

UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
FAKULTETA ZA DRUŽBENE VEDE

Mojca Plemeniti

Študentje na študijski izmenjavi in njihova socialna opora

Diplomsko delo

Ljubljana, 2012

UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
FAKULTETA ZA DRUŽBENE VEDE

Mojca Plemeniti

Mentorica: red. prof. dr. Valentina Hlebec

Študentje na študijski izmenjavi in njihova socialna opora

Diplomsko delo

Ljubljana, 2012

ZAHVALA

Za strokovno pomoč in nasvete pri pisanju diplomske naloge se najlepše zahvaljujem mentorici red. prof. dr. Valentini Hlebec.

Iskrena hvala tudi vsem ostalim, ki ste mi kakorkoli pomagali v času študija ter pri nastanku tega dela.

Študentje na študijski izmenjavi in njihova socialna opora

V zadnjih letih so Erasmus študijske izmenjave postale nekaj, za kar se odloča vedno več študentov. Odhod na daljše bivanje v tujino za posameznika pomeni eno izmed pomembnih življenjskih izkušenj. Med časom bivanja v tuji državi je zelo pomembno, da ima študent ob sebi ljudi, na katere se lahko zanese in opre v težkih trenutkih. Osrednja tema naloge je vprašanje, na koga se študentje v času izmenjave obrnejo v različnih situacijah (po materialno, emocionalno in oporo družjenja), koliko se po oporo obračajo na svoje domače in koliko so v času bivanja v tujini uspeli navezati stike ter poglobiti odnose z ljudmi, ki so jih spoznali tam. Zanimala so me tudi različna kvalitativna raziskovalna vprašanja, ki opisujejo izkušnje študentov, ki so se izmenjave udeležili. Naloga v teoretičnem delu vsebuje tri poglavja, kjer so predstavljena socialna opora, socialna omrežja ter metodologija, v mojem primeru kvalitativno raziskovanje. Sledi empirični del, kjer sem najprej predstavila nekaj kvantitativnih podatkov, kasneje pa sem se osredotočila na analizo kvalitativnih raziskovalnih vprašanj, ki sem jih dobila s pomočjo polstrukturiranih intervjujev.

Ključne besede: socialna opora, socialna omrežja, študentje na izmenjavi, kvalitativno raziskovanje.

Students in the student exchange programme and their social support

In the recent years, more and more students decide to participate in the Erasmus student exchange programme. Studying abroad is a life experience that plays an important role in one's life. During the exchange, it is of higher importance for students to be surrounded by people that they can rely to on a daily basis. The main topic of thesis involves - who can Erasmus students turn to in different situations (material, emotional and sociable needs), to what extent, students seek support among their families and how many relationships with new acquaintances do they establish. This is followed by different qualitative research questions regarding students' first-hand experience. The theoretical part includes three sections with detailed descriptions of social support, social network and methodology (qualitative research). The empirical part is introduced by some of the quantitative data, however, the second part illustrates the data analysis of the qualitative research questions attained by means of semi-structured interviews.

Key words: social support, social network, exchange students, qualitative research.

Kazalo vsebine:

1 UVOD	7
2 SOCIALNA OPORA.....	10
2.1 Viri socialne opore.....	11
2.2 Oblike socialne opore.....	12
2.3 Posameznikova subjektivna zaznava socialne opore	15
3 SOCIALNO OMREŽJE	17
3.1 Egocentrično socialno omrežje	19
3.2 Osebna omrežja	20
4 METODOLOGIJA.....	22
4.1 Postopek poteka raziskave	25
5 ANALIZA PODATKOV.....	30
5.1 Opis Erasmus programa	30
5.2 Opis vzorca	31
5.3 Socialna opora študentov glede na spol	31
5.4 Viri socialne opore študentov glede na koncentrične kroge.....	32
5.5 Viri socialne opore glede na celotno osebno omrežje	34
5.6 Viri emocionalne opore študentov.....	35
5.7 Viri materialne opore študentov.....	36
5.8 Viri opore druženja študentov	36
5.9 Razmerje med oblikami socialne opore	37
5.10 Analiza raziskovalnih vprašanj.....	38
6 SKLEP.....	49
7 LITERATURA.....	53
PRILOGI.....	57
Priloga A: Vprašalnik o socialni opori za študente na izmenjavi	57
Priloga B: Transkripcije intervjujev.....	62

Kazalo slik, tabel in grafov:

Slika 3.1: Teoretični model omrežij socialne opore.....	20
Tabela 5.1: Odstotek moških in žensk glede na koncentrične kroge.....	31
Tabela 5.2: Odstotki virov socialne opore glede na koncentrične kroge.....	32
Graf 5.1: Razmerje moških in žensk glede na koncentrične kroge.....	31
Graf 5.2: Razmerje virov socialne opore glede na koncentrične kroge.....	32
Graf 5.3: Razmerje virov socialne opore glede na celotno omrežje.....	34
Graf 5.4: Razmerje virov emocionalne opore študentov.....	35
Graf 5.5: Razmerje virov materialne opore študentov.....	36
Graf 5.6: Razmerje virov opore druženja študentov.....	36
Graf 5.7: Razmerje med oblikami socialne opore.....	37

1 UVOD

Prehod iz mladostništva k odraslosti je obdobje v življenju, ko se mladi odločajo, kaj bi radi delali v življenju, usmerijo se v študij, ki jih zanima ter si prizadevajo, da bi dobili ustrezno izobrazbo, kar bi jim omogočilo čimboljše življenje. Nekateri svoje poslanstvo najdejo relativno kmalu, drugi pa iščejo, odkrivajo ter preizkušajo nove in raznolike možnosti ter stvari, ki bi jih lahko osrečile. Obdobje študija je čas za velike spremembe, nekateri prvič izkusijo odhod od doma, nekateri še dolga leta živijo pri svojih starših. Ena možnost začasnega odhoda od doma je prav študijska izmenjava v tujini. Mladi si želijo novih izzivov, novega okolja, kulturne izkušnje, mednarodnih poznanstev, kraj, kjer so lahko popolnoma to, kar so, brez nadzora staršev. Študijske izmenjave so znane tudi po tem, da si študentje nekoliko oddahnejo od naporenega študija v domači državi in nekoliko drugače izkoristijo svoj prosti čas. Burns trdi, da prosti čas posamezniku zagotavlja precej svobode, da izbira, načrtuje in ustvarja ter najde smisel v življenju (Burns v Haralambos in Holborn 1999, 272).

Eden od pomembnih motivacijskih dejavnikov, ki vplivajo na študente, da se odločijo za izmenjavo, je izobrazba. Izobraževanje je tudi eden od vidikov socializacije, saj vključuje pridobivanje znanja in učenje veščin. Izobraževanje ravno tako namerno ali nenamerno pomaga oblikovati prepričanja in moralne vrednote (Haralambos in Holborn 1999, 733). Dewey pravi, da šolanje pomaga razvijati fizične, psihične in emocionalne talente vsakogar, prav tako pa njihove intelektualne sposobnosti (Dewey v Haralambos in Holborn 1999, 738).

Odhod od doma ter svojih bližnjih poleg pridobivanja izobrazbe, spoznavanja novih krajev, ljudi, kultur ter soočanja s samostojnostjo, posameznika mnogokrat spravi v položaj, ko se mora sam soočiti s svojimi težavami in poiskati socialno oporo pri ljudeh, ki so mu v danem trenutku dosegljivi. V času razvite tehnologije se posameznik lahko virtualno zateče k svojim bližnjim, kar pa vsekakor ni enako kot pogovor iz oči v oči. Od njega samega je torej odvisno, kako in od koga črpa določeno vrsto socialne opore, kako odprt je do ljudi in ali se je pripravljen odpreti tudi tistim, ki jih pozna le kratek čas.

Namen mojega diplomskega dela je na podlagi kvalitativne raziskave analizirati socialno oporo študentov, ki so jo ti prejeli v času študijske izmenjave Erasmus v Gironi (Španija) v poletnem semestru študijskega leta 2008/09. Moj cilj je opisati celotno izkušnjo študenta na izmenjavi ter ugotoviti, kateri so njegovi glavni viri socialne opore.

Diplomska naloga je sestavljena iz teoretičnega in empiričnega dela. Teoretični del temelji na podlagi pregledane obstoječe literature, empirični pa na podlagi izvedenih poglobljenih polstrukturiranih intervjujev. Uporabila sem že obstoječ intervju (Social networks in adult life), ki ga je razvila Toni Antonucci, profesorica na Michiganski univerzi. Temu sem dodala še nekaj lastnih vprašanj.

V teoretičnem delu sem predstavila glavne pojme, ki jih je potrebno prikazati pred empiričnim delom, to so socialna opora, socialna omrežja in kvalitativno raziskovanje. V prvem poglavju sem opredelila socialno oporo, njene dimenzije ter kategorije; instrumentalno (materialno), informacijsko, emocionalno oporo in druženje. Opisala sem še, kdo so najpogostejši ponudniki ter kako je le-ta odvisna od posameznikovega dožemanja. Sledi drugo poglavje, kjer je poudarek na socialnih omrežjih. Podrobneje sem opredelila egocentrično omrežje ter osebno omrežje, kjer sem predstavila tudi teoretični model omrežij socialne opore (tri koncentrične kroge). V tretjem poglavju sem se osredotočila na metodologijo, kjer sem opisala kvalitativno raziskovanje, kakšen je postopek poteka raziskave na splošno in kako je potekala moja. V zadnjem poglavju sem predstavila analizo podatkov. Kljub temu da naloga po večini temelji na kvalitativnih podatkih, sem na začetku predstavila še nekaj kvantitativnih rezultatov v obliki tabel in grafov.

V diplomski nalogi želim odgovoriti na naslednja raziskovalna vprašanja:

1. Zakaj so se študentje odločili za izmenjavo?
2. Katere so dobre in katere (3.) slabe stvari, s katerimi so se študentje na izmenjavi srečali?
4. Kdo so ljudje od doma, ki jih posameznik najbolj pogreša v času izmenjave in zakaj?
5. Ali si študentje želijo, da bi bilo v njihovem omrežju več ljudi?
6. Ali bi študentje radi imeli več ljudi v svojem omrežju, na katere bi se lahko zanesli?

