

# ERASNEWS

JUNE 2022

MAGAZINE



ERASMUS  
EXPERIENCE

Emotions  
Feelings  
Culture





The Pontifical University  
of John Paul II  
in Krakow



Erasmus+  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

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ERASNEWS MAGAZINE

JOURNALISM WEB 2.0

# THE PROGRAM THAT CHANGES LIVES OF EACH PARTICIPANT

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*Mysterious  
Krakow is a  
historical  
pearl of  
Poland*



## ERASMUS EXPERIENCE IN KRAKOW, POLAND.

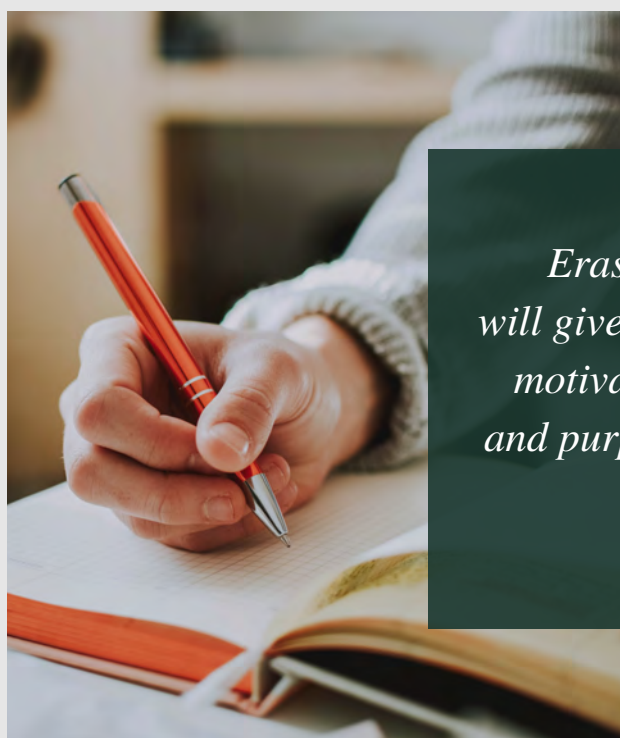
Krakow is a city where you are immersed in the incredible atmosphere of history, in an extremely leisurely lifestyle with an emphasis on the crazy rhythm of student learning, resulting in a palette of amazing emotions.

I was pleasantly surprised from the first seconds of my stay here, starting from the Polish mentality, because the locals are characterized by boundless openness, sensitivity, desire to help, and ending with spacious squares with picturesque architecture that will not leave unnoticed by passers-by.

## ERASMUS IS EASY AND MODERN STUDYING

Well, of course, not only the atmosphere of the city I liked. I am delighted with the education system in Poland, because students choose only those subjects that they like, taking into account their priorities. I am extremely glad that I was able to feel the real learning process in the walls of the university auditorium.

It is extremely easy to get support, necessary skills, and knowledge from highly qualified teachers, the main thing is the desire to learn something new, to improve in your chosen field.



*Erasmus  
will give you  
motivation  
and purpose*

# EVERY DAY SPENT HERE IS A LITTLE ADVENTURE

Every day spent here is a little adventure, when you don't know from which country you will find new friends: from Italy and France or from the USA, or maybe from Mexico? With whom you then actively travel and find a lot in common. This is what the exchange program really gives participants - sincere acquaintances and vivid emotions with people from all over the world.



*A team from  
all over the  
world is  
gathering*

And in addition - invaluable professional experience, knowledge that you confidently use in practice, of course, improving a foreign language and all the conditions for discovering a new version of yourself, the best version ... :)



## ERASMUS STUDYING EXPERIENCE DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has challenged all the democratic values of European civilization, of which Ukraine is an integral part. At this fateful time, each of us, within our capabilities, tries to continue to live and learn. Many Ukrainians met the news of a full-scale war while studying abroad, and I am one of them.

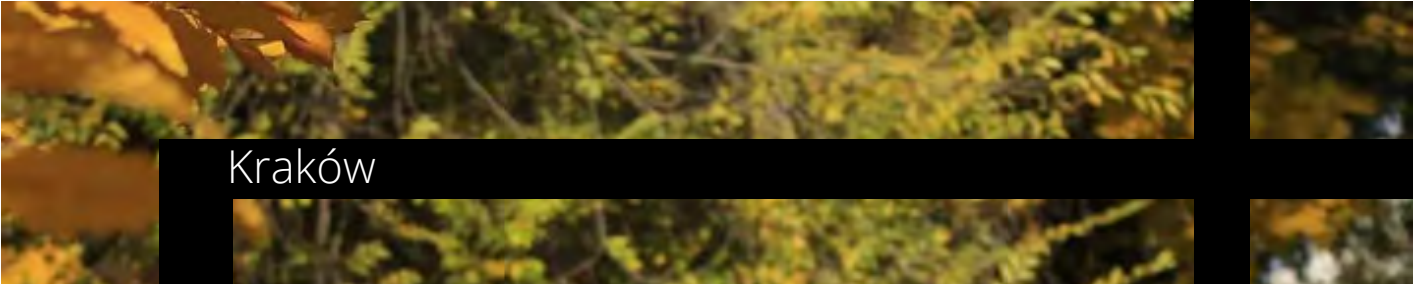
The professional community of teachers and researchers of European Studies has always been aware of the historical responsibility for the formation of a deep and holistic understanding of European values and European integration processes in the young generation of Ukrainians. In the extremely difficult conditions of open armed confrontation, we, Ukrainians, are laying a solid foundation for Ukraine's European future - we are learning and appreciating this opportunity from Europe.

