

My colleague and I went to Messina, Sicily, Italy for a two-month mobility programme, ERASMUS+ Traineeship.

We were in Messina from 5th of May to 5th of July as guest/incoming students at the University of Messina, Department of Engineering – Water Department.

The main task in Messina was doing the research for master thesis and I had a mentor, prof. Guiseppe Aronica, with who I was able to discuss about my thesis, shape the idea and develop it and we agreed on each step from the very beginning.

Also, together with prof. Aronica, there was professor Brunella Bonacorso who helped me with everything I needed.

Professors organised everything for me and my friend at the University, they made us keys for an office where we had our desks so that we have a quiet place to work. The University and prof. Aronica made us ID's at the student's portal and gave us wi-fi access.

They also provided us with necessary data to work with as an input for practical part of master thesis.

I started learning GIS software, as well as other softwares: HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS, QGIS, SAGA GIS.

All of them are used for flood, hydraulic and hydrological modelling. The data I was given is for San Leonardo river at Sicily, that is located near Catania.

By the time I had to go home, I was able to learn and do a lot of things, but it wasn't enough time to finish it all.

Now I am looking forward to continue my work on master thesis and to reach my goal with it, that is completing flood model and developing a technical solution for preventing future flood events in the area. Environmental protection, water protection and preventing natural disasters by behaving in accordance with nature and expanding my knowledge about the issue was the main reason for me attending NatRisk programme and student mobility programme.



Our office at the Department of Engineering, University of Messina



Me at the International Office. University of Messina



Department of Engineering, University of Messina

What is also very important to mention is living alone in another country, with foreign people while not knowing their native language.

I found my accommodation in Messina thanks to ESN Messina's (Erasmus Students Network Messina) help and private flats that they had to offer.

During those two months in Italy, I got to live at Sicily and be a tourist at the same time. I went on numerous trips around Sicily and the very south-west part of Italy. I got to spend some time on beach, meet new friends, from Italy and from all over the world.

All together, this student mobility – ERASMUS+ Traineeship was an amazing experience, that had great impact on me, both, personally and intellectually and for sure will make the difference in my future studies and work.

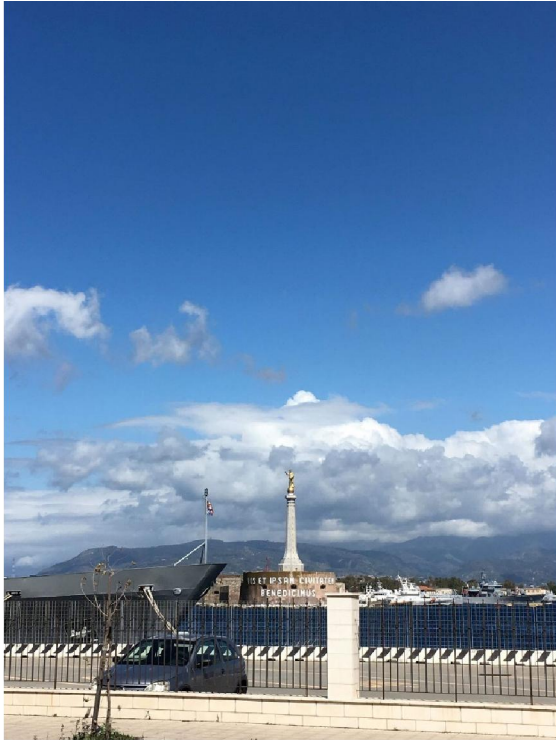


Look over Messina

My colleague and I at Messina's most famous beach, Tore Farro and on the right photo – in the public transport heading to the University of Messina, Department of Engineering







Statue of Madonnina guarding the city and Messina port and Messina Duomo

I am very grateful to the University of Sarajevo and my professors and mentors who gave me the opportunity to go abroad, meet new cultures, new people, experts from the world I am really passionate about and all that at the very beginning of my career as an Engineer.

Development of my master thesis while being in Messina and doing it with professors there will improve the quality of my master thesis and finally will help me achieve the goal I set on the first day of NatRisk master programme.

This experience gave me new friends, new colleagues, new home away from home, new experience and a lot of knowledge about life, people, distance, relationships and very important new techniques in the world of Water and Environmental Engineering.

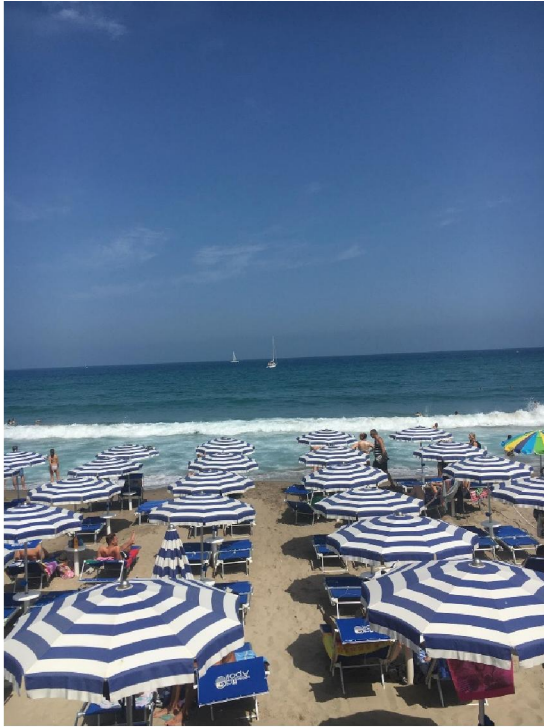
While being in Messina, I had the opportunity to visit different places and try famous Sicilian cuisine and street food, as well as traditional delicacies.

I ate a lot of pizza, arancino – most famous Sicilian street food, cannoli, gelato and granita (con brioche) – most famous delicacies and the best ones are found only at Sicily. Also the best coffee is (of course) Italian coffee and at Sicily they have a lot of their homemade drinks, pestos and cremas which are really delicious.

I had the opportunity to go to different beaches, museums, use the ferry to go to mainland Italy and also used (a lot) Messina's public transport.

I traveled around Sicily and went to Palermo, Catania, Taormina, Cefalu and Mt. Etna. Also, I visited few places on the very south of Italy which are Reggio Calabria, Tropea, Villa S. Giovanni and Napoli.

Some of the photos of these places are given below.



Cefalu beach and on the right, Napoli street



Reggio Calabria





Me at Mt. Etna



Taormina and Catania



The best Pistachio icecream and me and my colleague Amar in Palermo

While in Messina, I was able to learn basics of very useful softwares which will help me finish my master thesis and greatly improve my skills that I can use in my career. For gaining new knowledge and skills, this was very important and useful experience for me.

During the mobility, I met a lot of new people that I can now call my friends. I met the people from all over the world and with some of them I am still in touch and hopefully see them again one day. Also, professors from the University were really helpful and I consider them my colleagues and friends as well.



With friends at the beach in Messina





Palermo with friends

These two months definitely helped me improve my language skills, English but also Italian. Although, before this mobility, I was good English speaker, I never used much of professional terms and being in Messina on mobility helped me improve that part and I learned a lot of professional English language.

Also, never knowing Italian and being in Italy for two months was challenging but finished with me knowing the basics of Italian, which I am really proud of.

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