



## THE WORLD OF ERASMUS+

*Sinan Önen & Başak Çelik*



### **What Is Erasmus+?**

Erasmus+ program is an initiative founded and run by European Union since 1987 where students from different European countries get the opportunity to study or gain work experience in a foreign country. For many students who participated in Erasmus projects, it becomes their first time living and studying in another country. Thus, it is an experience of a lifetime that broadens one's horizons as well as exchanging experiences with people from various countries. Currently, a large number of universities, in 36 different European countries are part of members in the scheme. Erasmus programs usually last between 3 and 12 months. Students studying any subject, both undergraduate and postgraduate, can apply to take part in the Erasmus program for studying abroad. Furthermore, the program promotes learning and understanding of the host country, as the Erasmus experience is considered both a time for learning as well as a chance to socialise and experience a different culture.

### **How Erasmus+ established ?**

The Erasmus programme was established in 1987 as an exchange programme for higher education students. Ever since the first year, when 3,200 students from 11 European countries (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) participated, the programme has constantly been evolving.

## How to take part in the Erasmus+ program?

Before all, every school has its own criteria that any student applying for the Erasmus+ program needs to meet. Usually, they relate to the average of the students' grades. Students should contact the international office of their higher education institution. Choosing a suitable university is one of the most important steps of this journey. The opportunities and possibilities of the institution for your development should serve your purpose. Moreover, the country and the city you are planning to go to essentially impact your Erasmus experience. The living costs and way of life varies from country to country.



## Financial Aspect of Erasmus+

Besides all the amazing experiences of Erasmus+, all these things bring a financial burden with them such as accommodation, transportation, food and etc. However, you have the chance to receive an Erasmus+ grant as a contribution to your living costs.

## What does Erasmus+ offer?

Cooperation projects are a tool offering organisations active in the fields of education, training, youth and sport the opportunity to form partnerships with each other, as well as with other actors such as companies and public authorities. These cooperation projects enhance quality and drive innovation, for example by improving the policies that are essential to economic growth and job creation.



## THE CHRONICLE OF COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Ömer F. Ekmekçi

Since the beginning of time, communication has been a very important part of our life. Even though this need never disappeared, it changed forms. The ways people communicated with each other always kept changing throughout the history. At first, it was talking. That was enough. Then people wanted to communicate with people who are far away from them or with lots of people at the same time. Modern solutions to these needs of people will be mentioned below.

### 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

#### TV

This little box of miracles, which was invented in 1927, was surreal for most people. You could see people on the screen who were not even close to your house. You could listen to music, watch sports, news, weather forecast etc... *And they were all in color!*



#### Telephone



Even though the telephone was invented by Graham Bell in 1876, it became widespread in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Phones were finally small enough to fit in pockets, and people loved the idea of talking to people from miles away. That was the fastest way of communication at the time.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### Personal Computers

The personal computer trend was started by IBM in 1984 and picked up by the rest of the industry over time. Personal computers gradually became more powerful and cheaper and were pretty popular in the early 2000s. Google, Microsoft and Apple were leading the sector and they still are.

Nowadays, it is pretty much a requirement to own a PC, and so many daily tasks require them. Especially with Internet, PCs are very useful in all aspects of our lives.



### Internet



The Internet was developed by Timothy Berners at CERN and became popular in the early 2000s with full-featured web pages and applications like Amazon, Yahoo Maps and Google. It was extraordinarily fast, almost instantaneous. With the time, Internet allowed us to share pictures, audio records, videos and live streams; therefore it became more and more popular over the years. It seems like this won't be change anytime soon.

### E-mail

E-mail gained recognition along with the Internet. E-mail services were commonly used by a lot of people for fast and reliable communication, especially in the workplace. Google Mail, aka Gmail, is currently the E-mail service with the biggest number of active users, 1,7 billion.



## Social Media

Everybody knows what social media is and we all love it. Social media is arguably the most enjoyable way of communicating and best platform to find the communities you want to be a part of.