Of course, this shocked all Ukrainian and not only Ukrainian students. Consequently, the experience of Erasmus has become not only a process of learning and leisure, but also a struggle for democracy throughout Europe.

Aldara Diéguez Couñago  
Kraków, June 2022

Kharkov

"Oh, Euphoria! I finished it  
last Monday".  
Conversations with Isabel,  
an ukrainian refugee



Kraków



Lviv



Graz

Four in the afternoon on March 5, 2022. Natasha and Isabel have slept (or so I hope) for eight hours straight, for the first time since they left Kharkov, their city, the second largest in Ukraine and also one of the most destroyed by Russian bombing. They arrived at my home, an Erasmus flat in the heart of Kraków -300 km from the border-, at 7 in the morning, after spending two days without sleeping and without eating, one night in Lviv and more than 12 hours to cross -on foot- the control that separates both countries. The delay is due to the fact that around 5,000 people crossed the border with them that same night, according to the Polish press.

Natasha, her mother, looks at the food we have prepared for her, smiles and thanks.

-Spasibo. No, sorry: thank you.

-Oh, spasibo is thank you in ukrainian?

-Russian, Russian.

I am surprised. I did not expect Ukrainian refugees to use the language of their invaders. Her daughter, the only one who speaks English, replies:

-We speak Russian. I have heard more Ukrainian in the last three days than in my entire life.

She speaks perfect Ukrainian because she has learned it at school, like Russian, and she speaks it with her best friend. But in her life Russian is the one that almost always sounds. They are 'the people' that Putin claims to defend from Ukrainian nazification, but they are suffering the consequences just like the rest.

-My name is Isabel. In Russian my name is more complicated, so here I use the Spanish version and everyone understands me.

Isabel is 16 years old and has a beautiful floral jumpsuit. She wears her blonde hair up and she is very slim, she

*They are 'the people' that Putin claims to defend from Ukrainian nazification, but they are suffering the consequences just like the rest.*



The shopping mall she used to go, in Kharkov

could seem Polish, German or Nordic. It is the first time that she leaves Ukraine, but is surprised, however, by how similar Krakow is to her homeland. The only difference is the Latin alphabet of the signs.

Her mother will be in her 60s and she has a beaming smile all the time. She is a piano teacher for children - that is why she is used to smile, Isabel tells me, but she assures that it is a defense mechanism. She doesn't speak any English, but in her eyes you can see how grateful she is.

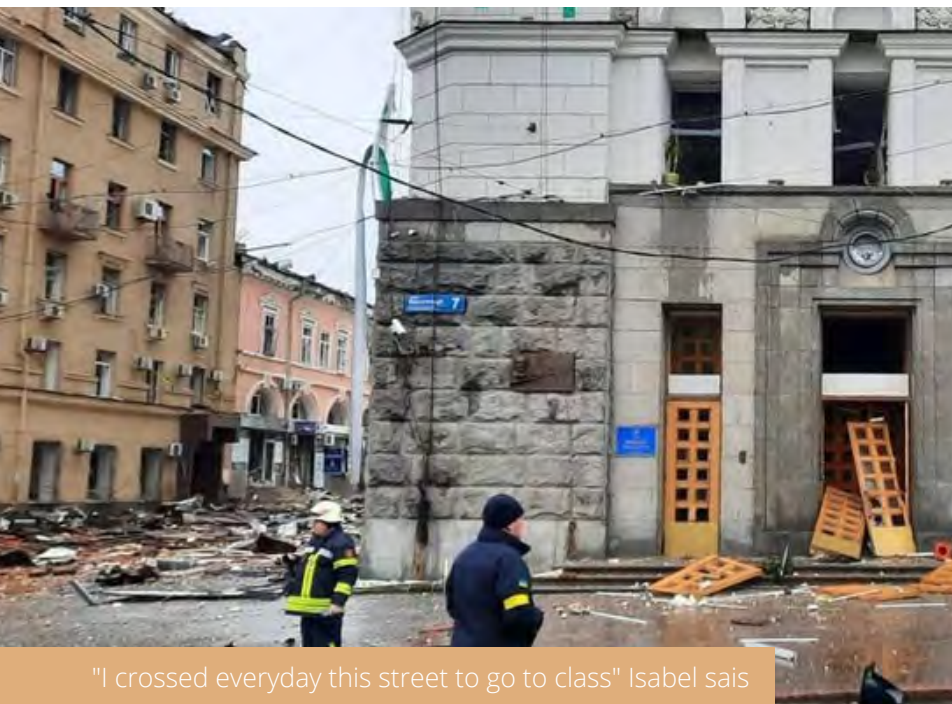
-Do you play any instrument? -I ask Elizabeth.

-I am a pianist. I've been playing the piano for 11 years but our academy is so difficult that I haven't finished yet. You?

-Violin.

-I played the violin when I was 7 years old. But it sounded so bad that I decided to start piano.

-Well, I played it for 9 years and it still sounds bad.



**"I DO NOT  
SEE  
FUTURE  
IN  
UKRAINE"**

"I crossed everyday this street to go to class" Isabel sais

She laughs. It is amazing how much she laughs for the situation she is in. I also see a permanent resignation and from time to time, a hint of anger. "My city is in ruins, the old town no longer exists, it no longer exists", she repeats sometimes, without context.

-Maybe in Graz you can play the piano.

She is heading to Austria, where her brother lives. But she sighs and shakes her head.

-I had just finished my exam to enter the university of Architecture and Design. But Kharkov is destroyed. And all the materials' prices skyrocketed. Now I do not see how to find a job. One of my best friends has just graduated from Law and she will never be able to find a job because the Ukrainian law, what use does it have in another country?

