

“CYCLING A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY”

INTERVIEW WITH ERASMUS⁺ STUDENT PIERRE SCHMUTZ

TEXT VERONIKA ČERVENÁKOVÁ FOTO PIERRE SCHMUTZ

• **How do you like your stay in Slovakia so far?**

I love my Erasmus experience in Slovakia so far. Having time to meet and know other people, to do outdoors activities, to travel around Zilina is something incredible!

• **What is the best memory you have / best trip or event you've been on?**

My best memory is definitely a wonderful hike near Zilina. I left early in the morning with two Slovak friends in a foggy weather. After hours of hike in the forest crossing clouds, we arrived at the top of mountains over the clouds. Discovering a 360° view of a sea of clouds is amazing, when you know that Slovakia is 500 km far from the nearest sea.

• **Why did you choose Slovakia for your Erasmus stay?**

I'd liked to enjoy my Erasmus experience in a country that I didn't know and would like to have a nice playground to do some outdoor activities! Surrounded by mountains, Zilina in Slovakia was the perfect place to do my Erasmus. At the top of that, this place is perfect to visit central Europe capitals from and their heritage with a cheaper lifestyle! Fortunately, I found some computer science courses quite interesting.

• **How did you travel here? How long did it take?**

First, I travelled from my town in France to the French border by train with my bike and a trailer, with all my stuffs for 5 months.

Then, I had ridden my bike for 9 days across France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Slovakia. I was riding all the days and was used to sleeping in my tent doing wild camping. Hopefully, during almost my whole journey, I rode on great European cycle path along Rhine and Danube rivers, which makes the adventure safer and really enjoyable!

• **What was the reason for choosing this type of transport?**

For ecological reasons, I didn't want to take the plane. Thus, I was supposed to take the train. However, one day I had the crazy idea to go there by bike. After weeks of thinking about it I realized, that it was doable for several reasons:

- I had a good bike, a trailer and bike bags to travel with
- European cycle path that crosses the Europe exists
- I had time to do it
- I love sports, challenges and adventure.



• **Give some positive and negative thoughts about your travelling to Slovakia.**

Postives points:

It was a really sporty challenge with more than 9 hours of cycling per day.



I took time on the bike to think about myself, what I would like to do after all my studies in the life.

I did unexpected and incredible meetings. It was basically an Adventure with a capital letter!

Negative points :

Actually when I quit the European cycle path in Slovakia, the roads were terrible with holes everywhere and lots of cars. Besides that, the rain and the cold came at one point that I couldn't feel two foot toes for 3 weeks after arriving...

• **Are you planning on going home the same way as you came?**

No, it won't be possible and enjoyable because of the freezy February weather. However, it's gonna be a new adventure to cross Europe by 8 trains with a bike and a trailer. I plan to do it in two days. It takes time to be eco-friendly...

• **At the final, do you think that your choice of transport affects nature and society?**

I assume that my transport choice is a very eco-friendly one. It's difficult to find a transport with lower carbon impact concerning such distance. Of course, my trip had an impact on the climate, nature and society. I used train, my personal bike, materials to travel and I ate more than usual, but it's much less impactful to our planet rather than taking the plane or the car as more than 90% of other Erasmus students.

Besides that, I assume that my adventure could inspire a lot of people – it's possible to have experience abroad with a low carbon footprint. I'm convinced that this experience could help the society to have examples of realistic low carbon experiences in mind.

• **What would you like to change to make your travelling easier, more pleasant?**

To be honest, I love my travelling experience with its difficulties and its unpleasant moments, because they took part on the adventure!

However, I wouldn't refuse it if someone proposed to me a ride from Bratislava to Zilina on a stunning cycle path.

• **What is something everyone should know before going on Erasmus stay?**

You don't need to come with friends

to Erasmus, because you are going to make a lot ;) ●



MLADÝ VEDEC Z OBLASTI INŽINIERSKÝCH STAVIEB ZÍSKAL CENU ZA VEDU A TECHNIKU 2022

TEXT ADRIANA VALENTOVIČOVÁ FOTO SVF UNIZA

Jakub Kral'ovanec zo stavebnej fakulty (SvF UNIZA) si počas tohtoročného Týždňa vedy a techniky prevzal Cenu za vedu a techniku v kategórii Osobnosť vedy a techniky do 35 rokov. Ocenenie získal za vynikajúce výsledky počas doktorandského štúdia, nadpriemerné publikačné aktivity a vedecký prínos vo výskume inžinierskych konštrukcií a mostov. Slávnostné odovzdávanie ocenení sa uskutočnilo 11. novembra 2022 v priestoroch Zážitkového centra vedy Aurelium Centra vedecko-technických informácií Slovenskej republiky (CVTI SR) v Bratislave. Hlavnými organizátormi podujatia sú Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR (MŠVVaŠ SR) a CVTI SR.

Témou výskumu Jakuba Kral'ovanca sú Nepriame metódy na určenie reziduálneho predpätia v existujúcich konštrukciách. Doktorandské štúdium ukončil v roku 2022 na SvF UNIZA v študijnom programe teória a konštrukcie inžinierskych stavieb. Zúčastňoval sa na zahraničných konferenciách i stážach a publikoval v karentovaných časopisoch. Je laureátom Študentskej osobnosti Slovenska za akademický rok 2020/2021 v kategórii Stavebníctvo, architektúra, na UNIZA získal aj ďalšie ocenenia. O osobnostiach, ktoré ho inšpirujú a doterajších skúsenostiach zo Slovenska i zahraničia porozprával na portáli Veda na dosah. ●