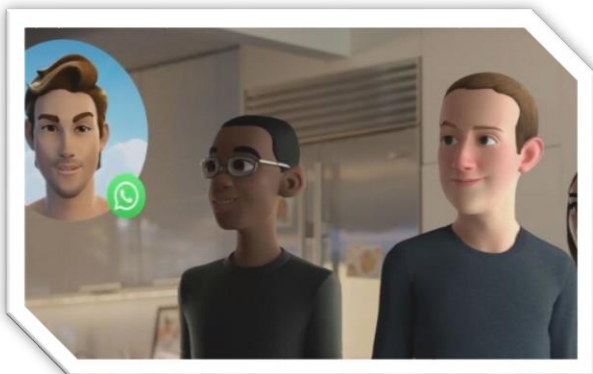
Here are some of the most popular social media platforms:



Rank	Platform name	Parent company	Country	Monthly active users, in millions
#1	Facebook	Meta	U.S.	2,910
#2	YouTube	Alphabet	U.S.	2,291
#3	WhatsApp	Meta	U.S.	2,000
#4	Messenger	Meta	U.S.	1,300
#5	Instagram	Meta	U.S.	1,287
#6	WeChat	Tencent	China	1,225
#7	Kuaishou	Kuaishou	China	1,000
#8	TikTok	Bytedance	China	1,000
#9	Telegram	Telegram	UAE	600
#10	Qzone	Tencent	China	600

## Virtual Reality & Metaverse

Virtual reality, aka VR, is a growing technology that is used in communication industry, as well as many others.



Metaverse, from the creators of Facebook, is a new project aiming to create the ultimate social media, a digital life in VR where you can choose how you want to look, how you want to live, and even who you want to be.

# INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

*Özlem Sude Şaşmaz*

## What is this?

Interpersonal communication is the way of exchanging information, thoughts, and feelings between two or more people. The most important difference between interpersonal communication and the other types of communication is being relational.

## What does relational communication mean?

The term of relational communication can be explained simply with 'communication with two sides'. For opposite of this term, television is a device for communication but it uses one-way interaction, it only conveys the message from one side but for relational communication there must be a feedback too.



## Why interpersonal communication is important?

Out of being relational, there are lots of features that make interpersonal communication special and important. Some of the are;

1. Independent Individuals: The people who are in interpersonal communication have their own thoughts; so it means that there are no group thoughts, everyone can have different ideas.

2. Self-disclosure: As a result of involving independent individuals, people reveal their personal thoughts, feelings and reflections.

3. Being Constant and Inescapable: It allows people to interact constantly with others.



## Students and Interpersonal Communication

School is the place of learning and learning requires interpersonal communication. At the same time making friendships needs to have conversations too. We can say one of the most needed structures at school is interpersonal communication.



## MEETING NUMBER 1: POLAND

Poland was the very first meeting where all students had a chance to meet each other for the first time. The warm welcome of the host country and the fun activities they had prepared for us all made the 5 days even more enjoyable and unforgettable.



We as the Turkish team were 7 people, 2 teachers and 5 students. For some it was the first time abroad and meeting people from a different culture and communicating with them made us realize the importance of intercultural communicative and interpersonal communication.



## MEETING NUMBER 2: FRANCE

*Kutay Özbek*



When I look back to my high school memories, the ones I remember the best are from Erasmus+. When we arrived in France, I was nervous. It all passed when my host family picked me up and took home. I had the sweetest host family. We played games and chatted until night every evening.

At the school, we had the chance to make friends from around Europe. Since we were all around the same age, we had a lot in common, which made it more fun to spend time together. However, fun wasn't something we had only in our free times. French teachers and students had prepared entertaining activities for us. In one of them they took us around the city it was a casual sightseeing until the games began. I think it was very creative and enjoyable.