Her closer friends are in Austria, Germany, France and Norway. She is afraid of never see them again, she even do not know if they are all alive. They can not talk, as in Europe, ukrainians has not connection without Wi-Fi.

-I have left my father there -sais, and I do not dare to answer. After a while, she continues-. This girl from Law has stayed in Kharkov too. She is living in the subway.

-Why do you think people stay?

-Well, some have pets.

-What?

-Yes, we have left a dog and it has been so painful... Other people just have nowhere to go.

-If you didn't have your brother abroad, would you stay?

-I see no future in Ukraine. My city is all rubble -she repeats.

At some point in our conversation, a explosion sounds from the next room. Isabel tenses up and cringes for a few seconds, until she realizes it's the television.

-Excuse me, now every sound I hear scares me.

-They are watching Euphoria in the next room.

-Oh, Euphoria! I finished it this Monday.

Although I hide it, I am surprised. When we talk about refugees, we tend to think of sad, tired people, stripped of any wealth and above all, culturally distant from us. Not someone who wears a gorgeous flower jumpsuit and watches Euphoria every Monday. I do calculations: on February 28 Kharkov had already been bombed.

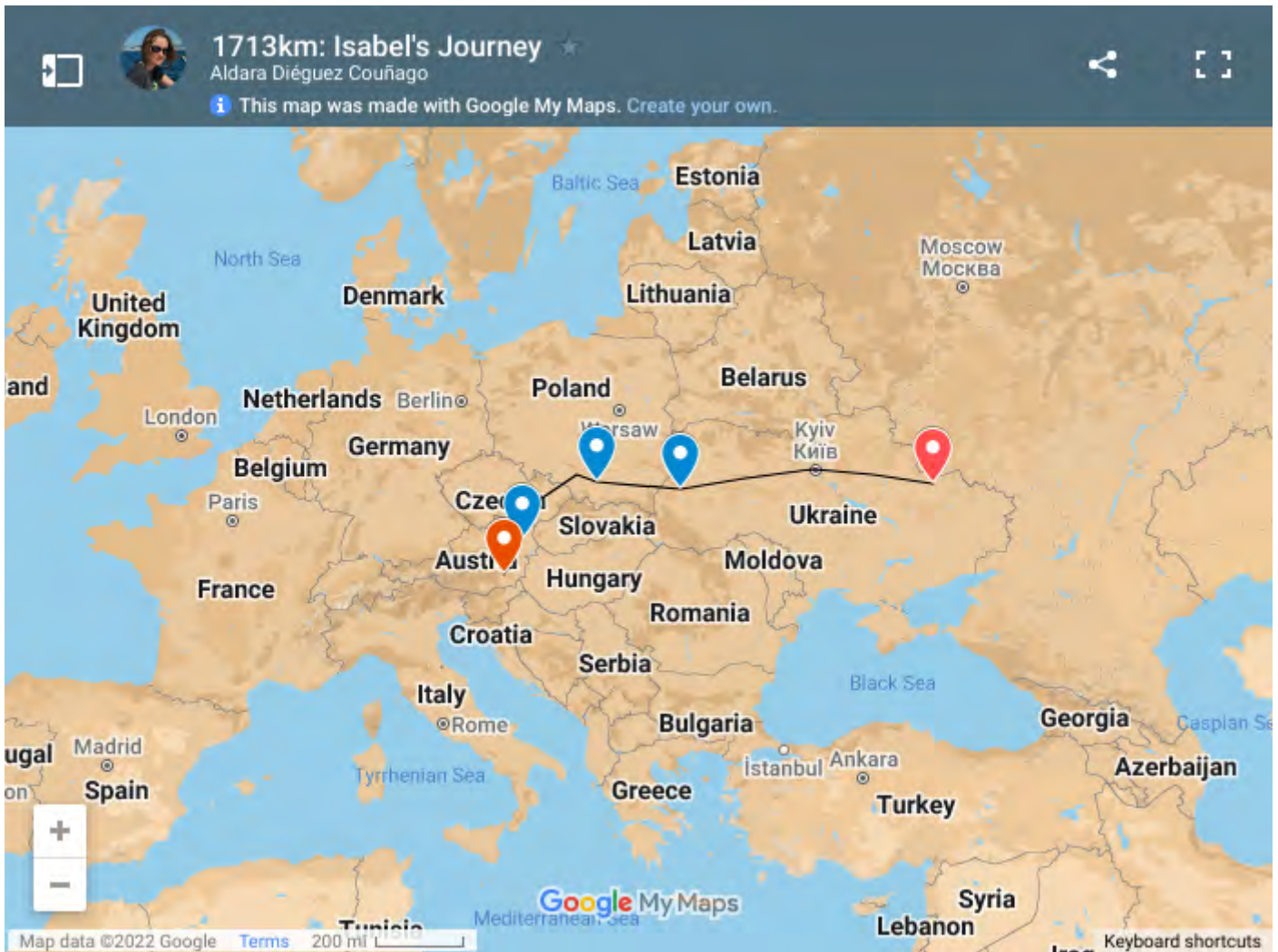
**"EXCUSE ME, NOW  
EVERY SOUND I HEAR  
SCARES ME" SAIS  
AFTER A TV BLAST**



*These are the conditions Isabel  
(second in the front) travelled  
from Kraków to Vienna.*

*Image given by Isabel*





Isabel had to watch the end of the second season with her cell phone and headphones, sheltered in the subway station.

-Did you like it?

-Well, overrated. I liked more Game of Thrones.

-I adore it! Except the last season. Have you seen it all?

- Yes, yes. I hated... what's his name? Dracarea?

-Daenerys.

-Yes! And I adore Sansa and Tyrion. He is so smart!