7. Kaj (od doma) na splošno študent najbolj pogreša v času izmenjave (npr. določena aktivnost, obred, hrana)?
8. Kakšna so bila pričakovanja študentov glede sklepanja prijateljstev in odprtosti ostalih ljudi pred prihodom v Girono?
9. Ali so se socialna omrežja opore posameznika spremenila skozi čas bivanja v tujini?
10. Kaj si študentje mislijo o romantičnih zvezah, ki se zgodijo na tovrstnih izmenjavah?

2 SOCIALNA OPORA

Ljudje se na svoji življenjski poti ves čas srečujemo s situacijami, ko ob sebi potrebujemo osebo, na katero se lahko zanesemo v primeru, da nečesa ne zmoremo storiti sami ter ji zaupamo, da nam bo ponudila ramo, ko jo bomo potrebovali. Nemalokrat se srečamo z veselimi situacijami, ki jih želimo deliti s svojimi bližnjimi. Največkrat so osebe, ki nam nudijo oporo v slabših in boljših časih, naši dobri prijatelji, partner, starši, bratje, sestre ter drugi sorodniki.

V literaturi najdemo različne opredelitve socialne opore. Cassel, Caplan, Cobb in Thoits (v Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006) se strinjajo, da je socialna opora najpomembnejši faktor tako za obvarovanje pred stresom, kakor tudi za dobro počutje. Cobb pravi, da je socialna opora informacija, ki posamezniku omogoča, da je ljubljen, sprejet in spoštovan ter pripada nekemu sistemu komuniciranja in vzajemnih obveznosti (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 15).

Thoits (v Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006) poudarja, da je pomen socialnih vlog in sicer učinek na posameznika dobrodejen, kadar so odnosi pozitivni in nedobrodejen, kadar so negativni. Posameznik naj bi ocenjeval samega sebe kot ljubezni vrednega in kompetentnega člana družbe. Socialne vloge po njegovem mnenju priskrbijo serijo socialnih identitet, dajejo življenju pomen, namen in smisel, zagotavljajo občutek varnosti in umeščenosti, ter s tem zmanjšajo občutek strahu in negotovosti (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006).

Novejši utemeljitelj socialne opore je Vaux, ki pravi, da je le-ta »kompleksen interakcijski proces med ljudmi« (Vaux 1988). Socialno oporo opazuje skozi tri osnovne elemente:

1. **Viri socialne opore** so del omrežja, na katerega se posameznik obrača po pomoč in oporo. Ta omrežja zagotavljajo različne oblike opore (instrumentalna ali materialna, informacijska, emocionalna in druženje). Ponavadi so stabilna, tako po velikosti kot sestavi.
2. **Oblike socialne opore** predstavljajo tista dejanja, ki se navadno priznavajo kot namen dajanja pomoči bodisi spontano ali s prošnjo na pomoč. Vaux (1988)

pravi, da ima vsako dejanje opore potencialno različne možne učinke in posledice.

3. **Posameznikova subjektivna zaznava socialne opore** je indikator, ki kaže, ali je socialna opora dosegla svoj namen. Predstavlja torej posameznikovo zadovoljstvo s prejeto socialno oporo, oceno pristnosti, zadostnosti in kakovosti socialne opore.

Ti trije elementi se med seboj prepletajo, poleg tega lažje dobimo predstavo večrazsežnostnega koncepta socialne opore, saj jo opredeljuje kot nekaj več kot le obvarovanje pred stresom (Vaux 1988).

Socialna opora je zatorej vsota vseh dobrodejnih učinkov, ki pozitivno vplivajo na človeško počutje, predvsem pa nas varuje pred stresnimi dejavniki. Vključuje še pomoč pri konkretnih nalogah, zagotavljanju materialnih sredstev in socialnih stikov, ki služijo prijetnemu preživljanju prostega časa (Rogelj in drugi 2004).

2.1 Viri socialne opore

Glede na vrsto opore v socialnih omrežjih pričakujemo določeno stopnjo »specializacije«. Posamezniku najbližje osebe (partner, najbližji sorodniki in najtesnejši prijatelji) največkrat nudijo različne vrste opore, obenem so tudi glavni ponudniki emocionalne opore. Velik del instrumentalne (materialne) in informacijske opore posamezniku nudijo vezi, ki so mu emocionalno bolj oddaljene (znanci, sodelavci, sosedje ipd.). Kar se tiče druženja, so najpogostejši ponudniki prijatelji. Sorodstvene vezi, še posebej tiste najbližje (med starši in otroci, brati in sestrami), prav tako predstavljajo obsežen vir opore. Velik del emocionalne opore ženskam in moškim nudijo ženske, ne pa obratno. Ženske se po emocionalno oporo največkrat na moške ne obračajo (Fischer in drugi v Hlebec in Mandič 2005).

Raziskave Wellmana in Wortleya (1990) kažejo, da so prav ženske tiste, ki si same preskrbijo emocionalno oporo in oporo druženja bolj kot moški, prav tako v večji meri skrbijo za medsebojne odnose (Mandič in Hlebec 2005, 275).

Ponavadi se predpostavlja, da so viri socialne opore, na katere se posameznik obrača po pomoč, relativno stabilni tako po velikosti kot po sestavi, z izjemo obdobj življenjskih prehodov in sprememb (prehod šolanja, poroka, ločitev). Odnosi, ki so na splošno in praviloma učinkovit vir opore, lahko v konkretni situaciji ponudijo ustrezno oporo ali ne (Vaux v Kogovšek 2001, 34). Posameznik je lahko v določeni situaciji ločen od svojih virov, in ti mu ne morejo nuditi opore. To se npr. zgodi, ko študent odide na izmenjavo v tujino (Kogovšek 2001).

Vire razdelimo tudi na formalne in neformalne. **Neformalni viri** večino časa temeljijo na spontanih odnosih, relativno dobrem medsebojnem poznavanju in usklajenosti ciljev tistih, ki so vključeni v ta odnos. Največkrat to vrsto opore nudijo člani nuklearne družine, sorodniki, prijatelji, sosedje ter druge osebe zunaj družine. **Formalni viri** pa so opredeljeni kot dobrine in storitve javnega sektorja, ki jih opravljajo strokovno usposobljene osebe v formalnih organizacijah (Černigoj Sadar v Novak in drugi 2004, 133).

Ko je mlad človek daleč od doma, v novem okolju, sam in brez poznanstev, je njegovo okolje in situacija še posebej specifična. Mora se naučiti obvladovati vsakršno situacijo, ter pazljivo in z distanco, a vendar pogumno, izbirati ljudi, na katere se lahko obrne po oporo. Sčasoma situacija postane bolj obvladljiva, saj se prijateljske vezi spletejo hitreje kakor v domačem okolju, saj je posameznik dobesedno »lačen« stikov in druženja. Emocionalno oporo črpa od ljudi, s katerimi splete pristen odnos in globlje vezi, kar je odvisno od njegovega značaja in potrebe po opori. Navadno tem osebam posameznik socialno oporo tudi vrača.

2.2 Oblike socialne opore

- **Instrumentalna (materialna)** opora zajema pomoč v materialnem smislu (posojanje denarja in stvari).
- **Informacijska opora** se nanaša na informacije, katere anketiranec ponavadi potrebuje ob kakšni večji življenjski spremembi ali ko je v stiski (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 16–17). Pomembna je tudi pri definiranju, razumevanju in reševanju problemov (Thoits v Hlebec 1999, 13).

- **Emocionalna opora** je pomoč ob večjih ali manjših življenjskih krizah, nanaša pa se na medsebojno skrb in empatijo (Hlebec 1999, 39). Ponavadi jo zagotavljajo osebe, ki so s posameznikom močno in intimno povezane. Ti odnosi so trajnejši ter zato manj variabilni (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 16–17). Oblikuje se z interakcijami z drugimi ljudmi, preko katerih posameznik čuti, da od njih sprejema ljubezen, sprejemanje, skrb in spoštovanje (Hlebec in drugi 2009, 155).
- **Druženje** predstavlja socialno oporo v obliki neformalnega občasnega druženja (izleti, obiskovanja) (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 16–17). Vstopanje v medsebojne odnose, njihovo oblikovanje, preoblikovanje in prekinjanje je trajna dejavnost slehernega posameznika. Človek je družabno bitje, zato potrebuje stike z drugimi, ti pa so lahko bolj ali manj pogosti, številni ali zaupni. Potreba po druženju je torej ena izmed osnovnih človeških potreb. Za vzpostavitev medosebnih odnosov so potrebne tudi socialne veščine. Mednje sodijo veščost v pogovarjanju, zmožnost poslušanja in vživljanja v drugega, način samorazkrivanja ipd. (Rogelj in drugi 2004, 16).

Za študente na izmenjavi je druženje in navezovanje stikov z ostalimi študenti ena izmed pomembnejših stvari, saj večina na Erasmus izmenjavo pride samih. Študijske izmenjave so znane prav tako po tem, da se na njih odvija veliko zabav in družabnih prireditev, manj pa imajo študentje študijskih obveznosti. Ravno zaradi velikega obsega prostega časa je pomembno, da ima posameznik ljudi, s katerimi se lahko odpravi na izlet, potovanje, z njimi praznuje rojstni dan ali se odpravi raziskovat nočno življenje. V diplomski nalogi me bo med drugim zanimalo, kdo so ljudje, s katerimi so študentje v času izmenjave navezali nove stike ter s kom so preživljali prosti čas.

