

HENNALUX

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Introduction

Hénallux is a college which is located in Namen. The college has around 5 800 students. Their course of computer science has some differences with ours. We have two large main themes, but Hénallux has four large main themes. Those four themes are hardware, programming, networks and telecommunications, services and infrastructures. Our teammates said that they had to choose one of those main themes at the start of their study which is completely different from our system. We get the chance to find out what we want by learning a bit of everything and having to decide afterwards. In our first three semesters we didn't had to choose between programming and networks. And in our fifth semester we have to choose a speciality.

In Henallux they also make a lot of exercises. The training they get is based on the latest technologies. For that they use high-quality equipment, tailored to the needs of the labour market and the current reality technologic.

In their sixth semester they have an internship, just like we have. We spent around twelve weeks at our internship, they spent fifteen weeks as a trainee.

The college has a lot of interesting partners with big company's such as Cisco, Linux, Microsoft, Pola Alto, VMware, etc. When they complete their study's and graduate, they come ideally to match the needs of businesses, organizations, institutions and societies and that are attractive features.

Their exchange program is a bit different from ours. They can send their students on exchange in Canada, Scotland, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Sweden. Their exchange program is rather small. We, as students at HoGent, can go and study in these countries: Austria (Wien), Belgium (Brussel and Liège), Czech Republic (Ostrava, Pardubice), Denmark (Copenhagen, Aalborg), Finland (Helsinki, Joensuu, jyvaskyla, Rovaniemi, Vantaa), France (Limoges, Paris), Germany (Coburg, Hannover, Hof, Worms), Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki), Lithuania (Vilnius), the Netherlands (Enschede, Groningen), Norway (Trondheim), Portugal (Porto), Spain (Bilbao, Cartagena, Córdoba, Mataró, Madrid), Sweden (Halmstad), United Kingdom (Liverpool), United States of America (Alabama).

The first time we had contact with the students was In HoGent. We were all split into groups from around 4 students. We spoke a lot about how their courses are and the differences between the two schools. Afterwards, we kept contact with our teammates in Henallux via Facebook and messenger, when there were still questions it was easy to ask them that way. We spoke to each other in English because our French was not good and they couldn't speak Dutch. Like that it was much easier to communicate with each other.

Body

When the students from Hénallux came to HoGent there were two readings in English with the students from there and the students from HoGent. After that the students were allowed to eat in one of the restaurants, with or without us. After the meal everyone came back and we made groups with students from there combined with students from HoGent. Then we sat together and we must help each other with a task. Our task was to compare all the differences between the two schools with the help of our team members from Hénallux. Their task was to make a short video and we had to help them with the script.

A couple of weeks later, it was our turn to go to Hénallux, that way we saw both the schools, it was also better for us to understand all the differences. When we arrived at the school, there was a breakfast for us with pastries and some drinks that were very good. After that there was a reading in English. After the reading we were allowed to eat something. In the afternoon there was a meeting with our team to work on the tasks we didn't finish. When everything was done we went back home with the train.

We have learnt that it is not that easy to work in groups. Especially when your teammates speak another language and when they are from somewhere else. In a group everybody has to do something and with our team that was not the case which made it even harder to do it. We have also learnt that the two schools are completely different even when we learn almost the same. But even with all the difficulties we were able to complete our tasks.

We helped the students by talking about all the differences there are and by answering their questions so that everything became clear they didn't understand. We also helped them to find the school when they came to visit HoGent. They arrived with the train at Gent-Sint-Pieters, some students from here went there and guided the students from there to HoGent. When the readings were about to start, we guided them to the correct classroom.

The prominent differences culture wise are not that big but you can see it clearly. The school there is very small and old but they are used to it. Here are lots of big buildings and that's a big difference. Most of the students in HoGent go by bike to school but there are almost no bikes in Namen. Some of the students there were also very generous to guide us to a place where we could eat something because at the school there was nothing to eat.

Conclusion

After all, it was a nice experience to see how everything happens in a different place and that it has this many differences even when it's in the same country. It was very instructive to compare the schools with each other because we had no idea how it was out there. Now we all have an idea how they do it elsewhere. It wasn't that easy to work with the students from there but we managed to make the best of it and we completed all of our tasks. It was very nice to do some kind of excursion with all of our fellow students, in that way we also made more contact with them.