We don't have the same taste, because she does not like Arya or Ygritte as I do. But we both are not thrilled with the main characters. We talked for a long time about the secondaries, which are better, because the writers can make them more extravagant.

In the end, she leaves part of the chicken fillet for her. She has not complained during the entire meal.

-Is it bad, should I heat it?

-I don't really like meat...

-We also have vegan burgers.

But she rejects it. She says that she will take it tonight for

dinner on the train to Vienna, but in the end, she leaves it untouched in the microwave. They claim to have enough food, although they only carry a backpack each and a small handbag, 'Ryanair style', for their entire trip. Natasha and Isabel left on March 6 on the 10:57 p.m. train. Actually, they left at 23:18. The delay was due to the 200, 300 Ukrainians trying to get in. I have never seen so much people in a train station. And no one complained, no one moved, no one protested. That night, I could not stop thinking that despite standing in line for an hour, it didn't occur to me to buy them a bottle of water.

“

*I had just finished my exam to enter the university of Architecture and Design. But Kharkov is destroyed. Now I do not see how to find a job.*

# Will you come tomorrow?

The reality of the innocents through my eyes

by Joana Rego

In a room full of children, you can expect to see happy and smiling faces, and lots of fun in the mix. But this one is different. In this room the children are shy, silent, scared. They don't know how to react to what is happening. Many look at us without realizing why we are here.

Slowly we gain their trust with sweets and games, however, without talking much. Although language is a major barrier, drawings and gestures overcome the obstacles.

At this point, the children trusted us more than their mothers, as some remained seated in the room watching our every move. Some did not let their children eat the sweets offered, probably afraid that we wanted to harm them.

Life in the shelter

The conditions in which these mothers and their children live are not the best, however, they lacked nothing. And even more important – they are safe. In this temporary shelter in

Kalwaryjska Street in Krakow, people do what they can to help those who had to run away from their beloved Ukraine. Voluntary help from many people and organizations arrives at the shelter daily, providing refugees with everything they need to have a good quality of life after losing everything.

At the shelter, hot food and drinks are available at any time of the day in a room transformed into a temporary cafeteria, which is also used by the mothers to socialize and get to know each other. On the other side are the bedrooms, without a door, just with a curtain that offers some privacy. There are 17 double beds for about 50 people, which is not enough for everyone, but it is what can be arranged, temporarily.





## Mothers and children - different ways of adaptation

It is unknown how long they will remain in this shelter. They can stay for two weeks or a month. The future is uncertain and the focus goes to the small and fragile children, who spend most of their time in the playroom distracting themselves from the devastation that is happening in their home country. With ages ranging from 12 months to 12 years, these children have been through a lot, leaving them with scars for life.

For some mothers it is difficult to be distracted from what is going on. There are cries and tears streaming down the faces of these poor women who came to an unknown country without their husbands, whom they love and miss so much.

For kids, adaptation is easier. Some already knew each other from their hometown and came together to Krakow, easing their integration. Others are unknown, but quickly become friends with each other.

## When the fun ends, the goodbyes begin

While we are here, we try to cheer them up with dances and songs in their language, including the song from the movie "Frozen" and the national anthem of Ukraine, being this the most efficient way to communicate with them making them feel comfortable with our presence.

As the hours go by, the children begin to realize that we cannot stay much longer. "Will you come tomorrow?" wrote Artem, the oldest of the group, through Google Translate. It broke my heart to realize that our role is essential in the lives of these children when it comes to trying to make them feel happy during this heartbreaking phase.

Like these refugees who had to rebuild their lives in Poland, many others find themselves in the same scenario. One thing they all have in common is that they had to cross the border.

## Arriving to Medyka - the beginning of it all

Medyka is one of the borders that separates Poland from Ukraine, which has seen over the past few months a large number of Ukrainian refugees entering the country. These are welcomed with supplies that fit their needs by many volunteers and groups such as UNICEF and Caritas.

People arrive with their bags and animals, on their laps, on leashes and in cages. Even small children carry heavy, full suitcases. Their faces express everything they feel without having to open their mouths to say it – it's the fear, the hurt and the exhaustion.

Single mothers can be seen carrying baby strollers. There are elderly people with canes, wheelchairs and walkers. There are middle/upper class people with the latest iPhones, expensive designer clothes; and people of the lower class, with torn clothes and shoes in poor condition. These are people from different realities, but with something in common: they are victims of war.

In Medyka there are stands giving clothes to those in need. Stands with baby food, diapers and other baby products. Stands with hot drinks like coffee and tea and lots of food. Many people refuse the food offered to them, while others take what they can.

Being a volunteer as an Erasmus student - conclusion \_\_\_\_\_

There are some things that I never expected to see or live, especially during my Erasmus experience in Poland. One of them made me realize that life is uncertain and it can change from day to night - the war. These people had their jobs, their homes and their routines, and in 2022 they are forced to abandon everything. Watching it on television and being there is different, and in fact, the scenario lived on the border is something I never thought I would witness.



# WE ARE FAMILY

DIFFERENT HABITS, SAME FEELINGS



**The United States of Krakow. It sounds like the slogan for a Benetton advertising, but it isn't. It is actually what this city is: a place full of cultures and winds from all over the world.**

In particular this city hosts many young students who have had the courage to experience the Erasmus+ program far from their loved ones. Let's not take it for granted.

## MORE THAN ONE FAMILY

But what happens when a young girl or a young boy turns away from their loved ones? Here the magic begins: they are inextricably linked with each other and a new family is created.

Without forgetting their origins, these young students get involved in an experience that unites them both from the point of view of the activities and from the point of view of the emotions they feel. With different customs of course, but with similar feelings.

# DISTANCE EXPERIENCE

**MARTINA DERCOLE**

In this paragraph I will deal with telling you about the experiences lived in these months by 8 boys and girls, each from a different part of the world.

