

EUROPE3D+ BELGIUM

9th-16th March

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As a master student here in Lappeenranta University of Technology, in my first semester, I was curious to know more about student organizations and activities. After talking to Teemu Metsola, he introduced me to European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management (ESTIEM). My first event was in Portugal as the official photographer of Council Meeting Aveiro. There I had the chance to familiarize myself with one of the coolest ESTIEM projects, Europe3D. The application round for Europe3D+ Belgium opened. After applying as an early bird, my application was accepted. Then I had to register for my application and purchase airplane tickets. I chose KLM airline with an indirect flight from Helsinki to Brussels.

On 9th of March I took a VR train and then a bus to Helsinki Airport. The flight departed approximately 2 in the afternoon and landed in Brussels 6 in the evening. By reaching Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) I met other ESTIEMers. While eating dinner I got to know passionate students from all around Europe. After the ice breaker, there was the infamous ESTIEM activity, the international night. Where participants represent their countries with traditional food and drinks from their countries. A tip from me would be to eat well beforehand, and also not to mix all sorts of drinks, as skies will be rotating afterwards. At the end of the night, we moved our luggage to one of the local group member's apartment and slept there. In the next morning we moved to ULB again to have breakfast. Then there was two presentations about Université Libre de Bruxelles from dean himself, and also Europe3D+ Belgium. After that, the intercultural awareness training began, and we learned about cultural differences, and how we should react in these situations. Then we went to visit a chocolate factory in Brussels and Law Courts of Brussels. Then we had dinner afterwards, and of course, party.



Law Courts of Brussels



Chocolate factory

The second day began the visit to Royal Academy of Brussels and a presentation about Cimcil. After eating the lunch we came back to ULB to watch a presentation about Belgium's economic history. Then we learned phrases in both French and Dutch language. Before going to the TD (a big hall where students party, pee on the floor and throw their beers in the air), we had dinner in ULB cafeteria. The third day was devoted to Brussels sightseeing. The majestic Grand Place of Brussels was stunning and we spent hours exploring the area. The Délirium Café offered 2004 kinds of beer under one roof, which was pretty impressive. After a long day of walking and talking, we went to a local restaurant to have Belgium dinner. On the fourth morning, we had to pack our luggage to move to Gent. We took the train and after approximately one hour, we reached Gent. Before starting the Gent sightseeing we had the chance to drop our luggage into our host's house. Gent was a surprise as it was filled with history and life. LG Gent prepared a lists of tasks for ESTIEMers which in my opinion was awesome. For instance there was a task to ask local residents about Belgium national anthem. For dinner, we went to Gent university cafeteria, as we had a delicious warm meal. On the next morning, 14th of March, they planned a presentation about Belgium politics. The tension in the political system between French speaking and Dutch speaking political parties were discussed. After having lunch in the university, I had to leave the group in order to visit my family in Brussels.

Saying farewell was a sad moment at the end as I was leaving a group of passionate and energetic students. But I was glad that I had the chance to participate, travel and know these people. It was one of my greatest trips so far. Europe3D+ Belgium will always remain in my memory.

ESTIEM group-Gent

