



 eUTOPIA

My Journey

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Who am I?

I am Anasxon and I am from Uzbekistan. I studied bachelor's degree in the international economy faculty at the University of Oriental Studies in Tashkent, the capital city of my country.

I completed my master's degree at Yeungnam University and am currently continuing my doctoral studies at Kyungpook National University.

My desire to live in an international environment and abroad started when I graduated from school. Of course, living in any country with its culture and difficulties is not an easy task, but I have always been interested. It is necessary to live in such an environment in order to better understand and adapt to the people of the country.

How did I qualify for EUCI?

My international journey started almost 10 years ago. Since 2018, I have been able to study at foreign universities. I am currently a PhD student at Kyungpook National University. Having studied at this university, I had the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful international project as **EUCI**. I think that EUCI has allowed me to gain brief information about different people's cultures and customs during my education and to become a more understanding, respectful and open-minded person through the results of EUCI. Although it was a short workshop, I was fortunate enough to experience this process firsthand in the case of this new phase of globalization, and I would like to share more about the complex ways it has affected me.

Getting to know EUTOPIA has been very helpful for me. Because by going through the EUCI program, I had the opportunity

to discuss world problems with people from different parts of Europe. Because my field is international economy and trade, it is natural for me to travel to different countries in the future, and getting to know their cultures and languages is not without benefits.

What did I learn?

During the seminars conducted by the EUCI team, several topics were approached very dynamically, during the sessions we went to separate rooms with representatives of different countries and shared our thoughts.

21st century is the age of infinity. We live in an age where we have the opportunity to expand ourselves and our knowledge internationally. Learning and getting acquainted with other national cultures, other state political systems, other languages, other traditions has become very easy in this era. All this is happening because of globalization. Especially due to the development of technologies, it is possible to be aware of the situations happening in several countries at the same time.

I would be happy to say that the 3 workshops of EUCI helped me gain new intercultural skills in making new friends and learning about their countries and worldviews.

It developed the ability to understand how to againts local and global problems and find solutions from an international perspective, as well as the ability to reflect on all the aspects mentioned above.

Through the portfolio below, I describe some of the activities related to the topics discussed in the workshops.

When I was studying at the bachelor's level, I came across the term international a lot, so I majored in international economics. I understand the definition of **interculturalism** for people as being able to live in an intercultural community while respecting the cultures of all, not just one particular culture. Even if people are not born in the same region, they have the right to travel to different places, organize friendly visits and get to know different cultures.

By this I mean that every time people have more opportunities to expand internationally, be it for work, family or even leisure, they can travel to other areas and make new friends there.

Reflective Essay: My Journey

How began my international Journey?

If I remember my school days, in 2009 I was still a 9th grader, at that time the English language was not very developed in our country. Passing the state exam in English and our level of knowledge was determined. Since the environment consisted only of my Uzbek comrades, there was no need for another state language. In order not to fail the exam, I started attending an English language center, and after a few months, the ability to speak and understand English began to form.

At that time there was a park near our school. My friend was working in this garden, I went to him, we were talking for a while. At that moment, 2 German people passed us and started asking in English where they sell delicious ice cream. They were not native English, so their pronunciation was slow and we could understand. We were happy that we could speak English, and as we chatted with them and explained the destination, we became curious about their country. Despite the fact that we were very young, they spoke to us openly and sincerely, so we made it our goal to study abroad and, of course, to study the cultures of other countries.

Although I do not have enough chance to visit many countries in my life, I have been lucky enough to visit a few countries and interact with the people there. During my international travels, I met wonderful people in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Turkey, and South Korea. Even though I don't know the national languages

of some countries, when I went there, I witnessed a kind of inner respect and understanding through the language of the heart in explaining to people and helping people to each other. When I travel internationally, I notice that these nations are similar to my own country, but also have differences in food, clothing, and some customs.



When I was studying at the **Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies** as a bachelor, we participated in various international programs, one of which was Erasmus+ in Tashkent.

Erasmus+ offers a range of international opportunities for both individuals and institutions. Erasmus+ offers young people the opportunity to gain new experience and expand their worldview by going abroad.

The Erasmus+ program, which will run from 2014 to 2020, provides opportunities for study, education, work experience and volunteering abroad.

I write my brief summaries about the people from the countries I have traveled so far in my travel diary.

In the case of **Turkey**, people in Ankara are very nationalized and have preserved their national culture. The Istanbul part is very modern and the process of globalization is fast.

I have witnessed that the people of Madinah, **Saudi Arabia** are very kind and hospitable, while the people of Makkah are famous for their trade.

About my life in South Korea.

I have been studying in **South Korea** for almost 6 years. The city where I live is Daegu city, when I came here for the first time, I had a wonderful experience. I am originally from Uzbekistan and a Muslim. When I first came to Korea, the main challenge was finding halal certified food. I came to Yeungnam University in the fall of 2018 to study. At that time, due to the long hours of classes and the fact that I was in an unfamiliar city, I could hardly go anywhere other than the University and the dormitory. My roommate in the dormitory was a Korean person, and on the day of my new arrival, we had a little conversation, and I told him that I am a Muslim and eat only halal food. The next day, when I came back from class, I saw Snickers, chocolate and bananas on my desk in my room. My roommate said it was sold for me and that I would eat a little bit and get some energy. I realized that even if people do not share the same nationality, language, or religion, they can show their goodness in their hearts and always be ready to help. This was the first friend I made when I came to Korea.

Interculturalism

By coming to Korea, I was able to make friends from different countries along with getting interesting information about their national culture. I made friends from China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, Costa Rica, Indonesia, India, Pakistan.



It was an opportunity to learn more about each other's culture and I realized that one of their most important holidays is Solnal and Korean Hanbok Day. Having little knowledge about it, I tried to perform its rituals to some extent for them. Therefore, we learned how to wear national clothes and how to prepare tea in historical times and how to pour it respectfully to someone older than you. The most interesting thing was that even though we came from different countries, we could communicate in Korean and understand each other. Now we are much closer to each other and know that despite all our differences, including borders and languages, we have something in common.

When people have to live in an international environment, they face challenges whether they like it or not. But how you deal with them is very important. One of the most important qualities of a person who can help this category of people is humanity and

tolerance, and this was reinforced in me after my educational migration abroad, and it was also discussed a lot at EUCI.

In conclusion, I can say that international projects like EUCI help people to make friends from different countries throughout their lives, to make it possible for representatives of other nationalities to be like them, to create a warm and friendly atmosphere. During the conversation, I witnessed how innocent and sincere the representatives of different countries are. Through the experiences and opportunities, I have had throughout my life, I realized that if I travel to their countries, I will definitely have at least one friend there.