What emerged mostly from the interviews I carried out is that is difficult to live far from our loved ones. But all have led in their own way to communicate and remain attached to their family of origin, despite the fact that another family was being born in their lives.

For someone leaves their own family was traumatic at times. For example for **Vlad**, an 18-year-old Ukrainian boy who started his Erasmus program shortly before the outbreak of the contemporary war between Russia and Ukraine. I was hesitant about talk about this topic with him because, as you can deduce, it was not at all easy to talk about family members with a person who doesn't know when he will see his family again.

For him, living in Krakow on Erasmus was a lifeline, surrounded by people who listened to him, understood him and made him feel at home in this crazy moment.

“

**IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS SITUATION, I THINK IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO LIVE THIS WAY.**



A bit like for **Beatriz** and **Rodrigo**, two guys who made the difficult decision to even change continent: the first girl is Brazilian, with a time zone of 5 hours ahead and the second is Mexican, with a time zone of 7 hours compared to at home.

For the two of them, communication with loved ones was not like it was for European guys, because they used to living with their families and talking to each other constantly during the day, but now everything was limited from the second half of the day onwards, keeping account of the working hours of the parents. "I set two clocks on my phone, one to know the local time in Krakow and one to know when I could contact my parents without disturbing them", Bea said.

Indeed people in Jordan tend to don't leave home until marriage: you have to live with your parents spending every day together. Every meal is eaten together, every moment is shared with all the members of the family, and that's why **Ezz**, in Krakow and without his loved ones, feels alone but with the good fortune of finding himself in a digital age that allows him to be in Jordan and Krakow at the same time. He is in contact with his parents every day more than once a day.

“

**THE CULTURAL INFLUENCE HAS AFFECTED ME A LOT BECAUSE IN OUR CULTURE WE GET USED TO LIVING WITH THE FAMILY 'TILL YOU GOT MARRIED, SO IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE OR HOW RICH YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD LIVE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND STAY TOGETHER.**

I then had the pleasure of talking to a Jordanian boy about his experience away from home. From **Ezz's** words emerged a very strong and powerful attachment to his family, in particular to his mother who he considers his best friend. He told me that living the separation was scary for him because he already knew that his cultural influence will affected him a lot.



**Henni**, a German girl, opened up and told me that she is perfectly in line between life in Krakow and life in Germany.

It may be because Germany is the neighbor of the Poles and therefore has sometimes returned to visit her loved ones by train (just 7 hours) from February onwards just when university commitments allowed it.

“

**EVEN IN TIMES I DID NOT FEEL GOOD- ONE EXAMPLE IS HAVING COVID OR BEING HOMESICK- I DID NOT FEEL ALONE, EVEN IF I DID NOT KNOW THE PEOPLE FOR LONG.**

From the point of view of culinary traditions and time management, it emerged that there are no major differences between Germany and Poland. In fact, it was easy for Henni to get used to the local flavors: Polish cuisine is easily associated with German cuisine due to the use of sauerkraut, beer and pork. Henni is happy not only for this reason, but in particular because she found people during her stay in Krakow who made her feel at home, even when she was sick,

From a gastronomic point of view, for someone else it was slightly more complicated to abandon their traditions: as for the Italian **Benedetto**, accustomed to Italian cuisine based on simple ingredients and primordial flavors. For him, finding himself in a country with strong-flavored cuisine was initially destabilizing. But then he got used to it and now he says he is in love with pirogi. On the other hand who is not?



He was also used to having a big dinner every Sunday with his family, on Lord's Day. He spoke of it with melancholy.

A bit of melancholy but also curiosity and interest in the new country I found them in **Veronica**, a Spanish girl who used to eat at 9.30 / 10 pm with her family. The Polish hours were not favorable to her especially when she went out for dinner with friends, in fact she had to adapt and force herself to eat between 6 and 9, as is usual in Poland.

For 5 months Veronica got involved, ready to learn a few words in Polish and to taste Zapiekanka, Pirogi and much more. All seasoned with a good dose of friends who she will surely want to see outside the Erasmus experience. Maybe in Spain she hopes.

Last but not least I talked with **Julian**, a French guy in love with his girlfriend. The question arose spontaneously: "Was it difficult for you to leave France and say goodbye to your girlfriend before such an experience?" He replied that he considers himself very lucky from this point of view: he already knew they call each other every 20 minutes to share their days and they often make video calls on Whatsapp to see each other and Netflix parties to have fun at a distance (new frontier of entertainment).

He often returned to France and a couple of times she came to Krakow: interested in a culture very different from the French one, she found Krakow an attractive artistic city full of stimulating ideas.

“

**SO IT'S EASY TO LIVE EVEN IN DISTANCE, EVEN IF WE MISS EACH OTHER A LOT OF COURSE.**

## BEYOND GEOGRAPHY

Each of them opened up with me, shared with me their own extraordinary experience that has united them in these months. I believe that from their answers we can deduce that love and bonds between people have no geographical boundaries or pre-set rules, you simply find new ways to keep them alive, and indeed, to create new ones.



## CALL IT MAGIC

These people made me understand that even if the culture with which they grew up is completely different from the Polish one, the spirit of adaptation in most cases is very high, as well as the desire to get involved each with their own cultural peculiarities. This is how magic happens, with different habits, but with the same emotions and feelings.