Emocionalno oporo in druženje posamezniku največkrat nudijo najbližji posamezniki, to so partner, sorodniki in prijatelji. Ravno nasprotno opazimo pri prejemanju **instrumentalne in informacijske opore**, kjer so glavni ponudniki bolj oddaljene vezi, kamor sodijo znanci, sodelavci in sosedje (Granovetter 1973). Za druženje poskrbijo prijatelji, v vodstvu dajanja opore so ženske. Prijatelji se pri nudenju **materialne in nematerialne opore** mnogokrat obrnejo drug na drugega kot na člane svoje družine. Relacija starši otroci pravzaprav zajema vse vire opore razen druženja. S starostjo se

naj bi vezi med brati in sestrami prav tako povečevale, je pa znano, da imajo ženske bolj intenziven odnos z brati in sestrami kakor moški. V primeru relacije brat sestra je bistvena tudi geografska bližina, ki določa pomembnost vezi. Najmanj verjetni vir katerekoli opore je razširjeno sorodstvo (Kogovšek in drugi 2003).

Polona Dremelj poudarja, da imajo sorodstvene vezi kljub individualizaciji, ki vodi v krhanje socialnih omrežij družine, sorodnikov in prijateljev (glej Dremelj 2003, 149), še vedno odločilno vlogo. »Dolgoročno stabilno krepi posameznika pomeni dejansko krepi tudi omrežje njegove prevladujoče socialne opore, to je ožje družine« (Novak 2003, 100).

Družina je osnovna institucija zasebnega življenja, kjer se oblikuje večina za ljudi pomembnih družbenih odnosov. Od drugih družbenih skupin se loči po tem, da nas stalno poziva k temu, da se odzivamo nanjo in na potrebe njenih članov. Je socialna skupina, ki sloni na prostorni ali časovni povezanosti in pripadnosti članov. Na eni strani je primarna skupina, katere člani so sorodstveno, čustveno in solidarnostno povezani, na drugi strani pa je socialna institucija, predvsem v odnosu do drugih družbenih skupin in institucij, katere ji nalagajo določene norme in pričakovanja glede vedenja in življenja njenih članov (Ule in Renner v Dremelj 2003, 152).

Po mnenju Giddensa posamezniku v času moderne primanjkuje psihološka opora, ki so mu jo nudila tradicionalna okolja, kot so sorodstvo, soseska, prijateljstvo in družina (Giddens 1991).

Ker smo si ljudje med seboj različni, si tudi vsak posameznik lahko drugače razlaga pojem bližine. Nekateri so nagnjeni k temu, da kot »pomembne druge« v večji meri označijo sorodnike, saj je to del normativnih pričakovanj v družbi, spet drugi lahko kot pomembne označijo le tiste, ki se jim čutijo blizu, tretji pa kot kriterij pomembnosti stikov uporabijo pogostost stikov. Izkazalo se je še, da ljudje zelo različno interpretiramo pojem prijateljstva (Burt v Kogovšek 2001). Knipscheer pravi, da »prijatelje si človek izbira sam, vez med njimi pa lahko nastane in se krepí vse življenje, zato imajo prijatelji "pridobljen" značaj namesto "pripisanega", kot ga imajo npr.

sorodniki. Prijateljske vezi nastanejo aktivno in temeljijo na temelju izbire« (Poel v Nagode v Novak in drugi 2004, 94). Raziskave kažejo, da so prijatelji primaren vir opore v primeru druženja (Nagode v Novak in drugi 2004, 94).

Posameznik se po oporo k prijateljem največkrat zateče pri vsakdanjih življenjskih skrbih in pri soočanju z večjimi življenjskimi krizami. Prijatelji se večkrat obrnejo drug na drugega kakor na člane svoje družine. Raziskave o socialni opori in v primeru stresnih situacij pravijo, da si prijatelji nudijo oporo skozi celotno življenjsko obdobje. Prijatelji lahko postanejo tako pomemben vir opore kakor člani razširjene družine (Norris in Tindale v Kogovšek in drugi 2003, 186).

2.3 Posameznikova subjektivna zaznava socialne opore

Kadar posameznik ne izpolnjuje določenih pričakovanj, kot so ljubezen, spoštovanje itd., lahko pri njemu pomembnih posameznikov ni sprejet, kar v njem posledično vzbudi občutek krivde, osramočenosti in obupa (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006). Kakor pozitivne interakcije vplivajo na dobro počutje posameznika tako tudi negativne interakcije s pomembnimi drugimi močno vplivajo na človeka. Tako na njegovo zdravje kakor počutje (Wenger v Kogovšek in Ferligoj 2003).

Vauxov model socialne integriranosti (Vaux 1988) povezuje socialna omrežja in socialno oporo. Povezuje jo z omrežji, kjer posameznik prejema oporo v širšem smislu in je tako integriran v širšo skupnost, ter z omrežji, kamor spadajo intimnejši odnosi oz. pomembni drugi. Bistvene so tako širše vezi kot ožje, intimnejše. Najbližji ljudje ponavadi zadovoljujejo potrebe po različnih vrstah opore, oddaljene vezi pa ponavadi skrbijo za določeno specifično in specializirano vrsto opore v nekaterih situacijah, kot je npr. iskanje novega delovnega mesta (Mandič in Hlebec 2005).

Za neko »skupnost« ter socialna omrežja je nujen obstoj skupin in njihovega povezovanja. Za to so potrebni nevtralni skupni prostori, kjer lahko povezovalni procesi potekajo in se obnavljajo. Gre za prostore, kjer je vzdušje sproščeno, ključna aktivnost pa je pogovor. Skupnostni prostori so tako arena za socialno interakcijo, ki je ne usmerjajo formalizirana pravila, zagotavljajo varnost, dostop in kulturno raznolikost.

Skupnostni prostori so, kjer se ljudje redno srečujejo in ustvarjajo potencialno koristna razmerja (Mandič in Hlebec 2005).

Na značilnost posameznikovega omrežja vplivajo tudi osebne poteze, kot so nevroticizem, introvertiranost/ekstravertiranost, osamljenost in socialne veščine, ki so v veliki meri povezane z merami razpoložljivosti in zadovoljstva s socialno oporo. Tisti ljudje, ki imajo visoko percepcijo socialne opore, imajo višjo stopnjo samospoštovanja kakor tisti z nizko percepcijo. Prav tako se ljudje z višjo stopnjo percipirane opore učinkoviteje spopadajo s stresnimi situacijami (Kogovšek 2001, 60). Percepcija skozi čas se lahko spreminja, razpoložljivost opore in zadovoljstvo pa zmanjša tudi stres (Sarason in drugi v Kogovšek 2001).

Newcom in Keefe sta pri raziskovanju vpliva osebnosti na percepcijo socialne opore ugotovila, da imajo ljudje z več opore boljše psihično in fizično zdravje ter dobro počutje. V času odraščanja socialna opora vpliva ravno tako na zmanjšanje problemov, ki se pri posamezniku pojavijo v tej dobi. Na percepcijo socialne opore v veliki meri vpliva tudi samospoštovanje. Ljudje z več socialne opore sebe opisujejo bolj pozitivno kot tisti z manj. Samospoštovanje se zniža z znižanjem socialne opore, saj posameznik občuti strah, nemir in zaskrbljenost (Rogelj in drugi 2004, 17).

3 SOCIALNO OMREŽJE

Ljudje smo povezani v omrežja medsebojnih odnosov, saj potrebujemo bližino, pogovor in druženje. Že John Donne je dejal, da »Noben človek ni otok, povsem sam zase, vsak človek je kos celine...«. Posameznik večino svojih mnenj in stališč oblikuje, vzdržuje, spreminja v odnosih in interakcijah s pomembnimi ljudmi. Z analizo socialnih omrežij pa lahko merimo in analiziramo socialna omrežja posameznikov. Ugotovimo, kakšna je struktura omrežja, kako močne so vezi med njimi in na kakšne načine so povezani, kakšne so demografske značilnosti članov, kaj jim je skupnega ter kaj jih med seboj dela različne (Kogovšek in Ferligoj 2003).

»Socialno omrežje definiramo z neko končno množico enot, ki jih določamo po nekih končnih kriterijih, nato pa opišemo povezavo med enotami« (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 9).

Igličeva (1988) socialno omrežje definira kot socialno okolje akterjev, kjer gre za strukturo relacij med akterji. Pomembne so vezi, ki se prepletajo med egi in njegovimi alterji ter s položajem posameznika znotraj teh relacij. Alterji lahko namreč bistveno vplivajo na ravnanje in obnašanje posameznika (Iglič 1988).

Granovetter (1973) pravi, da socialna omrežja predstavljajo obliko socialnega kapitala. So vir pomoči, kadar nastopijo težave, vir tolažbe, ko je človek v stiski in vir informacij, ko jih posameznik potrebuje. Ugotavljal je, da so velikokrat tudi omrežja, kjer so vezi šibkejše, močna. Včasih naj bi bila velika in raznolika omrežja posameznikov bolj koristna pri reševanju problemov kot majhna in temelječa le na družinskih vezeh (Granovetter v Ajruch in drugi 2001, 112).

Pri raziskovanju socialne opore lahko opredelimo še, kakšne posledice imajo določene interakcije na posameznikovo fizično zdravje in dobro počutje ter kateri so tisti glavni dejavniki, ki na to vplivajo. Z analizo socialnih omrežij je moč raziskovati tudi stopnjo zadovoljstva ljudi s socialno oporo in kateri so glavni dejavniki, ki na to vplivajo (Kogovšek in drugi 2003, 183).

Če primerjamo velika in mala omrežja, naj bi imela velika vrsto prednosti pred majhnimi. Če ima posameznik veliko socialno omrežje, ima na razpolago več članov, katere lahko prosi za pomoč in oporo. Večja je verjetnost, da je v omrežju več članov s specializiranimi znanji, prav tako pa je bolj raznovrsten in enostavnejši dostop do informacij (Kogovšek in drugi 2003, 184). Campbell (1986) pravi, da več članov v omrežju pomeni, da imajo le-ti različne kompetence, kar pove, da so bogatejši in bolj raznolik vir pomoči. Ponujajo tudi širši pogled na določen problem in možnosti njegovega reševanja. Imeti večje omrežje pomeni večjo razpršenost potencialne obremenjenosti zaradi pomoči in tako je manjša verjetnost, da bo katerikoli odnos zaradi pomoči preveč obremenjen (Hlebec in Kogovšek v Novak in drugi 2004, 25).

