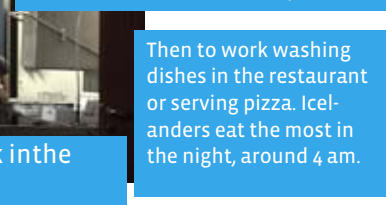
Schoolmates used to invite us to their home for thematic parties. This party asked us to focus on mending patches... we should have brought more rips...



night



We put together two beautiful „of-the-road models“ from the found contents of the dump.



at work in the kitchen

Then to work washing dishes in the restaurant or serving pizza. Icelanders eat the most in the night, around 4 am.



night



at school

Hochschule Liechtenstein

Michaela Horníčková

The Faculty of Business and Economics of Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita v Brně

Field of study: Finance

Period of study: Spring semester 2007

When I arrived in Vaduz, it was March 1 and there was lots of snow everywhere. I did not have skis with me, but nothing stopped me from taking walks in the winter wonderland. My friends and I managed to climb to the top of the local peak Alpspitze, 1944 m above sea level, from where you had the entire principality on the palm of your hand.

Liechtenstein is a beautiful small country with indescribable scenery stretching along the right bank of the Rhine, beside which is a path where we spent almost every day rollerblading. The local Liechtensteiners can usually be met right there (almost everyone does sports), and none of them will forget to greet you with their "Hoi".

Liechtensteiners like to have fun, are very ambitious, hardworking, and nice; they always try to help you or at least give you some advice. I will remember Liechtenstein as a fairytale country full of energy; it will always be a real haven for me, not just a tax haven.

Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium

Mona Božičová

Gymnázium Matyáše Lercha v Brně

I did my study stay in the graduating class. It was in a class of 13 girls who were the same age as me. All of the students were very hard-working. In class, they kept putting their hands up and were not disruptive in any way. Our students are less well behaved and less active. In Liechtenstein, they often work with project lessons: a student gets an assignment, which she works on by herself; then she gives a lecture based on the assignment instead of the teacher in front of the class, and the class discusses the issue.

The principal, the teachers, and my new classmates were pleasant, always smiling, affable, and always willing to help me. I like the teachers' treatment of students, as equals. The atmosphere of the school was peaceful and not stressful.

Even though I am a non-smoker, I was surprised that students could freely smoke during breaks right in front of the school.



Hochschule Liechtenstein

Martin Krucký

The Faculty of Business and Economics of Mendelova zemědělská a lesnická univerzita v Brně

Field of study: Finance

Period of study: Spring semester 2007

Vaduz lies in the valley of the river Rhine in the Alps where it is possible to do alpine hiking or cycling on very well treated tracks.

Although I studied a spring semester in Liechtenstein, I had a possibility to discover its winter looks, too.



LIECHTENSTEIN

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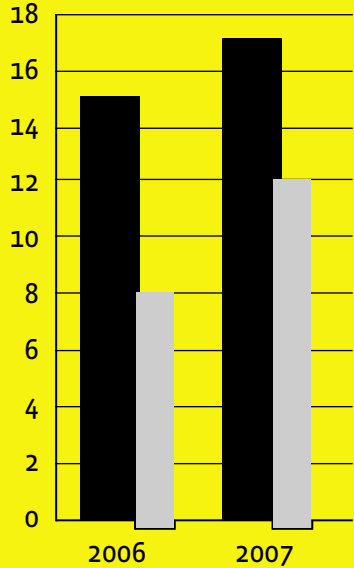
“On Iceland, I appreciated in particular the students’ technical facilities: all have notebooks and are always on-line. From the perspective of an external lecturer, I also appreciated the accommodativeness of the school’s representatives, who give ample space to modify courses according to your own ideas.”

Ing. Jan Čadil, Ph.D. from Vysoká škola finanční a správní, o. p. s, taught intensive course on the basis of macroeconomic analysis at Háskólinn á Bifröst in 2007.



TEACHER MOBILITY

From the onset of the operation of the fund in 2006, a total of 20 applications for individual mobility grants for teachers and administrative workers were issued, of which one was for the mobility of an administrative worker.