My birthday coincided on Erasmus+ France and my new friends and my friends from Turkey prepared a surprise party for me. It was one of the best and the most unusual birthdays I have ever had and probably will ever have and there is no way I will forget it. I had never thought Erasmus+ would be this much fun and of course I was sad when it was time to leave.



Just like other ones, we had an Erasmus+ Turkey meeting as well. As a team, we all brainstormed to find entertaining activities for our guests. For me, hosting was better because I like taking responsibilities. We showed our guests the landmarks of Istanbul, made them taste local delicacies and made sure they always had fun.



I believe Erasmus+ is a great experience for everyone. You get to make friends from other countries, practice your English by talking about specified subjects, learn about other cultures, take responsibility when it is your turn to host and of course have a lot of fun.

## MEETING NUMBER 3: TURKEY

*Zeynep Kaçar*

As the Erasmus team, we gathered in Turkey at the third meeting of our project. First of all, I would like to say that, as the Turkish team, we were very glad and full of excitement to host such an exciting project. We had the opportunity to introduce our culture and how we live in the company of Istanbul, a city that is dynamic and as dynamic as it is historical.



During our trip, we tried to visit the most important and popular places in this city that shows the history and daily life altogether. On the first day of our trip, we started with a presentation in the company at our school with the beautiful view of the Bosphorus. In the remaining days, we took our guests around Istanbul, including the historical peninsula which is the home of Hagia Sophia and Sultanahmet, and tried to introduce new tastes to our guests. In addition to showing the historical side of Istanbul, we tried to convey to our friends the feeling of how does social life work, what we do in our daily lives as teenagers and make them witness our days.



I would like to say that we are very happy to receive positive feedback on this issue and in general of our trip. We can surely say that we created unforgettable memories. We had the opportunity to mingle more with our guest friends through small competitions and games and got to know each other better. I think the biggest indicator and effect of this situation is the fact that I am still in contact with my friend whom I hosted in my own house.



In my opinion, organising the Erasmus project not only increased our self-confidence in communication but also gained new perspectives for us and our guests. I believe that we have made many valuable friendships and experienced newness during this process. I hope that years later, we can remember this project and meetings in the best corner of our minds.

## MEETING NUMBER 4: SLOVAKIA

*İpek İnci Öge*



The fourth meeting of our Erasmus project was in Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia. The city was very historic and it is also a World Heritage Center of UNESCO.

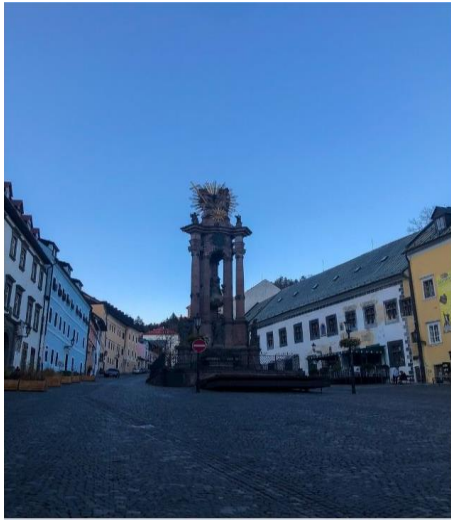
Because it is the oldest mining town in the country, we went to a mine by even wearing a helmet and a coat. Listening to the guide talk about the mining situations back then was very interesting.



We spent a day in High Tatras, which are approximately 2600m high mountains with stunning views. I took a lot of pictures and videos and they all seem so peaceful and spectacular that they look like postcards.

It was my first time hiking so at the end of the day, I was so tired. The mushroom soup I ate there was one of the best I had ever eaten.

What I liked the most about the city was the fact that old buildings from medieval times were carefully preserved. When you take a glance at the streets, it is obvious that the historical texture is meticulously protected.



Generally speaking, it was my first time being abroad and it was a fascinating experience with different cultures coming together. I enjoyed seeing other people's lifestyles in Europe and trying out the local cuisine.