Tovrstnega mnenja je tudi Vaux, ki pravi, da večja omrežja lahko z manj napora poskrbijo za več potreb in bolj raznovrstne potrebe posameznika kot majhna omrežja (Vaux 1998, 50–60). Med drugim se je pokazalo, da je velika omrežja težje vzdrževati kakor majhna. Več pomoči posameznik pričakuje od oseb, s katerimi ga vežejo bližnji, tesni, kompleksni in vzajemni odnosi. Pri zadovoljevanju potreb posameznika, kar se tiče opore, je zelo pomembna tudi sestava omrežja (odstotek sorodnikov, prijateljev, sodelavcev) (Vaux 1988, 60–61).

Običajno so omrežja socialne opore trdna (velikost, sestava ter ljudje, na katere se posameznik obrne) razen v obdobju večjih življenjskih prehodov in sprememb. To je npr. poroka, ločitev, izguba delovnega mesta ali selitev v drugo državo, za čas šolanja. Eden izmed dejavnikov, ki lahko močno vplivajo na velikost in sestavo omrežij socialne opore, je kulturni kontekst, kar vidimo v primerjalnih raziskavah, v katerih se kažejo značilne razlike v sestavi in velikosti omrežij v različnih družbah (Bernard in drugi, Campbell in drugi v Mandič in Hlebec 2005).

Večja raznolikost je ponavadi povezana z manj gostimi omrežji, kjer so člani bolj razpršeni in se ne poznajo dobro med seboj. Ravno nasprotno je pri gostih omrežjih, kjer se člani dobro poznajo in so med seboj tesno povezani (Vaux 1988).

Poleg velikosti in gostote je pomembna sestava omrežja, saj je bolj verjetno da bo posamezniku oporo nudil bližnji prijatelj kakor nek znanec (Hlebec in Kogovšek v Novak in drugi 2004, 25).

Sama sem se ukvarjala z raziskovanjem egocentričnega omrežja, katerega bom v nadaljevanju podrobneje predstavila.

3.1 Egocentrično socialno omrežje

Egocentrično omrežje raziskujemo, kadar imamo na začetku določeno število enot, ki jih imenujemo egi. Analiziramo omrežje posamezne enote oz. posameznika, ki ga imenujemo ego in njegove povezave z drugimi enotami (alterji)¹ oz. posamezniki, ki sestavljajo omrežje. Osredotočimo se torej na število in druge značilnosti povezav, ki jih imajo egi (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 12).

Pri merjenju egocentričnega omrežja se osredotočimo tudi na značilnosti odnosa med egom in alterjem, torej zanima nas tip odnosa (ali je alter prijatelj, oče, mati, partner itd.), kako blizu sta si ego in alter, kako pomemben je vsak alter za ega, frekvenca njunih stikov ipd. Značilnosti alterjev so ponavadi njihove demografske značilnosti (spol, starost, kraj bivanja). Analiziramo lahko število in druge značilnosti teh vezi, torej deleže določenih vrst povezav (npr. sorodstvenih in prijateljskih vezi), deleže določenih vrst enot v omrežju (npr. delež moških in žensk), povprečja in spremenljivost določenih značilnosti (npr. pogostost stikov) ali strukturne značilnosti omrežij (npr. gostota omrežja). Te analiziramo tudi glede na demografske in druge značilnosti enote (npr. spol, starost, izobrazba, osebnostne značilnosti) (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006). Enota merjenja pri egocentričnih omrežjih je ponavadi anketiranec, pri katerem dobimo vse informacije o njegovem omrežju (Marsden in drugi v Kogovšek 2001, 17).

Osebna omrežja merimo še s pomočjo generatorjev imen, tj. anketno vprašanje, s katerim dobimo seznam egovih alterjev v omrežju (Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006, 53)

Vsebina generatorja imena lahko bistveno vpliva na velikost in gostoto izmerjenega omrežja, značilnosti vezi (npr. bližina in pogostost stikov) ter variabilnost izobrazbene

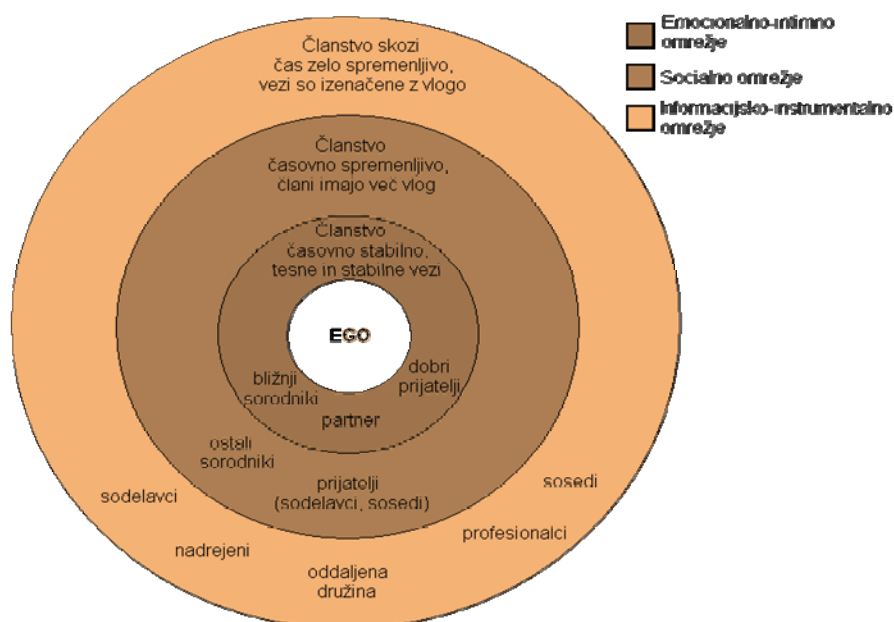
¹ Alterji so člani egocentričnega omrežja.

in starostne sestave omrežja, ne pa tudi sestavo omrežja na splošno (po spolu, izobrazbi in starosti). Omejitev zgornje meje imenovanja alterjev, višja stopnja intimnosti in časovni okvir ponavadi proizvedejo manjša izmerjena omrežja (Campbell in drugi v Kogovšek 2001, 26).

V moji raziskavi je bila omejitev zgornje meje imenovanja alterjev 20 oseb. Uporabila sem več generatorjev imen, ki merijo tri razsežnosti socialne opore (materialno in emocionalno ter druženje). Časovni okvir je bil »v času izmenjave«, tj. od 3 do 6 mesecev. Nekaj generatorjev imen je bilo sestavljenih hipotetično (npr. »Od koga bi si sposodili določeno količino denarja, recimo 200 €?«), večina generatorjev imen pa je bila splošne narave (npr. »Na koga ste se v času izmenjave obrnili, kadar ste potrebovali nasvet o pomembni življenjski zadevi?«). Anketiranci včasih pri hipotetičnih vprašanjih imenujejo osebo, ki naj bi jo imenovali po družbenih standardih in ne dejansko osebo, na katero se obrnejo (Van de Poel v Kogovšek 2001, 28).

3.2 Osebna omrežja

Slika 3.1 : Teoretični model omrežij socialne opore



Vir: Kahn in Antonucci v Sugarman (1993, 11).

Osebno omrežje je mogoče razdeliti na več območij koncentričnih krogov. Ti predstavljajo razširjeno, socialno in intimno omrežje. Ego je oseba, ki se nahaja v sredini egocentričnega omrežja in je v različnih odnosih z alterji iz različnih krogov.

- **Intimno omrežje** je notranji najbolj intimni krog posameznikovega omrežja, kamor spadajo osebe, s katerimi ima posameznik najbolj zaupne odnose. V ta krog so navadno vključeni bližnji sorodniki, partner in dobri prijatelji. V moji raziskavi sem študente prosila, če v prvi krog uvrstijo alterje oziroma osebe, ki so jim tako pomembne, da si brez njih skoraj ne morejo predstavljati življenja.
- **Socialno omrežje** (drugi krog) je tisti del omrežja, v katerem so posamezniki, ki so ego blizu (npr. prijatelji, ostali sorodniki). V raziskavi sem študente prosila, naj v drugi krog razvrstijo osebe, ki so jim blizu, ampak ne toliko, da bi lahko zanje rekli, da si brez njih ne predstavljajo življenja.
- **Informacijsko/instrumentalno omrežje** (tretji/zunanji krog) zajema ljudi, ki jih posameznik sicer pozna, ampak ima z njimi bolj površinske odnose (sodelavci, sosedje, oddaljena družina) (Kogovšek, 2001). Moje vprašanje pri tem krogu se je glasilo: »Prosim, če v tretji krog uvrstiš osebe, ki se ti zdijo pomembne v tem trenutku, ampak manj kakor tiste, ki se nahajajo v drugem in prvem krogu«.

4 METODOLOGIJA

Ker sem se tudi sama za študijsko leto 2008/09 prijavila na Erasmus program za Univerzo v Gironi, sem se odločila, da v času študija v tujini zberem podatke, ki jih bom uporabila v diplomskem delu.

Zaradi vse večje participacije študentov v študijskih izmenjavah, ki se izvajajo v tujini daleč stran od doma in svojih bližnjih, sem se v diplomski nalogi osredotočila na raziskovanje opore teh študentov, njihovo (ne)zadovoljstvo z življenjem v tujini ter na splošno osebno izkušnjo, ki so jo imeli priložnost doživeti. Pri poglobljenem raziskovanju sem hotela priti do odgovorov na raziskovalna vprašanja, ki sem si jih zastavila na začetku. Kvalitativen raziskovalni pristop sem izbrala, ker sem si želela bolj poglobljeno spoznati izkušnjo ostalih študentov, ki so se izmenjave udeležili.

