A. Preparation (planning, organization, and application to the host institution)

I am studying the European Master in Renewable Energy with has a mandatory specialization semester abroad, which is according to the desired specialization. For me, during my application for the Master's degree, I applied for the specialization in Wind Energy in National Technical University of Athens, Greece. The application process, planning and organization are already known from the website of EUREC and Oldenburg University. Our course and programme coordinator from both the universities supported us in the application.

B. Travel and arrival

After completing the winter semester in Germany, our specialization semester started on 10th February 2020. We were well supported by the coordinators and some senior students before leaving for Athens. So, everything was quite easy, we arrived in Athens on 09th Feb. 2020 and started our semester from the very next day.

C. Accommodation

Before leaving for Athens, we received few contacts for accommodation, even searching on Facebook works really well. So, I contacted and finalized a room beforehand, so it was easy going for me when I reached there. My place was around 30 mins from the University by bus, also it was around 15 mins from the city centre. The average monthly living expense was around 230-250 €.

D. Studying at the host university (courses, academic performance/credits, support, credit transfer)

Basically, it was a mandatory semester for me, the specialization in Wind Energy. I really liked and enjoyed the course. The course is well structured with every relevant information. For the first one-month, we had face-to-face lectures and then unfortunately, everything switched to online lectures because the COVID-19. But I would say, the course coordinator and other teaching staff, they really did a great job in handling everything. They were flexible, arranged additional doubt clearing sessions and tried to make everything best, whatever was possible at that time. In the end, they
managed to organize labs, which was really interesting and lot of learning experience, that was like we went to University almost after 2.5 months and finally the semester ended with the exams.

Photo: We constructed a wooden wind turbine and tested it in Wind Tunnel

E. Everyday life and leisure time

My everyday life started with a nice breakfast at the University restaurant, then followed by lectures for mostly 3 hours daily, then again lunch at the University restaurant. Then it depends on the work, someday, I stayed at the university and dinner there and then return to home. Athens is a beautiful city to experience a lot of things, one can have a cheap food (kind of street food), which is very popular there, one can spend hours sitting and roaming around the city center, which was most fascinating place, I believe. There are historical places, beaches, wonderful islands, which one plan for the weekends with some amazing Greek food in the end. Due to COVID-19, for two months, I stayed at home, did not go anywhere outside and later by the end of the semester, when there was more relaxation, I managed to visit two islands, before coming back to Germany.
F. General experience, credit transfer, conclusion (tips for other students, DOs and DONTs)

The overall in general experience was really wonderful. Apart from studies, I would say ERASMUS semester helped me to know a lot people, about different tradition, culture, food. The situation was not very good because of COVID-19, but still everything went on really well and I had an amazing collection of memories. The professors were very friendly, we had a lot of fun, dinner and BBQ together. One of the best experiences ever.

More pics to follow: From the BBQ we made and of some popular and traditional Greek foods.