



## Teacher or administrative employee experience story

- Name, surname – Mariam Robakidze (Head of Student and Alumni Service Center)
- Sending university - Central University of Europe (Kutaisi, Georgia)
- Mobility country - Latvia
- Receiving university/company - Alberta College
- Activity – training mobility
- Duration of mobility period - 03.04.-07.04.2025.

It is no surprise that the Central University of Europe is actively engaged in international programs. Both academic personnel and administrative staff receive open calls for competition from the university's International Relations Office. These kinds of opportunities are offered twice a year.

The mobility opportunity holds significant value for the Central University of Europe, particularly from the perspective of the Students & Alumni Service Center, which I lead.

I have always been eager to participate in Erasmus+ mobility between universities as an administrative staff member, to explore international practices and address certain challenges. In the autumn of 2024, our university's International Relations Office shared a call for staff mobility—and something about it just clicked. I thought, “Why not?” It was a chance to explore new perspectives in education, expand my professional network, and experience a different cultural approach to student services—exactly the kind of insight I had been looking for.



This mobility is a strategic step toward modernizing and internationalizing our student career services, directly impacting the competencies and strategies implemented by the Students & Alumni Service Center at the Central University of Europe.

I evaluate my Erasmus+ mobility experience at Alberta College very productively. It was more than just a professional visit—it was an enriching journey that combined growth, cultural exchange, and inspiration. The program provided a unique opportunity to step outside of my day-to-day responsibilities, reflect on my practices, and explore how other institutions support students. The mobility provided an opportunity to share

and integrate internationally recognized ways and methods of students's services such as suggested internships and strengthening collaboration with perspective employers.

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I was truly impressed by the openness and professionalism of my Latvian colleagues, and the mutual respect and curiosity that shaped our interactions.

What stood out most was how international mobility fosters not only knowledge-sharing but also deeper intercultural understanding. It reminds us that while we may come from different systems or cultures, we all share a commitment to education and student success. That's why this mobility had thoughtful impact for me regarding the fostering methods of the cross-cultural environment, which diversity we have at Central University of Europe (CUE).

This experience strengthened my confidence, broadened my perspective, and sparked new ideas I'm eager to implement at Central University of Europe.

My mobility experience was both enriching and purposeful, aligning closely with my responsibilities as the Head of the Students & Alumni Service Center at the Central University of Europe. During the visit, I had the opportunity to conduct and participate in several key activities designed to foster professional exchange and contribute to mutual learning.



One of the highlights of my mobility was conducting sessions focused on sharing the best practices in career counseling. These sessions covered essential topics such as psychological counseling services for students, individual consultations on creating effective resumes and cover letters, and optimizing LinkedIn profiles. I also addressed strategies for building strong communication and coordination channels between partner companies and alumni, with the aim of enhancing employment opportunities.

I began by meeting with the Erasmus+ coordinator, where I presented an overview of my role and the mission of the Students & Alumni Service Center at the Central University of Europe.

Throughout the visit, I met with key members of the college, including the Head of Student Services, staff from the Learning Process Management team, and the President of the Student Self-Government. These meetings allowed for an in-depth discussion about the structure and goals of our respective institutions, as well as an exploration of the evolving needs and interests of Generation Z students.

The interactions were highly productive and provided valuable insights into student engagement, support strategies, and cross-institutional collaboration.

I truly liked the host university—Alberta College impressed me in many ways. One of the first things that caught my attention was how well maintain the historical charm of the institution flexibility, both in administrative processes and in the way they approach learning. I admired how they skillfully preserve the historical character and niche of the institution while simultaneously embracing modern standards.

Their use of digital tools to support remote lectures and seminars was particularly inspiring. It showed me how a university can successfully balance tradition with innovation. Alberta College provided a great example of how

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digitalization can enhance accessibility, efficiency, and engagement in higher education. It was a valuable experience that left me with fresh ideas to bring back to my home institution.

The mobility experience provided several key benefits. First and foremost, it broadened my professional horizons by allowing me to gain insights into different institutional practices and approaches to student services. Engaging with colleagues from Alberta College enriched my professional network and fostered valuable connections that may lead to future collaborative initiatives.

One of the most significant outcomes was the mutual agreement to share opportunities related to international conferences, career development courses, and masterclasses. This will bring direct benefits to the students of Central University of Europe by expanding their access to international learning and development platforms.

Additionally, the experience reinforced the value of adaptability and inspired a more flexible approach in addressing student needs—particularly relevant when working with the dynamic and evolving expectations of Generation Z. Overall, the mobility strengthened both my individual competencies and the strategic direction of the Students & Alumni Service Center.

My recommendation to future Erasmus+ mobility participants is to approach the experience with openness, curiosity, and a clear sense of purpose. Take the time to prepare in advance—define your goals, understand the host institution's context, and be ready to share your own best practices.

Engage actively with colleagues, ask questions, and be open to new perspectives, as these exchanges are incredibly valuable for professional growth. Don't hesitate to step out of your comfort zone—mobility is not only about observing but also about contributing and building lasting collaborations.

To conclude, think about how the knowledge and experience gained can benefit your sending institution and students. The real value of mobility lies in how we apply what we've learned to create a broader impact.