

This is a report of the implementation of international mobility activity between the University of Nis, Serbia and the University of Messina, Italy (BOKU). Basic details are presented in this section of the report.

The mobility period started on 01.10.2019 and ended on 29.02.2020, which is also evident in the attached certificate - Confirmation of Stay (Departure Sheet), signed by Giuseppe Aronica, Doc. Construz. Idrauliche. During a five-months period of mobility in Messina – the third largest city on the island of Sicily, I stayed at student residence Papardo Campus.

The University of Messina (UniME) is a state university located in Messina, Sicily, Italy. Founded in 1548 it is considered as one of the oldest universities in Italy. It is organised in 12 departments offering more than 80 Graduate, and Undergraduate Degrees, over 20 Masters Degrees and 13 PhD Programmes. There is no wonder that many international students choose UniME for their MA and PhD studies and I, being one of them, followed that path. My wish to acquire knowledge and develop my competencies inspired me to take this step. This opportunity was beneficial for gaining appropriate experience outside of my native country.

The mobility period was mostly used for furnishing skills in Seismology and Seismic Risk, calculation of seismic parameters, propagation of elastic waves, Earth structure, seismotectonics, deterministic seismic hazards assessment, disciplines of soil mechanics and dynamics. A main application of the knowledge acquired in the field of Geophysics for Seismic Risk is that related to activity for protection of cultural heritage from earthquakes.

Being ready for additional forms of education and training, as well as meeting people and cultures, I am very grateful to the University of Niš and the University of Messina for the fantastic opportunity I have been given.



*Beautiful Duomo di Messina (Roman Catholic cathedral located in Messina)*

According to my point of view, new knowledge and experience achieved and improved by people who previously had been in an opportunity to take part in projects more demanding than those in my country can remarkably help my professional identity to be formed and developed.

If we talk about living in Sicily, there are things that you need to get used to it. I absolutely recommend everyone to go to Sicily. It certainly is a special place, and “special” is not the same as “good”.

Lets first talk about good things.

Sicily is a real beauty, all time of year. Not only the towns and cities are beautiful, but the landscape, the coastlines, the hills and mountains. Despite the abandoned half – built houses scattered over the countryside this is a place to see and marvel it.

History and culture – it is hard to fathom what a cultural and historical Sicily really is. It all comes together there. You will find influences from antique Greek, the Sicani (“original” local people), the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Moors, the Arabs, the Spanish, the Normans, all reflected in the architecture, food and dialect. This is the history of mixing and re-building stretching back to centuries B.C.

Food – As a person who is from Balkan, the place where food recipes are passed from one generation to the next, I can not say that im really impressed. Serbian cuisine has remained under the radar for many tourists. The truth, however, is that this Balkan country is one of the best places to visit for anyone who enjoys good food. In Sicily, it is the same story. The things that I suggest to try is arancine, sea food (sword fish, octopus, tuna, mussels...), pasta and cannolo.



*Me in Villa Bellini Park, Catania*



*Me in Teatro Greco, Syracuse*



*Me in Anfiteatro Romano, Syracuse*



*Me next to the Monti Silvestri Inferiore Crater , Etna volcano*





*Me in front of the Castello Maniace, Ortigia, Syracuse*



*Me in Taormina with the beautiful view on sea and mountain Etna*



*Me in front of the beautiful cathedral in Palermo*

If we are talking about bad thing, the first is that Sicily has a feel of being “abandoned” or “forgotten”. I mean in many places (even in areas of the more touristic places) it seems like no one cares about the state of streets, buildings, parks and in general public places.

Second bad thing is Language. Some people say that its just common sense that you should speak the language of your host. I agree, at least if you are supposed to live for some time in a place. But for a place that has so much tourism it is unbelievable that people speak so bad English (if they even speak English).

Third bad thing is driving and parking. It is not the myth, Generalizing is always wrong, but drivers are rather out of line. Most of them drive aggressively and don't let people cross very often. Sicilians know all the rules perfectly, but they think they are for everyone else, not for them.

Fourth bad thing is patience and interest. I have to say that in my experience the Sicilian impatience and apparent disinterest in foreign people and cultures is big. I never stop being

surprised over how they give you the feeling that Sicily is the centre of the world, nothing is as beautiful as Sicily, no food can match the Sicilian food, no art compares to that of Italian art. I soon realize. I soon realize that they don't know about, and don't want to hear about other cultures and differences. I mean, people from all over the world visit Sicily whereas Sicilians, by comparison, hardly ever visit the rest of the world, so maybe they are right. And those who never left Sicily even once still are convinced that Sicily is the best place in the world.

All in all I certainly recommend going to Sicily (especially the bigger towns/cities). But don't expect it to be super easy or even easy (with language and infrastructure for example), unless you go to a tourist village. Compared to the rest of EU, Sicily can come across as a "third world" region.

Theoretical knowledge which I gained thanks to highly-educated, highly-skilled and committed teaching staff whom I have been surrounded by was completed and developed by some practical and experimental activities.



*Field work at Villa Cerami, erosion and superficial deposit*





*Field work (Structural analysis of brittle deformation in outcrops of augen gneiss)*

The university has made it possible to have quality interaction between students through many workshops. I have made many friendships, and i would like to thank all the professors.

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