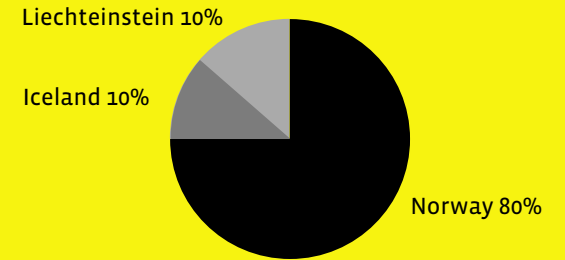


Number of received applications
 Number of approved applications



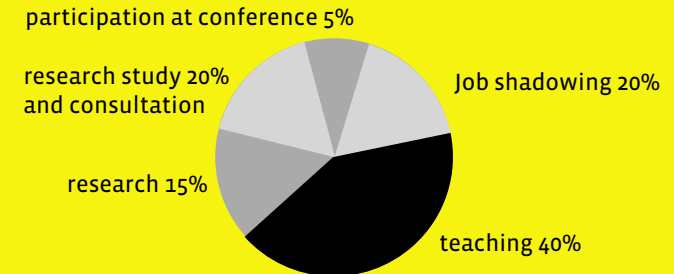
Of the total number of approved applications, universities and secondary schools were represented as follows: 25% school secondary workers, 75% university workers. Just as the students did, the teachers chose Norway most often as their destination country.

Grant holders according to country selected



The objective of the mobility of teachers was mainly teaching (40%)

Grant holders according to mobility objective



Norges Idrettshøgskole, Oslo

Doc. Dr. Ludmila Fialová, Ph. D.

The Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of Univerzita Karlova v Praze

When I imagine the capital city of Norway, I also imagine statues. Yes, Oslo is a city of statutes. They are everywhere: not only in every park, but also on every corner; in fact, you'll even find them looking at you from the roofs of high-rises ... Vigeland Park, with thousands of statues of nudes, leaves a lasting impression on anyone. I have never seen so many nude male figures as here.

It is common for a mother to sit down on the bench beside you, hitch up her shirt and sweater, pull out her breast, and start to breastfeed. Attention worthy are also nurseries and preschools on the move – even very small children can be seen moving about the city and in the public transport accompanied by a number of supervising adults.

Education in Norway focuses on respecting nature and life in nature (in September you can see children on boats, in tents, later on skis...). A non-competitive environment is also typical for schools; even during physical education classes there is no competition (football is played for enjoyment, goals are not counted, and it is not checked who won). Knowledge of healthy food is remarkable. You can hear a seven-year-old child scold you: “Do you want me to die soon? You didn't give me a vegetable salad today.”

NORWAY



Samisk videregående skole, Karasjok

Ing. Petra Nováková

Obchodní akademie a Vyšší odborná škola sociální Ostrava-Mariánské hory

Karasjok with its 3 000 inhabitants is a cosmopolitan place. In addition to its original inhabitants, Norwegians from the south, Finns, Russians, Germans, Slovaks, and even a number of Filipinos live here.

People originally lived here in lavoos (reminiscent of Indian tepees), but these were gradually replaced with comfortable Scandinavian architecture. Houses, cars, and even bikes are not locked up here. Traditional Lappish costumes, where red and blue prevail, are worn to church and on holidays.

Traditional Lappish food is moose or reindeer marrow bones, reindeer blood balls, and cranberries. A “traditional” Lappish family? A Lappish mother, English father, Filipina daughter, and a son-in-law from middle Norway.

How do Laplanders spend their winter evenings? One possibility is archery. The Viking traditions still survive.

Hochschule Liechtenstein

Mgr. Alena Sýkorová

The Faculty of Chemistry of Vysoké učení technické v Brně

The main objective of the two-month stay at the foreign department of this school was to acquire experience in student mobility. Due to the exceptional location of this country, about 70% of all students are from the surrounding (German-speaking) countries, namely Austria and Switzerland, which gave the school a unique and truly cosmopolitan dimension.

My assessment of the conditions for work in one of the most developed European countries is excellent. I would especially like to highlight the overall atmosphere of the workplace, i.e., the approach to staff, their collegiality, their effort to communicate, and working together to solve problems.



LIECHTENSTEIN

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We thank all of the grant holders who contributed to this publication. We hope that their experiences and observations will serve as an inspiration for other students and teachers who decide to make use of the opportunities of the Fund for Support of Cooperation among Schools/Scholarships of the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

Contact information

National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP)
Fund for Support of Cooperation among Schools/Scholarships
EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism
Senovážné náměstí 24
116 47 Praha 1

www.naep.cz

Other useful links

www.mfcr.cz/cps/rde/xchg/mfcr/hs.xml/fm_norska.html

www.eeagrants.org

*Photos by:

Ondřej Buddeus
Martin Krucký
Jiří Černý
Martin Januška
Pavla Waldhauserová
Kateřina Spáčilová
Marta Svobodová
Lucie Mikušová
Ondřej Sabata
Martin Rytíř

in a café on Fredensborgveien
noon pulses
like a broken
butterfly
or
seagull

if at this moment
all brunets
from Paris to Budapest
were drinking cocoa
with whisky
I would decree
just
for myself
some sort of world day

even if I say
chybiš mi
or
jeg savner deg
or
ich vermisse dich
or
I miss you
I sense that
I will not be saying more
Than the closed windows
of the building opposite
reflecting
everything
depending
on the point of view

Ondřej Buddeus