

The international city of Roermond

The challenges of the Mayor



“I know the challenges of being new in Roermond”, said Ms. Donders, the Mayor of Roermond.

Ms. Donders told the Erasmus+ students that she too has been new to Roermond. She told the students that the people of Roermond has a great hospitality and a “wining and dining” mindset. The people of Roermond, according to Ms. Donders, are great at welcoming and integrating new people from many different cultures. Roermond is very close to the German and Belgium border, which can be seen. The city truly has an international touch to it. There are a lot of German and Belgium workers and visitors in Roermond. A problem the Mayor will face is the invalidations of diplomas. This is an international problem that need an international solution to get the globalization forward.

Ms. Donders summarize this with an quote. “We need to act like without borders, not only in work but in studying as well.”

The language barrier

After a student asked what languages was necessary Ms. Donders said that working in the Euro region English and German was the minimum. Outside of Europe, knowing Chinese, Russian and Spanish, could defiantly help your chances of getting employed. Those three languages are certainly the languages of the future, said Ms. Donders.

The economic crisis

Before the economic crisis Roermond was the place to be. The unemployment was under 5 percent and companies were hiring. Then the economic crisis hit in 2008 and the unemployment rate went up over 17 percent. The Mayor and the administration have worked to get the number down and are now proud to introduce the new number, below 7 percent! The city has reclaimed its title of being one of the best cities in the country.

Nunhem, a company for the future

The family company was founded outside of Roermond, and its headquarters are still there. The company produces seeds of vegetables like tomatoes and carrots. The seeds go through hard tests before they are sold to farms and companies all over the world. The company have over 116 000 employees in 45 different countries. In 2015 the company profited 399 million euros. The company are very attractive to the younger job market. The company needs people in human resources and IT. They need people with different educations and different qualifications.

Did you know this?

One kilo of tomato seeds from Numhem is more expensive than one kilo of pure gold.

The Erasmus+ project



The Swedish Erasmus+ team.

The Swedish students were the first ones to have students staying over. In Sweden the theme were immigration and integration, the students went there in January and got an experience of an typical cold winter in Sweden. In April the students went to England, which offered a rainy spring, as could be expected. The theme in England was the importance of being bilingual. The next trip was to the Netherlands in October, the theme is widening your horizons. The picture is from the daily trip to Amsterdam that the students in the Netherlands got to go on.

“This has been an amazing experience, I recommend everyone to take the opportunity to go abroad.” Said the Swedish student Julia Eriksson.

Fonty University in Venlo

During their stay in the Netherlands, the students got to visit the international university Fonty. The university encourages students all over the world to come there and study through offering lectures in English, German and Dutch. The school also says to have a great relationships between students and teachers.

The English teacher Caroline Jacobs said that plenty of the students aren't used to being interactive with the teacher as they do it at Fonty. “There can be kind of an culture clash because the students are used to the hierarchy system in the classroom.”, Jacobs tells the students. Jacobs is herself born in Venlo, she calls herself “the real deal” and tells the students about her experiences abroad. She was in England for half an year, twice, which really helped her with learning the language. She highly recommends the students to discover, travel, and widening their horizons.

Venlo is a quite small university-city and international students at Fonty says that it is unexpansive and quite easy to get a place to stay while studying at the university. The teachers said that they help students to get a place to stay while in Venlo or if they choose to study abroad.

A student at Fonty

A female student at Fonty talked about her traveling experience. She has taken every opportunity to go abroad and learn more about different cultures. Fonty, as an university, has really helped her to get the courage and means to go abroad. She says that you have to step outside your comfort zone.



The city of Amsterdam

For the Erasmus+ students the day began with a bus trip for two and a half hour. When the students arrived, they started with a walk through an international market place. After a short lunch break the day continued with a guided city tour so the student could see what the city had to offer. “I will defiantly come back!”- Maja Ekdahl, Sweden. The day ended with a tour through the Red Light District.