Kvalitativno raziskovanje se od kvantitativnega razlikuje v tem, da so podatki predstavljeni z besedami in ne s številkami. Ti podatki so ponavadi bogatejši, bolj življenjski in poglobljeni, bolj verjetno naj bi bilo tudi, da so resnična slika načina življenja, človeških izkušenj, stališč in prepričanj. Weber (glej Haralambos in Holborn 1995) je menil, da je za razlago družbenega delovanja potrebno razumevanje pomenov in motivov, na katerih temelji človeško vedenje. Da lahko razložimo nek primer, npr. zakaj so se študentje odločili za izmenjavo v tujini, moramo najprej raziskati motive. Dilema pri kvalitativnem raziskovanju je, da raziskovalcu mnogokrat ne uspeva zadostiti nekaterim standardom zanesljivosti. Postopki, ki so uporabljeni za zbiranje podatkov, so namreč lahko nesistematični, nobenega načina pa ni, da bi kvalitativno študijo ponovili in preverili zanesljivost njenih ugotovitev. Podatki so veljavni, kadar ponujajo resnično sliko tega, kar preučujemo. Je točen odsev družbene realnosti. Podatki so sicer lahko zanesljivi, toda niso veljavni, saj ne odražajo realnega stanja družbe. Manjka jim globina, s katero bi opisali smisle in motive, ki oblikujejo podlago družbenega delovanja (Haralambos in Holborn 1995).

»Kvalitativen raziskovalni pristop s svojo induktivno naravnano spoznavno prakso omogoča dostop do pogledov, občutij, doživljanja ljudi ter odkritje novih spoznanj 'od spodaj navzgor'«. Tovrsten raziskovalni stil oz. metodološki pristop z značilnimi

postopki analize, zbiranja podatkov in raziskovalno prakso omogoča dostop do novih spoznanj ter izgradnjo teorije na določenem raziskovalnem področju. Med temeljne postopke analize t. i. utemeljene teorije² sodijo: kodiranje (»coding«), teoretično vzorčenje (»theoretical sampling«) in pisanje analitičnih zaznamkov (»memos«). S kodiranjem podatkov odpremo podatke za analitično obravnavo, opredelimo koncepte, njihove značilnosti, dimenzije, jih umestimo v kontekst, povežemo med seboj ter združimo v koncepte višje stopnje in kategorije (Hlebec in drugi 2010, 38).

V tem procesu z metodo stalne primerjave iščemo podobnosti, razlike ter posebnosti posameznih pojavov, razvijamo generativna vprašanja in tvorimo *ad-hoc* hipoteze, ki jih sprti preverjamo v podatkih. Vseskozi si beležimo analitične zaznamke in pomisleke, s katerimi podpremo proces analize podatkov, v nadaljevanju pa nam služijo za opis teoretičnih spoznanj. Za utemeljeno teorijo je značilen namenski izbor enot, ki naj bi pripomogle k nadaljnjemu razvoju teorije na podlagi predhodnega znanja. Gre za iterativno-ciklični model med seboj izmenjujočih se faz pridobivanja podatkov, analiziranja in tvorjenja teorije (Corbin in drugi v Hlebec in drugi 2010, 38). Cilj uporabe utemeljene teorije ni v številčnem merjenju obsega pojava in pridobitvi rezultatov, ki bi bili reprezentativni za neko širšo populacijo. Pri uporabi te metode stremimo k izgradnji teorije, tako da natančno opredelimo vsebinske značilnosti določenih pojavov, določimo pojme, s katerimi opišemo pogoje, v katerih se pojavijo, delovanje in interakcije, v katerih se ti pojavi izrazijo ter njihove posledice (Struebing v Hlebec in drugi 2010, 39).

Kvalitativno raziskovanje z nekaterih vidikov ni videti tako znanstveno kot druge vrste družboslovnega raziskovanja. Navadno trditve, kot so »ljudje z višjo izobrazbo navadno dobijo boljše službe«, ponujajo »široke« (»big picture«) poglede, ki pa ne povedo ničesar o posameznih primerih. V tako širokih pogledih lahko posamezna statistika ali odstotek povzameta velikansko količino informacij v nešteti enotah. A tako široki podobi se lahko marsikaj izmuzne. Raziskovalci, ki verjamejo, da je njihovo ustrezno razumevanje moč doseči le s poglobljenim preučevanjem specifičnih primerov, ponavadi ne želijo takšnih širokih pogledov na družbene pojave (Ragin 2007, 97).

² Na empiričnih podatkih utemeljena teorija.

»Kvalitativna raziskava se začne in konča v smislu, da poteka od začetka pa do konca, pri čemer v začetku bolj malo vemo o problemu, na koncu pa nekaj več« (Mesec 1998, 39). Pri kvalitativni metodi raziskovanja izkustveno gradivo, katerega zberemo v raziskovalnem procesu, sestavljajo besedni opisi ali pripovedi. Gradivo pri tovrstnem raziskovanju je obdelano in analizirano na beseden način brez uporabe merskih postopkov, ki dajejo števila (Mesec 1998, 26). Temu rečemo interpretativni pristop³.

Med metode, ki dajejo kvalitativno gradivo, štejemo odprt intervju, opazovanje z udeležbo in skupinsko razpravo (Mesec 1998, 21). Sama sem za raziskovanje uporabila poglobljen polstrukturiran intervju. Polstrukturiran intervju je vrsta vprašalnika, kjer ima anketar sicer vnaprej pripravljena vprašanja za intervjuvanca, ampak mu je dovoljeno, da od teh vprašanj nekoliko odstopa. To je vprašalnik, ki spada med dve skrajnosti in sicer strukturiran⁴ in nestrukturiran⁵ intervju (Haralambos in Holborn 1995, 847). Intervju sem izbrala, ker preko njih dobimo preproste informacije o dejstvih. »Uporabljamo jih lahko, da ljudi povprašamo o njihovih stališčih, preteklem, sedanjem in prihodnjem vedenju, njihovih motivih, občutkih in drugih čustvih, ki jih ni mogoče neposredno opazovati« (Haralambos in Holborn 1995, 849). Posredno sem bila tudi opazovalec z delno udeležbo, saj sem veliko časa preživela z študenti, katere sem intervjuvala, bila sem torej neke vrste odkriti udeleženi raziskovalec⁶.

Prvo načelo kvalitativne metodologije je, da raziskovalec intervjuvancu prisluhne, subjekt mora namreč priti do besede. Včasih je potrebno dojeti tudi latentna čustva in nagnjena, predvsem pa človekov lastni pogled na položaj (Mesec 1998). Kljub temu da so človeška medsebojna vplivanja nekaj povsem običajnega, mora raziskovalec premagati probleme vzpostavljanja stika in pridobivanja sodelovanja intervjuvancev. Ko osebo prepriča, da bo v intervjuju sodelovala, se mora še potruditi, da bi zagotovil njene celovite, pristne in odkrite odgovore. Bistveno je, da se intervjuvancu objasni, zakaj bodo podatki uporabljeni. Pri izvajanju intervjuja je prav tako pomembno, da se

³ Drugi pristop je pozitivistični, kamor spada kvantitativno raziskovanje, kjer osnovno gradivo sestavljajo podatki, dobljeni s standardiziranimi merskimi postopki. Izraženi so kot števila, analizirani pa z matematičnimi in statističnimi metodami (Mesec 1998, 26).

⁴ Strukturiran intervju je preprost vprašalnik, kjer anketar na noben način ne sme odstopati od predvidenih vprašanj.

⁵ Nestrukturiran intervju je oblika pogovora, ko spraševalec nima nobenih vnaprej pripravljenih vprašanj.

⁶ To je opazovalec, ki je vključen v dejavnosti tistih, ki jih preučuje.

spraševalec vzdrži ponujanja mnenj ter izrazom odobravanja oz. zavračanj (Haralambos in Holborn 1995). Drugo načelo pravi, da mora raziskovalec poznati širši kontekst skupnosti, ki jo raziskuje, saj kontekst, v katerem so ljudje, močno vpliva na njihovo doživljanje in vedenje. Tretje načelo pa pravi, da mora raziskovanje potekati v okolju, kjer ljudje živijo in delajo, saj le na tak način lahko raziskovalec pride do bolj kompleksnih spoznanj, ki so, kljub temu da niso tako natančna, bolj bistvena za prakso.

Raziskovalec se pri kvalitativnem raziskovanju ne more izključiti iz dogajanja, ki ga preučuje, saj tudi sam doživlja situacijo, katero preučuje. Raziskovalec, ki se vključi v raziskovano skupino ali skupnost, širi svoje razumevanje še s sočutjem in sodoživljanjem. Če hoče raziskovalec razumeti in raziskati, kakšen pomen pripisujejo ljudje stvarim in dogajanjem okrog sebe, ne more drugače, kot da stopi v interakcijo z njimi. To imenujemo tudi raziskovanje z udeležbo oz. sodelovanjem (Mesec 1998, 28–42).

Pri opazovanju z udeležbo sta pomembna dva aspekta. Prvi vidik je distanca oz. opazovanje, kar nas pripelje do bolj preverljivih rezultatov. Drugi aspekt je razumevanje oz. udeležba, pri čemer subjektivni vtisi skoraj niso prisotni. Pri tem se pokaže problem, če je distanca prevelika, saj od objekta ne izvemo nič vrednega, če pa z njo prekinemo, ne moremo kontrolirati subjektivnih vtisov. Najpomembnejše torej je, da si moramo prizadevati razumevanje entitete, jo dobro spoznati in drugim omogočiti možnost preverjanja (Adam 1982, 110).

4.1 Postopek poteka raziskave

1. Raziskava se začne s formuliranjem problema. Problem je vprašanje, ki je praktično in teoretično pomembno. V tej fazi si postavimo vprašanja, na katera želimo z raziskavo odgovoriti.
2. V drugi fazi pojasnimo teoretični okvir in predrazumevanje. Če ne izhajamo iz točno določenega teoretičnega okvirja, se raziskave lotevamo zdravorazumsko in pojasnimo svoje predrazumevanje. Paziti moramo, da nas teorija ne usmerja. Freud pravi: »Raziskovalec, ki pusti, da njegovo razumevanje usmerjajo teoretične domneve in

strukture, pa tudi njegove bojzani, ostane slep za strukture, ki se dejansko pojavljajo v polju raziskovanja« (Freud v Mesec 1988, 69).