PHOTOS FROM PRIVATE ARCHIVE OF MARTINA DERCOLE



# Krakow, you are the world



**Erasmus is an experience that every young person thinks or decides to have at some point in his or her life. For a thousand reasons. Driven by courage, curiosity, enthusiasm, fear. But the fascinating thing is that this choice unites people from all over, making the world smaller and making Krakow the entire world. These are some of the young people who decided to spend a year or a single semester of their Erasmus programme in Krakow:**


## Krakov means opportunity and kindness

Silvia is 24 and is an Italian girl from Cagliari, Sardinia. She studies medicine and this summer semester is her first study abroad experience: “The things that struck me most about this experience were how quickly I got used to this change and I took to create friendship, real friendships that I hope will always stay with me despite the distance. I will definitely take home a little more confidence in my abilities and the discovery of sides of me that I didn't know. The main difference I perceived with Italy was the fact that **everything here is always very orderly, quiet**. In Italy the lack of organization is often a problem. The university system is also very different from Italy, the face-to-face lectures are much less and **there is a much more practical approach here**. This is definitely a side from which we could draw inspiration. Even with **the professors** I noticed a different relationship, they **are very helpful and generally have a good relationship with the students**. Even a professor offered to help me look for a dentist when I needed one. None of my Italian teachers would ever offer to do such a thing for an Erasmus student. So I was nicely surprised and it is a memory I will always carry with me”.

## The magic of Erasmus is people


Clara is 24 and is a German girl who comes from Stuttgart but studies in Hamburg. She chose Krakow as destination because it offers an excellent course in psychology for computer science, which is what she studies: “To answer what Erasmus means to me is a challenge because it is not only to dive into a new culture and to live in a different country; it is not only speaking in another language which is not your native one and not only studying at another university; **for me Erasmus is about the people**. The people you meet here you wouldn't have met if it wasn't for Erasmus. People from all over the world, from different backgrounds and lives, where often the first impression tries to tell you, you have nothing in common. But then the magic of Erasmus happen: **You find something which connects you** – you laugh about the same jokes, you like the same music, a similarity that makes you feel close to them really quickly. Suddenly, unexpectedly, you feel like home. Even if the 5 months of residency in Krakow go by very quickly, Erasmus for me is not really over afterwards: I have met great people, who I want to visit in their hometowns and also I have learned a lot about myself, which is to be openminded about everyone. That wherever I go, I am never alone. Because I can trust myself and **I know I will always find people who I love to surround myself with**”.

## Surrounded by new cultures, languages, friends



Analise is 22 and is an American girl from Texas. She studies international relations and came to Krakow with UPJPII Erasmus USA program: “I didn’t know much about Kraków before coming and **now I can’t imagine studying anywhere else**. I love the city of Krakow and all of the beauty and history that it holds. I learned so much about myself and cultivated so many life skills through traveling to 8 countries around Europe. Something that I loved about living in Europe that is different from the States is **all of the different cultures and languages that you get to encounter**. Especially here in Krakow, a city split in two by the Vistula River that runs through it and strongly marked by the Jewish culture that characterized its past history. In fact, it was a lot of fun to meet people from different countries and to be able to hear and know their languages. Now that I have learned typical Italian and French phrases that are used in everyday life, I will be able to use them once I get home to entertain my American friends. **I am also so grateful for all of the friendships that I made** and I’m already planning my next trip to Europe to visit everyone”.

## A deep experience

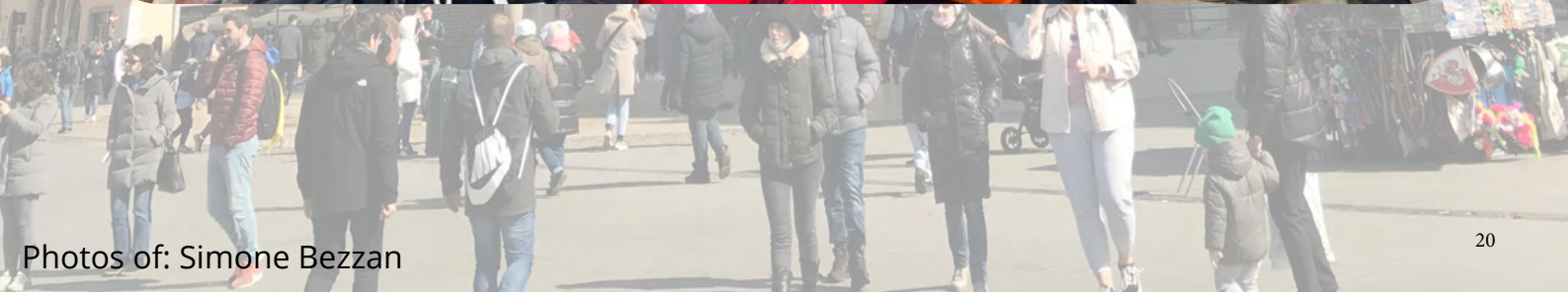


Sicong is 26 and is a guy from Hong Kong, China. He studied journalism in Germany in the first semester and now he’s in Krakow for the second one: “This is my first year in Europe and it's difficult to describe your culture because it’s so complicated and historical. For what I would like to become, a freelance journalist, I’m very passionate about topics like the refugee and migrant crisis, and **having met many international people has been an inspiration to me**. Here in Krakow **I met many Ukrainians and Polish families who were hosting them** because of the war situation, and I wanted to interview them. But it's very difficult to do that because they’ve just gone through difficult times and they are hurt by the war, by the trauma. So a way to interact with them was to do volunteer work and help them as much as possible. First I tried to get in touch with them and get their trust. Then when they started to trust, I was able to help them with informal conversation, not to interview them, but just daily talk. In this way, they started to tell me their personal stories. And this was the most delicate and touching part of my work. Eventually **I realized that** for me, being a migrant student in Europe, **to connect with them I had to be open-minded**. But most of all I had to listen to them. Sometimes you don't need to express your opinions when you listen to people you don't know. This is my experience, **this is what Krakow taught me”.**

## Erasmus: changing lives, opening minds

Erasmus is about growing personally and discovering sides of yourself that you didn't know you had. Erasmus is meeting people you didn't even know existed and eventually having connections around the world. Erasmus is discovering a culture completely different from your own and being fascinated and influenced by it. Erasmus is a chance to increase your passions. It's a new reality that changes the way you see things and yourself.

