

International Law Week in Helsinki
November 2014

Tuesday 11-11-2014

On November 11, 2014 we, two students of European Studies and three students of International Business from Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, flew together with Mr De Vries to participate at the 'International Law Week' in Helsinki. We first had to take the train to Schiphol Amsterdam and we arrived there without any problem. The plane took off around 8.30 PM Dutch time and arrived around 11:55 PM Finnish time at Helsinki airport. After having collected our luggage, we decided to take a Taxi to the Eurohostel where we spend the next four nights. Since we arrived so late in Helsinki, it was not possible for us to participate at the welcome and the evening dinner at 8:00 PM at Hotel Carlton.

Wednesday 12-11-2014

Wednesday was our first day in Helsinki. At 8 in the morning we were picked up by Finnish students, who helped us with arranging tickets and getting to the first company we had to visit. It was Kone - world leaders in the elevator and escalator industry. Firstly, we were amazed with the place, where the company is located. Modern building faces a beautiful lake. It was very calm weather, and sun was just rising. Then we



went to the lecture which was on the highest store with a wonderful view of the landscape. Representatives of Kone met us with hot coffee and typical Finnish rice sandwiches.

Kone has a long history; it started to exist even before Finland received its independence. The lecturer made us an introduction to the elevator industry. It is a quite narrow and specific industry; therefore, it was amusing to learn about it. Elevator and escalator industry is small; however, it has great prospective and opportunities.

After the lecture we went to the Metropolia business school. We travelled there by bus, so we had an opportunity to see more Helsinki. At school, we had Official welcome. Afterwards we had a lecture "E-commerce law and privacy law - The new regulation" by Mister de Vries. The lecture touched such important issues: Online privacy, Social media and Ethics. Are we enough protected by Law? What else can be done? Do the companies violate our right for privacy? During a workshop, we had an opportunity to discuss them in small groups of students. The

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groups consisted of students from 4 different countries. Therefore, the atmosphere was really international.

In the evening, we had “Amazing Race”. The idea was to walk around the city, from one famous place to another and answer some questions concerning the history of Finland. Night Helsinki is awesome: magnificent buildings, wide streets, elegant shops, grandiose churches.



After sightseeing, there was organized an informal student program – “Optional Barhopping”. Some of us joined to it, and had an opportunity to see nightlife of Helsinki.

Thursday 13-11-2014

On the following day our group attended two lectures and two workshops. The first lecture was held by Dr. Jaensch from Germany. The topic he discussed was Trading in the EU. After the lecture, the groups had to make an assignment concerning the principle of free movement of goods. The second lecture was held by the Dutch professor, Mr. van de Luytgaarden, who talked about proactive lawyering. Afterwards we had a workshop where we had to analyse a case.



In the evening, there was time for leisure program. The whole group went to a tiny restaurant where typical Finnish food was served. We also tried the reindeer and in general, everyone liked the traditional foods.

Friday 14-11-2014

Friday, our last day at the Metropolia University, started again by meeting up at the central railway station in Helsinki around 9 o'clock. After walking a couple of blocks, we arrived at the Federation of Finnish Financial Services. They started with a small introduction of the company and a very interesting presentation of what the FFI exactly does and organizes. At 11.30 we had to go back to Metropolia University for our lunch and the rest of the day's program.

After our lunch, we started again with a presentation about free movement of goods, people and services and capital. By the information we received from the Belgium professor (Mr. Nico Nijsten) we could start the assignment of the workshop. (To be honest, I don't remember anymore what the assignment was about). After the workshops, the Finnish students had a small

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thank you speech prepared and they announced the winner of the Instagram picture competition.

At last, we were invited for the amazing farewell party at Meze. I think that this was the best evening for all of us. We had to draw straws, which told us at which table we had to sit down for dinner. By this idea, the Finnish, Belgium, German and Dutch students were hustled up and everybody had to speak to people they didn't know before. After the really good dinner, we all went to the 'afterparty' at club Vatican.

Saturday 15-11-2014

Saturday we spent our last hours in beautiful Helsinki. For the ones of us who went out the night before there was the opportunity to sleep late and for the ones who didn't there was the opportunity to make pictures by day light and do some shopping. Most of us woke up early to eat breakfast, pack our suitcases and enjoy Helsinki for one last time. We made some very nice



pictures (especially Aljona) of the beautiful churches and other buildings in the city. Furthermore we visited some shops and bought Finnish chocolate and other delights of Finland.

We agreed upon a certain time to meet each other at a café with our suitcases and other belongings. This place was near the bus station we had to go to. So we drank a last coffee, enjoyed the Wifi in the café and went to this station. It was much colder this day than any other day we spent in Helsinki.

Our trip back to Schiphol went smoothly and we arrived at Amsterdam on time, we even made it to the train. The train travel went less smooth unfortunately.. The train had to stop because of a bomb threat. After a long time and a lot of problems we were in a very crowded train on our way home.



Petra Széplaki, Amber Wever, Aljona Bykadorova, Jens Lisson & Laris Hulsebos