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Ludwig-Erhard-Berufskolleg

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Travel Report Norway

The Erasmus+ project gave me the chance to spend one month in Norway, Kyrksæterøra. This village is placed in the western centre of Norway, in a municipality (Kommune) called Hemne. Kyrksæterøra is the administrative center of Hemne and has a population of 2.502 on a total area of 2.26 km². I had the unique opportunity to work and live in this region and to experience the daily life and habits of Norwegian people. Their summer holiday started just one week after my arrival so I had to work in local companies.

I spend my first two weeks in a company called "Blakstad Auto AS", a gas station with a huge offer of special services like a carwash or a cooperation with "Bosh" in their garage. During my visit the company turned 50 years old (founded in 1966). I was mainly placed in the shop where the costumers could consume fast-food or choose from a big selection of daily life needs for car and kitchen. After a few days I started to get a daily routine with cleaning and refilling the shelves. On two days of the week I had the opportunity to take the night shift, in which my main work focused on preparing food. The staff was very always polite and helpful whenever I had a question. In my last days I also had the task to train a new employee in the job I have been doing for the last week. All in all I can conclude that my first two weeks were productive, but not in the way I expected them to be. It is hard to stay positive and productive at a non-paid fulltime job at a gas station while you remove weeds from the street side. But nevertheless I kind of enjoyed the work, probably because of the very nice and kindly people owning this place.

I spend the rest of the time at another company called "Lian". They are specialized on building window and door frames, only 50m away from Auto Blakstad. This company was founded in 1913 and joined 2012 the "Dovista" Group, a group of 10 independent companies. They all produce windows and external doors for the northern market (<http://www.dovista.com/dovista-group>). I was placed in the painting section together with 7-8 coworkers. The job was not very difficult but I learned a lot and got some useful skills from the work I was doing (I actually repainted my bike and my room after I got home). I definitely enjoyed my stay in this company, not only because of the kind people. The whole job gave me a feeling of being needed and being welcome. I highly recommend this company for further co operations, or at least a similar company.

While my stay I lived at Petter Strands place, where he lives with his mother Anne-Mette. They were very nice and treated me very well. In the week I came home around 3 or 4 o'clock and most often stayed in my room. Kyrksæterøra is not the most interesting place in the world so my afternoon was mostly dominated by boredom caused by my restricted of mobility (not even a bike or skateboard to use). At the weekend we often went on small trips to their close by shed in the woods, to Trondheim or to a fishing trip. These trips were nice and most often led me to beautiful places (not very difficult in Norway). The landscape probably influences the people who are living in this part of Norway, because everybody was, at least superficial, very kind and caring.

Right now, I cannot imagine to study, work or live in Norway. It undoubtedly is a wonderful country that offers a lot of seductive opportunities, but it is not the right country for me. Nevertheless I was very impressed by the infrastructure and the school system. My English was also more than enough to communicate and the native language should be easy to learn due to the simple grammar. I would welcome another stay abroad to gain even more experience and to improve my communicative skills.

Best regards

