**Name-Surname: Ecem Ayban 09.12.2022**

**REFLECTION PAPER**

Before I came here, I was so excited and nervous because I have never had a teaching experience like this before. It is my first time being on abroad and I have never lived apart from my family or stayed in a dorm until now. Thus, it was very important for me to be able to come here both to gain experience and to challenge myself. I'm very grateful to Jana and other professors who accepts me as a trainee. In the beginning of my internship, I was anxious because I had questions in my head. What will my roommates be like? Will I be able to get along with the people there? Will my English be enough? Will I be able to adapt my internship experiences in my own country? etc. But in the first week of my internship, I realized that there is nothing to stress about. The first day of my internship I met Honza, Petra, Jana, and Ruth also Blanka. Blanka informed me about the schedule and helped me a lot about some stuff such as ISIC card, etc. All the professors were so nice to me. But when I introduced myself to the classes, I was a little worried because even though I am not their teacher, I wanted to have good communication with them. They asked me some questions such as why I choose Czech Republic for Erasmus, where I came from, why am I here, etc. It was so nice and interesting to talking with them. Because I knew that I cannot speak in my native language, I had to explain myself in English to them, professors and other people in the country and also, I have never had experience to communicate with foreign people except some tourists in Turkey. That’s when I realized that I had a great opportunity to improve my English. Because in my country I had to speak in English in just lessons and I knew that that was not enough for me. Thus, being constantly exposed to English language is a completely different experience in here. In the classroom environment, I was surprised at some things. For example, expect from Petra’s lessons there are all girls in other lesson who wants to be primary school teachers. Actually, it was interesting too. Because in Turkey we had just English Language Teaching. We aren’t separated the teaching into grades. After people graduated from teaching, they choose which grade they want to teach. But I think this way also effective in Czech Republic because students just learn what they need to learn. If I have to evaluate the courses, I have taken one by one, let me start with Petra's lectures. Unfortunately, I have never had chance to do an activity with students in her lessons. Once she wanted me to prepare an activity, but she said that activity was too easy for them, and I modified it. But then she was ill that week and after that week, I got sick and couldn’t come. So, I couldn’t do the activity. Students’ level was higher than the other students who are in the other classes I attended. Petra was always speaking in English in her lessons and her pronunciation was so good, so it was so effective for me. Sometimes while students were doing their activities, we talked about so many things such as education in Turkey and other stuff. It was so nice of her because she was always kind to me and asked me about myself and my country. In Ruth’s lessons, I prepared so many activities by using worksheets and online websites. When I was in the university, I learned so many online websites to prepare an activity from my teachers and also, I participated some webinars and learned many other online websites too. Ruth was giving me subjects for different lessons, and I tried my best to prepare an activity. She said that she liked the online games and asked me which online websites I knew. I’m so thankful for that moment because I felt so honored. Because I had a chance to share my knowledge with her. Generally, all the students participated my activities. They took approximately 15-20 minutes. I prepared so many different activities such as gap-fill, matching, etc. In Honza’s lessons, I just prepared one online activity and the rest was worksheets. He wanted me to prepare activities to practice subject as Ruth did. But while I was doing the activities Honza left the class. It was the first-time being students alone. Because in my compulsory internship Turkey, we couldn’t teach the lessons ourselves without teacher in the class. So, I felt like a real teacher rather than Erasmus trainee in Honza’s lessons. It was challenging but I gained much more self-confidence, so I thank him for giving me this experience. Additionally, I teach Present Perfect & Present Perfect Continuous to students in the last lesson. It was also challenging to teach something rather doing the activity. But I think that I got over it too. Lastly, in Jana’s lessons, generally they talked about students’ portfolios in Czech. So, sometimes it was so difficult for me to understand them. But I knew that it is an easier way to communicate for them. I usually monitored them and asked about their portfolios, activities. I was so surprised because some of them were so creative. Also, I prepared some activities for her lesson as I did in the other classes such as reading, spin the wheel, etc. When I consider all of the things, it was so great to communicate Czech students and professors, learn their education system, spot the differences between Turkish and Czech education systems, share my knowledge with students and professors. Also, I realized that my English is better than when I first came here. It is so satisfying for me to realize that.

To summarize, this internship was a great and fruitful experience for me to gain experience with Czech professors, improve my English, meet new foreign people in school, dormitory and other places, discovering other cultures and languages, visiting other countries and many more that I can't think of. So, thank you Jana and other professors to give me this chance. I hope we can meet again one day.