**Erasmus is all that. It's a beautiful life experience, in Krakow even more.**



# The artistic hidden jewels of Kazimierz

Krakow's famous Jewish quarter has one of the most original, varied and innovative collections of urban art in Poland.

By Camila Mosquera Filak



**A**s an Erasmus student in Krakow, the streets of Kazimierz are well known, as well as its bars, pubs and clubs where young people from different parts of the city gather to share afternoons and evenings.

Known as the Jewish quarter, this part of the city is also characterized by its aesthetic, alternative and unconventional style.

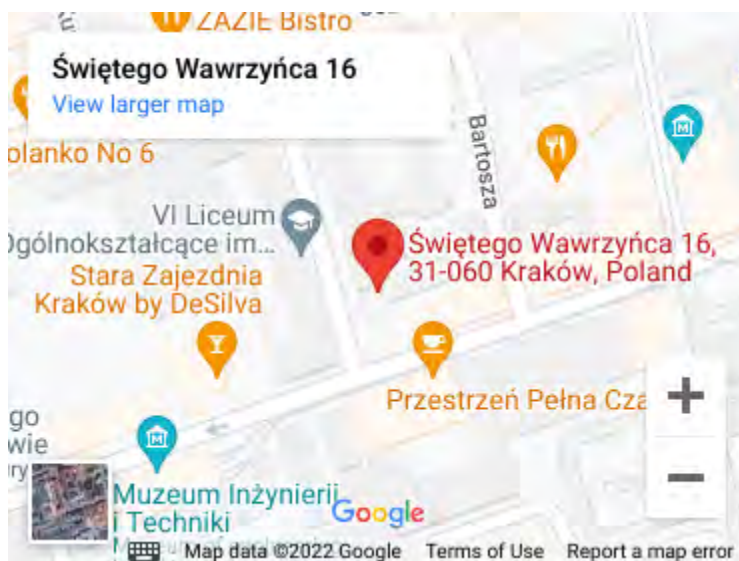
Thus, in addition to finding an innovative and diverse decoration in each of its premises, we see how urban art becomes one of the attractions of the area.

# CULTURE

We start walking through the characteristic streets of Kazimierz and the references to the Jewish world are evident. In this way, many of the large murals that we find in its worn buildings hide stories or symbolisms to that culture.

This is the case of one of the largest and best known works in the area: the mural in Bawół Square, dedicated to the Bosak family, whose history is well known for their efforts to smuggle medicine and money into the ghettos during the Nazi occupation.

It was created in 2014 by the group Broken Fingerz.



## We keep walking and

arrive at a mythical spot in Kazimierz, the Judah Food Truck Square, better known as Judah Square.

***"It's a great advantage for our business. Many tourists stop to see the mural and take the opportunity to eat here."***, says one of the vendors of one of the food trucks that line the square.

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# CULTURE

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This imposing image is the work of one of Israel's leading urban artists, Pil Peled. It was presented in 2013 as part of the Jewish Culture Festival and, according to the artist's words at the time, the image contrasts the vulnerability and fear of the inner child against the strength and struggle of the outer lion. In this way, he sought to represent the effort and strength of the Jewish people to preserve their own culture.



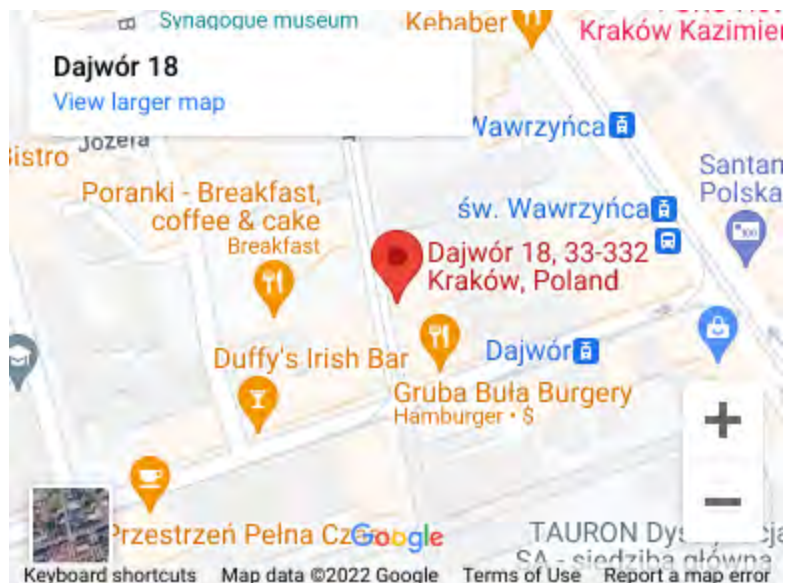
We continue the tour in a key place to preserve and remember the culture and history of Kazimierz: the Galicia Jewish Museum (Żydowskie Muzeum Galicja). If we enter, we will observe a complete exhibition documenting the remnants of Jewish culture and life in Polish Galicia.

But also from the outside, more specifically from the large mural on one of its side walls, we can feel that desire for the preservation of Jewish culture.

# CULTURE



According to his creator, Marcin Wierzchowski, the images on the right of the menorah represent old-Jewish traditions and life before industrialisation. The left represents a post-industrial world with factories and farms and various modes of transportation, including boats and planes. This piece was chosen as the winner in an art contest organised by the museum.