For instance, I loved the dessert called “šúľance”. In fact, I didn't even know it was a dessert at first, because desserts are much

sweeter in our country, so observing and directly experiencing these kinds of differences of cultures amazed me every time. As I kept on learning them, I became more and more curious.

Additionally, I found it surprising that they call a city with a population of 10.000 “big”, as I live in a city where 20 million people live.



I had always been nervous while talking to other people in English but this Erasmus project helped me overcome this fear of mine as I improved my speaking skills. Another thing that I was happy to gain from this project was that I made many friends that I've been keeping in touch with.



## STUDENT THINGS ☺

Conversation seems hard. Conversation and interaction with people who you don't share the same language, same culture seems even harder, but the exchange program proved me the total opposite. It was a huge step for break down the prejudice. I rediscovered the city I live in with my guest, learning about the little details about her country and if you are kind of person who enjoys fun facts, learning cultures, trying to explain yourself in a different language like me you'd love the Erasmus +program as much as me. Now I really feel privileged that I had a week full of memories with those brilliant people.



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I was host in an Erasmus Project two years ago. Mirte was my guest, she is from Netherlands. We spent quality time together; talked about our lives, countries, cultures, life experiences, friends and memories. We still friends and stay in touch. I became more responsible because i should keep an eye on her during the programme. I made friends from all over the world. It's a wonderful thing to know you have friends beyond the borders of your country, who you can visit or come to visit you, with whom you always have a lot to share even though you don't see each other every day. It was a unique experience to me.



With that Erasmus Program, I went abroad and visited a new country for the first time. I met a lot of new people, made many new friends thanks to this opportunity. All of them were nice, sincere people and very nice to talk to. I had the opportunity to use my English a lot and that was beneficial to me, helped to improve my pronunciation vocabulary, and made me speak more fluently. We saw many natural and architectural wonders, learnt about new cultures. Talked about stereotypes and how true/false they are. In general, it was a very good experience for me to live in my lifetime.

It was my first experience of meeting people from different nationalities. I was worried about how to communicate with them but after I met with my friends, my negative thoughts were replaced with all my wonderful memories. I learnt that the other countries have similar cultures as we have and understood that getting in touch with someone by speaking is not the only way for building bond of friendship.

When I first heard about the project, I was very excited to be a part of this crucial event. I knew it would be beneficial for me, but I wouldn't expect that much. The project really helped me to improve my English, get to know other cultures. The foreign students I've met, taught me a lot about their lifestyle. We Hosted them in our country, and we also had a chance to visit them in their countries. Now I know that I will always have a place to stay at these countries.

If I summed up my experience on Erasmus+ Project with only one word, it would be inspiring. Because I met a lot of people from a lot of different countries and cultures and talking to them made me realize even though we had our differences result from living in different places or having different cultures, we also have a lot of common. I was a host in this project and my quest was a lovely girl named Oliwia who came from Poland. I was a little anxious before I met her because I didn't know if we would get along or having anything in common, but I couldn't be more wrong. We spent a lot of time together, and I enjoyed every second of it. Before this, I didn't know anything about Poland and I probably would never be curious and learn about their cultures or history, but I learned a lot from my guest, and it really widened my viewpoint. Also, in that one week I spent most of my time speaking English.

MOMENTS TO CHERISH ☺



THE TURKISH TEAM☺

Ferdi Çeliker  
Ahmet Furkan Bostancı  
Gülay Akgül  
Esad Yusuf Atik  
Hatice Zeynep Göktürk  
Zeynep Kaçar  
İlgin Yeğinsu  
Yiğit İleri  
Kutay Özbek  
İremnur Efe  
Oğulcan Basmaz  
Tarık Emre Yılmaz  
Aslı Nazlı Ekşi  
Gözde Caan  
Selin Beker  
Duru Bayraktaş  
Sude Yarar  
Özlem Sude Şaşmaz  
İlgin Şahin  
İrem Yiğit  
Sinan Önen  
Başak Çelik  
Ömer Faruk Ekmekçi  
Defne Setenay Çelem