3. V naslednji fazi izberemo enote raziskovanja. Izberemo jih tako, da z njihovo analizo pridemo do čimbolj raznolikih informacij. Izbirati moramo bolj kontrastne primere in ne tipične (Mesec 1998). Kasneje, ko pridemo v stik z raziskovanjem, moramo biti pozorni, da si pridobimo zaupanje anketirancev, saj le tako pridemo do dobrih informacij. Izbrati si moramo tudi tehniko za zbiranje empiričnih podatkov in jih uporabimo. Sodelovanje z udeležbo (opazovalec razkrije svoj namen in sodeluje pri dejavnostih skupine) oz. z vsaj delno udeležbo je zelo pomemben faktor pri raziskovanju in spoznavanju neke situacije (Mesec 1998, 42).

4. Nadaljujemo z zbiranjem kvalitativnih in kvantitativnih podatkov s pomočjo poglobljenega polstrukturiranega intervjuja na določeni populaciji.

5. Sledi analiza kvalitativnih podatkov, katere cilj je povezovanje kvalitativnih in kvantitativnih ugotovitev. Na koncu se lotimo odgovarjanja na kvalitativna raziskovalna vprašanja, ki so bila zastavljena na začetku in njih cilj je v mojem primeru opisati izkušnjo študentov na izmenjavi.

Tak način spraševanja zagotavlja primerljivost odgovorov in kasnejšo kvantitativno obdelavo ter analizo (Mesec 1998, 83–85).

Moj način zbiranja podatkov je potekal z izvajanjem poglobljenih polstrukturiranih intervjujev s študenti na izmenjavi. Skušala sem v vzorec zajeti čim več različnih ljudi, bolj sem se osredotočila na študente, s katerimi sem se sama družila, med njimi so bili taki, ki bi jih sama uvrstila med svoje »bližnje« v času bivanja v tujini, dva od njih pa sta bila moja sostanovalca. To je bil eden izmed razlogov, da sem jih izbrala kot enote raziskovanja, saj sem vedela, da bom dobila konkretne in resnične odgovore. Poskušala sem izbrati osebe, ki bi se čimbolj razlikovale po narodnosti, žal pa mi ni uspelo dobiti uravnoveženega vzorca, kar se tiče spola, saj je bilo v celotni Erasmus generaciji bistveno več žensk kakor moških. Pri izbiri ciljne populacije sem bila pozorna, da so bili študentje na izmenjavi samo v poletnem semestru, torej od januarja do junija leta 2009.

Uporabila sem kvotno vzorčenje, ki raziskovalcu omogoča, da spremenljivke nadzira brez okvira vzorčenja. Pri kvotnem vzorčenju izberemo določeno število intervjuvancev s posameznimi lastnostmi, tako da celoten vzorec odraža lastnosti populacije kot celote (Haralambos in Holborn 1995).

Že po nekaj izvedenih intervjujih sem ugotovila, da se odgovori študentov izredno ponavljajo, da bivanje v tujini in celotno izkušnjo doživljajo precej podobno, seveda z nekaterimi variacijami. »Tako običajno pri analizi utemeljene teorije naredimo v raziskovanju rez in predstavimo povzetek raziskovanja na neki vsebinsko smiselni presečni točki, ter dopuščamo možnost nadaljnega raziskovanja in razvoja dodatnih teoretičnih ugotovitev« (Hlebec in drugi 2011, 41).

Terenski del raziskave sem izvajala s pomočjo intervjujev, katere sem opravila s študenti. Pri izbiri intervjuvancev sem poskusila upoštevati tudi določene osebnostne značilnosti, kot sta introvertiranost in ekstravertiranost, saj bolj raznolike enote preučevanja dajo bolj barvite odgovore. Z intervjuvanci sem se dogovorila za dan, uro in kraj, kjer bomo v miru izvedli intervju. Intervjuvanci so bili prostorsko dokaj razpršeni (glede na državo). V celotni populaciji študentov je bilo opazno, da jih je zelo veliko prihajalo iz vzhodnega dela Evrope.

V obdobju zbiranja podatkov sem se večkrat sestala s tamkajšnjim profesorjem dr. Germajem Coendersom, ki mi je svetoval tako pri formuliranju vprašalnika kot pri določenih dilemah, s katerimi sem se srečala.

Intervju je obsegal naslednje teme:

- motivacija za študijsko izmenjavo v Gironi,
- opis dobre in slabe izkušnje v času bivanja v tujini,
- koga/kaj študentje najbolj pogrešajo (osebe in stvari),
- opis osebnega omrežja na podlagi koncentričnih krogov,
- vprašanja glede emocionalne in materialne opore ter druženja,
- značilnosti alterjev v omrežju ega,
- kako se je njihovo socialno omrežje spremenilo v času študija v tujini,
- mnenja glede romantičnih zvez na izmenjavi.

S študenti sem izvedla 14 intervjujev. Štirikrat je intervju potekal pri njih doma, štirikrat v parku, trikrat pri meni ter trikrat v baru ob skodelici kave. S pristopom in njihovim zaupanjem nisem imela težav, saj smo se dobro poznali, pri nikomer pa nisem zaznala nobene zadržanosti pri odgovorih. Predstavila sem jim namen moje raziskave, jim povedala, da je intervju prostovoljen in tajen, da bom vse skupaj posnela zaradi lažjega beleženja, ter jim predlagala, naj me vprašajo, če katerega od vprašanj ne bodo razumeli. Intervjuji so potekali individualno, vprašanja so bila po večini razumljiva, včasih se je le kakšna stvar zapletla pri sporazumevanju, saj je intervju potekal v angleškem jeziku. Dolžina intervjuja je bila približno od 30 do 60 minut, dolžine so se razlikovale (intervjuji fantov so bili krajši kot intervjuji deklet). Temu pripisujem dejstvo, da so dekleta po naravi bolj odprtega značaja, lažje navezujejo stike, imajo večja socialna omrežja in so bolj pripravljene odprto govoriti o svojih težavah. Pri določenih intervjujih, predvsem na začetku, sem si zapisala vsebinske in metodološke pomisleke, o katerih sem se kasneje posvetovala s profesorjem dr. Coendersom in spremembe upoštevala v nadaljnjih intervjujih. Intervjuje sem posnela na MP3 predvajalnik in jih v obliki MP3 datoteke prenesla na računalnik, kar je pripomoglo k lažjemu prepisovanju intervjujev za nadaljnjo uporabo. Vse intervjuje sem v celoti prepisala, imena intervjuvancev sem spremenila. Snemanje intervjuja je eno izmed pomembnih delov pri kvalitativnem raziskovanju, saj nam omogoča skoraj popolno zanesljivost zapisovanja, intersubjektivno⁷ preverjanje kodiranja in interpretacij ter teoretično fleksibilnost, saj lahko večkrat poslušamo isti posnetek (Mesec 1998). Bistveno je tudi, da prepise nekoliko popravimo, vendar samo nujne stvari. Mesec pravi, če nas v raziskavi zanima le vsebina in ne način izražanja, bomo popravili le očitno napačno prepisane črke, ločila ipd. Ne bomo pa popravljali narečnih izrazov, slenga (Mesec 1998, 88). Jaz sem popravila nekaj napačno tvorjenih stavkov, za lažjo razumljivost. Dobljeno gradivo sem kasneje kodirala, pomenskimi enotami sem pripisala kode ter opisala temeljne pojave. V raziskavi sem hotela na empiričnih podatkih podati utemeljen vpogled v njihovo izkušnjo, ki so jo imeli z izmenjavo.

⁷ Preveri več ocenjevalcev.

Večjih težav pri izvajanju intervjujev torej nisem imela, včasih je bil problem angleški jezik, ki smo ga sicer vsi relativno obvladali, ampak je vseeno prihajalo do določenih nerazumljivosti, saj angleščina ni materni jezik intervjuvancev. Glede na končni odziv so bili z intervjujem zadovoljni, dejali so, da sem jim postavljala zanimiva vprašanja, o katerih v času izmenjave niso niti razmišljali.

V nadaljevanju bom s pomočjo citatov iz prepisov intervjujev poskušala odgovoriti na vprašanja, ki sem si jih na začetku zastavila. Izpostavila sem reprezentativne citate, ki odgovarjajo na moja raziskovalna vprašanja. Pri navajanju citatov sem dodala spremenjeno ime intervjuvanke oz. intervjuvanca, na koncu vsakega citata sta zapisana še zaporedna številka intervjuja ter številka vprašanja, pri katerem lahko v priloženi transkripciji intervjujev najdemo celoten odgovor. V prilogi je pri vsakem intervjuju zapisan datum, trajanje intervjuja in država, iz katere intervjuvanec/-ka prihaja. Podobne odgovore sem s pomočjo kodiranja združila.

5 ANALIZA PODATKOV

V svoji diplomski nalogi sem se ukvarjala z raziskovanjem opore študentov na Erasmus izmenjavi, zato bom v naslednjem odstavku na kratko opisala, kaj Erasmus pravzaprav je.

5.1 Opis Erasmus programa

Program Erasmus (*EuRopean Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students*) je program izmenjave študentov članic EU, ki je bil ustanovljen leta 1987. Je sestavni del programa Vseživljenjsko učenje, s katerim upravlja Evropska komisija. Imenuje se po nizozemskem filozofu Erazmu Rotterdamu. Ta je znan po tem, da je živel in delal v različnih krajih Evrope, s čimer si je pridobil veliko znanja in izkušenj (Wikipedia 2012). Erasmus podpira individualno mobilnost študentov, učnega osebja in drugih zaposlenih z upravičenih institucij, organizacijo projektov intenzivnih programov (poletne/zimske šole), večstranske projekte ter mreže.