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# CULTURE

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## A history in brief

On Jozefa Street, more precisely at the entrance of the frequented Pub and Restaurant Wręga, we can see a mural that was commissioned to reflect the faces that represent a very important part, not only of the history of Kazimierz, but of the city of Krakow itself.



From left to right, along with Emperor Józef Habsburg II after whom the street is named. There's Helena Rubinstein (founder of one of the first cosmetics companies), Karol Knaus (curator, architect and artist), Esterka (the influential lover of King Kazimierz), and lastly King Kazimierz the Great.



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# CULTURE

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Despite the numerous commemorative or symbolic references and murals, there is also room in Kazimierz for smaller works, which appear suddenly along the way or simply serve to attract the attention of potential customers.



But of these "spontaneous" paintings, the one that has undoubtedly gained the most prominence is the one known as "Happy again". In it, we can see the mythical scene of Gene Kelly from "Singing in the rain", dancing in the rain but, this time, leaning on a gutter instead of on a lamppost.

There are many theories about the work, one of the most famous being that it is a creation of Banksy himself, due to the style and anonymity, although it has never been confirmed.

**"I believe that urban art is part of the identity of a place, and Kazimierz is a good example of that."**, says a local resident.

Locals and tourists alike are clear, the streets and art form an unbreakable bond.

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# *KRAKOW GAZETTE*

THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF JOHN PAUL II



## ***WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO KRAKOW AS AN ERASMUS STUDENT?***

By Nolwenn Le Tirant

Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds. This is Erasmus slogan and it doesn't lie. Erasmus will probably be one of the most incredible experiences of your life, and here is why you should go to Krakow to live this experience fully.

There are many tourist guides that cover interesting places in Krakow. But the best way to get to know them is visiting many, many streets covered by them. While walking into the city, you will always discover, as I did, a lot of beautiful places that worth visiting. Food, cafe, history and not to mention the student life, I will tell you everything you need to know in this article, from my personal experience as an Erasmus student.

### *A DELICIOUS FOOD*

We all know that the food is a very important thing when you live somewhere new. Eating well is not negligible. Poland is a good place for that.

First, you can't miss the famous pierogies. They are everywhere, in every street, in every polish restaurant. This is the speciality of Poland, whose shape and dough looks like a kind of ravioli. If you are more in the mood for street food, you can try the zapiekanka. Called "polish pizza", those are delicious toast baguette topped with mushrooms and cheese for the original one. You can find them in Plac Nowy in Kazimierz.

### *A LOT OF CHARMING PLACES*

Krakow is full of lovely places with character where you can sit for a coffee and enjoy your time alone or with some friends. Here are my favourites one:

- Camelot, the most famous one with always a lot of people. It's one of my favourite because it's always a nice place to come to eat good food, drink fresh beverage and enjoy your time with your friend.

- Kawalerka, for the tea amateurs. The first time I entered, I felt like I was back in time into the 40s. The decoration and the atmosphere make you feel like you are in another era. I also love this place for working thanks to its calmness.

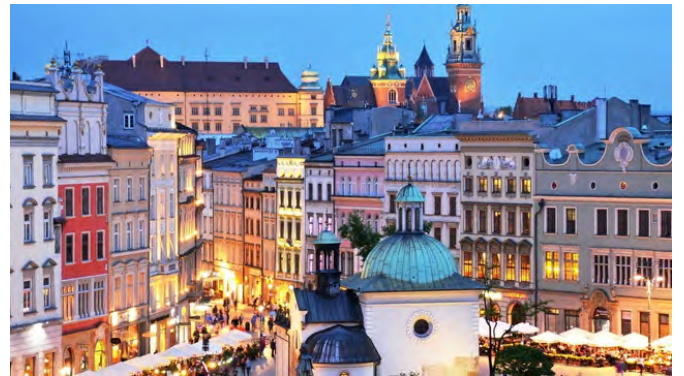
- METRUM Restobistro, the most beautiful student cafe of Kraków. This rooftop offers an amazing view on the city and, as it is a student place, the prices are very attractive. I won't forget the time I spent with my friends on the Sunday afternoons, to debrief about the night before and enjoy the fresh air of the city while taking a coffee.



*METRUM Restobistro, on a Sunday afternoon*

### *A CITY FULL OF HISTORY*

Krakow is one of the most important and most visited cities in Poland. The inhabitants of this city enjoy and attend various cultural and traditional events throughout the year. One of the most important places in Krakow is the Market Square, which is considered the largest in Europe. Another very popular part of the city that you should not miss is the Jewish quarter called Kazimierz. You should also know that the entire historic center of this city is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is well worth a visit.



*The city center at night*

### *AN AMAZING STUDENT LIFE*

Krakow is known for welcoming a lot of students from Poland and all over the world. In total, there are around 175,000 students whose 46,000 international students. So, the student atmosphere and the party are always present! Most of the time, to party students go in the city center. This is where most bars and clubs are located. One of the most popular areas of the city to go out for a drink with friends is Kazimierz, the Jewish quarter.

Places for everyone:

- Alchemia, my favourite bar in Kazimierz. It has a lot of charm and there is a very special ambiance. This place has a special place in my heart because this is where my first nights took place at the beginning of the semester and that I met a lot of my friends.

- Krakowskie Zakaski, to have a chill drink in a beautiful garden. I will miss the routine of coming every Monday to this bar with my group of friends.

- Prozak, the best club to enjoy techno music.

*In conclusion, Krakow is a city where you will have a lot of fun with really nice local and international people. This city has everything to offer you so you spend the best experience of your life. Before to come here, I saw Krakow as a simple Erasmus city, Now I see it like my second home.*