Erasmus študentu omogoča:

- da del rednih študijskih obveznosti opravi na partnerski instituciji v eni od sodelujočih držav,
- da opravi prakso v podjetju v tujini,
- ima plačano šolnino v tujini,
- ima priznane opravljene obveznosti v tujini,
- pridobi finančno pomoč v okviru VŽU – Erasmus.

Erasmus mobilnost traja od 3 do 12 mesecev (Pajnič 2009). Glavni cilji programa Erasmus so, poleg družbene mobilnosti, seznanjanje z novo kulturo ter načinom življenja, širjenje formalnega ter neformalnega znanja, osebna rast posameznika in nepozabna doživetja z vrstniki iz drugih držav.

Število študentov, ki se odločijo za študijsko izmenjavo, je iz leta v leto višje. V študijskem letu 2009/2010 se je za Erasmus izmenjavo odločilo 213.266 evropskih študentov in 37.776 zaposlenih. V letu 2011 je participacija študentov narasla v vseh državah EU razen na Norveškem, Češkem in Portugalskem. Največ študentov, ki so

odšli iz svoje države, je zabeležila Španija, največ pa jih je tudi sprejela (Europa: Press releases rapid 2011, 6. junij).

5.2 Opis vzorca

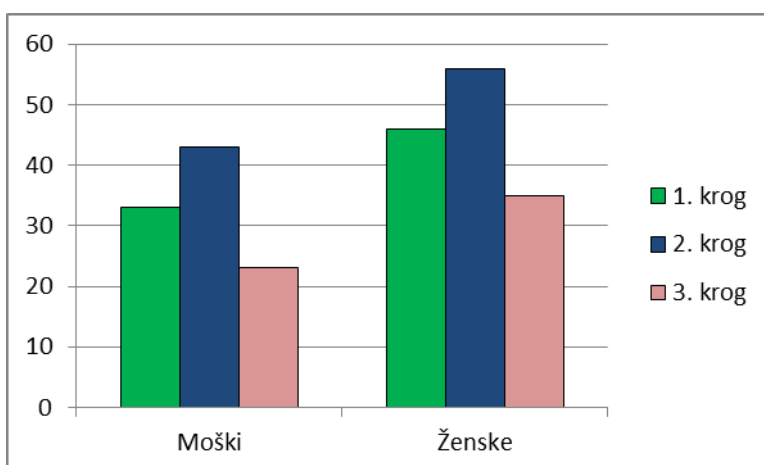
Med intervjuvanci je bilo 10 žensk in 4 moški, vsi so bili stari od 22 do 24 let. Prihajali so iz naslednjih držav: Litva (1), Romunija (1), Italija (1), Češka (1), Nizozemska (1), Slovaška (2), Poljska (2) in Belgija (5). V primeru moje raziskave gre za specifično skupino ljudi, študente, ki se odločijo za daljši odhod v tujino stran od svojih staršev, sorodnikov, prijateljev in doma. Vsi udeleženci raziskave so približno iste starosti, vsi so bili na poti do univerzitetne izobrazbe. Razlikujejo se le po geografski umeščenosti, prihajajo iz različnih držav, okolja in po vsej verjetnosti iz nekoliko različnih družbenih slojev, čemur nisem posvečala posebne pozornosti.

5.3 Socialna opora študentov glede na spol

Tabela 5.1: Odstotek moških in žensk glede na koncentrične kroge

	1. krog	2. krog	3. krog	Skupaj	Odstotki
Moški	33	43	23	99	41,95 %
Ženske	46	56	35	137	58,1 %
Skupaj	79	99	58	236	100 %
Odstotki	33,47 %	41,95 %	24,58 %	100 %	

Graf 5.1: Razmerje moških in žensk glede na koncentrične kroge



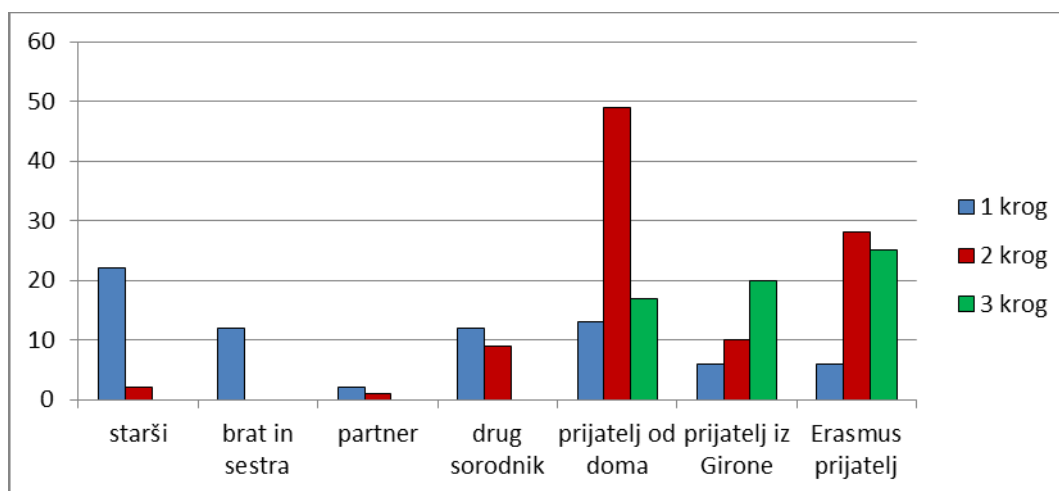
Iz grafa je razvidno, da ženske prevladujejo v osebnih omrežjih intervjuvanih študentov na izmenjavi. Kot sem že zapisala v teoretičnem delu diplomske naloge, so ženske tiste, ki nudijo več emocionalne opore tako ženskam kakor moškim, ne pa obratno. Ženske se po emocionalno oporo največkrat na moške ne obračajo (Fischer in drugi v Hlebec in Mandič 2005). Glede na odgovore intervjuvank in intervjuvancev se z zadnjo trditvijo v tem primeru ne bi popolnoma strinjala, saj so tudi ženske v svoja omrežja uvrstile veliko moških. Moški so v prvi krog osebnega omrežja uvrstili povprečno 4,75 oseb, ženske pa 5,7. Pri moških je v drugem krogu povprečno 7 oseb, pri ženskah nekoliko več, 7,2. V tretjem krogu so moški povprečno navajali 5,5 oseb, ženske nekaj manj in sicer 3,6 osebe. Povprečja kažejo, da ženske več oseb uvrščajo v prva dva kroga, moški pa v drugega in tretjega. Eni in drugi so največ oseb uvrstili v drugi krog.

5.4 Viri socialne opore študentov glede na koncentrične kroge

Tabela 5.2: Razmerje virov socialne opore študentov glede na koncentrične kroge

	1. krog	2. krog	3. krog	Skupaj	Odstotek
Mati in Oče	22	2	0	24	10,26 %
Brat in sestra	12	0	0	12	5,13 %
Partner	2	1	0	3	1,28 %
Drug sorodnik	12	9	0	21	8,97 %
Prijatelj od doma	13	49	17	79	33,76 %
Prijatelj iz Girone	6	10	20	36	15,38 %
Erasmus prijatelj	6	28	25	59	25,21 %
Skupaj	73	99	62	234	

Graf 5.2: Razmerje virov socialne opore študentov glede na koncentrične kroge



Iz grafa je razvidno, da starše študentje največkrat uvrščajo v notranji krog svojega osebnega omrežja. V prvi krog so umeščali osebe, brez katerih si življenja ne predstavljajo. Starši v prvem krogu predstavljajo kar 30,14 % celotne opore prvega kroga. Le ena intervjuvanka svojih staršev ni uvrstila v svoje osebno omrežje, edina je tudi prvi krog pustila prazen, druga pa jih je uvrstila v drugi krog, saj je v prvega uvrstila svojega partnerja. Prav tako so prijatelji od doma tisti, brez katerih si študentje življenja ne predstavljajo, poleg njih pa še bratje, sestre in drugi bližnji sorodniki. Seveda sem spada tudi partner, na prvo mesto v prvi krog sta ga uvrstili dve intervjuvanki, ena pa v drugega (samo te tri so navedle, da so v zvezi)⁸. Prvi krog predstavlja ljudi, na katere je posameznik najbolj navezan ter mu veliko pomenijo. Raziskava »Navezanost in bližnji odnosi skozi življenje« je pokazala, da so najdalgotrajnejši in najintenzivnejši prav odnosi, ki nastanejo v zgodnjem obdobju življenja. Ravno tako vplivajo na doživljanje odnosov posameznika v nadaljnjem življenju (Antonucci in drugi 2004).

V drugem krogu so največji ponudniki opore prijatelji od doma, ki v tem primeru precej odstopajo od ostalih. Sledijo jim študentje/prijatelji, ki so bili prav tako udeleženi v Erasmus programu. Prav tako svoje mesto zavzemajo ostali prijatelji, ki so jih spoznali v Gironi med izmenjavo, ti zavzemajo kar 9,9 % vseh ponudnikov opore drugega kroga. V ta krog so študentje uvrstili še nekaj drugih sorodnikov, vendar manj kot v prvega.

V tretji krog spadajo osebe, ki so bile študentom na izmenjavi sicer najmanj blizu, ampak za njihovo oporo vseeno zelo pomembni. Tu so na prvem mestu Erasmus študentje, sledijo jim ostali prijatelji, ki so jih spoznali v Gironi, ter prijatelji od doma. V tretji krog so študentje uvrščali predvsem osebe, ki so jim bile v času izmenjave glavni vir druženja.

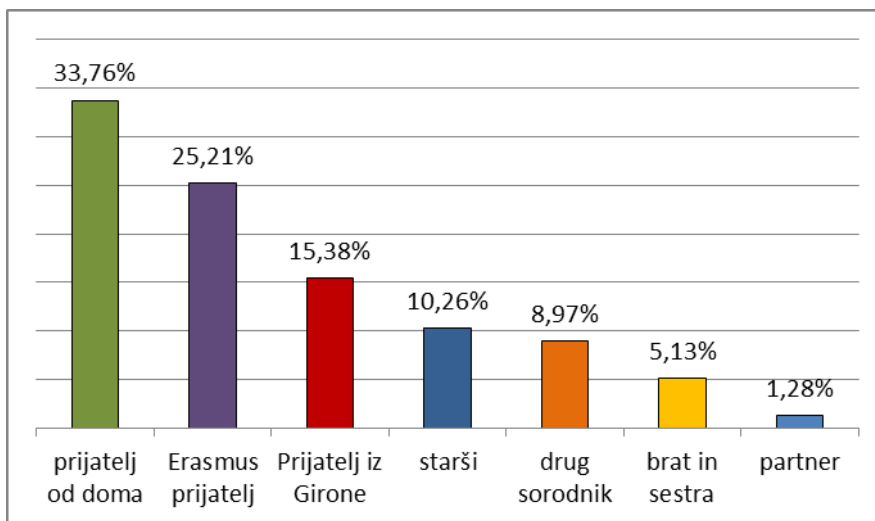
Starši, ožja družina, bližnji prijatelji ter bližnji sorodniki so torej tisti, ki posamezniku nudijo in dajejo socialno oporo, četudi so daleč stran v drugi državi in se z njimi nekaj časa ne srečuje. Te osebe v času študija študentom nudijo predvsem emocionalno oporo, starši tudi materialno, ne nudijo pa jim opore druženja, saj je le-to nemogoče v času ločenosti, razen v primerih, ko so bili prijatelji ali starši na obisku. V prvi krog torej

⁸ Dve intervjuvanki sta bili v resni zvezi že dlje časa, ena je partnerja spoznala na izmenjavi.

spadajo ljudje, s katerimi posameznika vežejo posebne vezi, ki jih je skoraj nemogoče pretrgati in trajajo že dolgo časa. V drugem krogu začne naraščati opora študentov in prijateljev, ki so jih študentje spoznali na izmenjavi, vseeno še vedno kot največji vir opore smatrajo prijatelje, ki jih imajo doma. Ti jim kljub ločenosti (nekateri so jih prišli obiskati) nudijo emocionalno oporo, občasno tudi oporo druženja. Tretji krog je zanimiv zato, ker so v njem (razen prijateljev od doma) praktično samo osebe, ki jih je posameznik spoznal v času izmenjave. Posamezniki, ki so se spoznali v času izmenjave, so si prav tako nudili vse vrste opore razen materialne. Zanimivo je, da človek vire svoje opore razvršča glede na to, koliko časa nekoga pozna. Najpomembnejši (v prvem krogu) so tisti, ki jih pozna najdlje in so večinoma od doma, najmanj pomembni (v tretjem krogu) pa tisti, ki jih je spoznal na izmenjavi.

5.5 Viri socialne opore glede na celotno osebno omrežje

Graf 5.3: Delež virov socialne opore glede na celoto omrežje

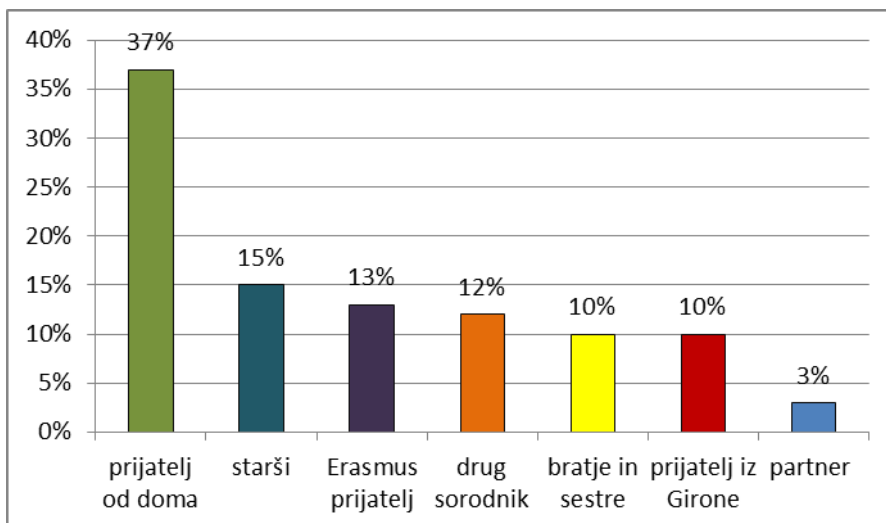


Iz celotnega omrežja, ne glede na kroge, so študentje kot ponudnike svoje opore v času izmenjave največkrat navedli prijatelje od doma, sledijo jim ostali Erasmus študentje ter prijatelji iz Girone. Če združimo skupaj Erasmus študente in prijatelje iz Girone, je teh kar 40,6 %, prijateljev od doma pa 33,76% od vseh članov omrežja. Najmanjkrat po številu so navedli starše (zato, ker ima vsak samo dva), sorodnike in partnerja (saj so bile samo tri intervjuvanke v zvezi), vendar so bili ti skoraj vedno uvrščeni v prvi, najpomembnejši in najintimnejši krog. Sklepam lahko, da je v prvem krogu navadno

najmanj ljudi, ampak ima s temi posameznik najbolj globok odnos. Število alterjev se z oddaljenostjo od ega povečuje, zmanjšuje pa se njuna osebna in čustvena povezanost.

5.6 Viri emocionalne opore študentov

Graf 5.4: Razmerje virov emocionalne opore študentov

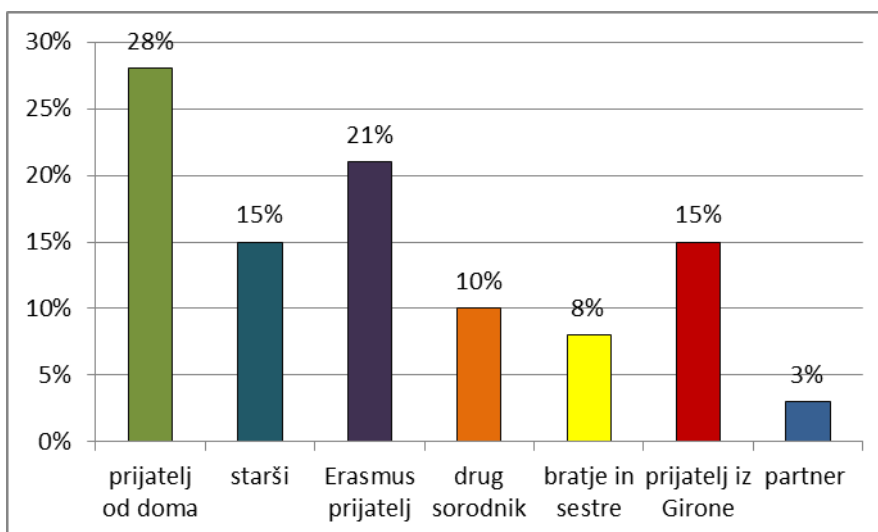


Pri emocionalni opori študentov me je zanimalo, kdo so tisti ljudje, h katerim se posameznik zateče v težkih situacijah; npr. ko se želi pogovoriti o njemu pomembnih stvareh, ko je slabe volje, nesiguren vase in potrebuje nekoga, da mu povrne samozavest ter za koga misli, da bi mu pomagal v primeru bolezni.

Ljudje ponavadi zaupamo ljudem, ki jih že dolgo poznamo in oni nas. K njim se obrnemo po nasvete ter od njih pričakujemo, da nas bodo spravili v dobro voljo. Graf nam kaže, da so najpomembnejši viri emocionalne opore prijatelji, ki jih študent pozna od doma, teh je 37 % od vseh virov. Vsi ostali imajo približno enak delež. Partner je na zadnjem mestu, saj so bile v zvezi le tri intervjuvanke. Pri vseh treh je bil partner glavni ponudnik emocionalne opore, kar velja tudi v splošnem.

5.7 Viri materialne opore študentov

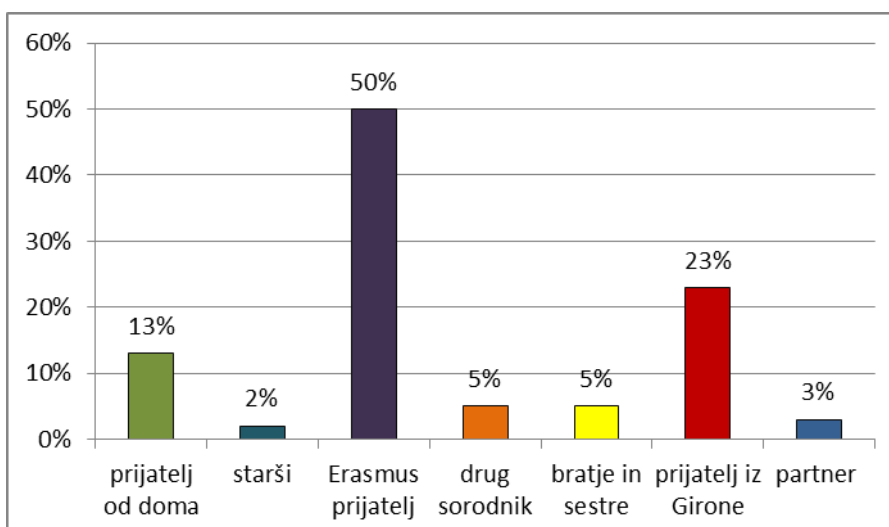
Graf 5.5: Razmerje materialne opore posameznikov



Pri materialni opori sem jih spraševala, od koga bi si študentje sposodili kako manjšo stvar ali določeno vsoto denarja (npr 200 €). Splošne stvari bi si najraje sposodili od Erasmusov, prijateljev iz Girone (36 %) ter prijateljev od doma (28 %). Za denar (npr. 200 €) bi večina najraje prosila svoje starše, brate in sestre, bližnje prijatelje ter seveda partnerja.

5.8 Viri opore druženja študentov

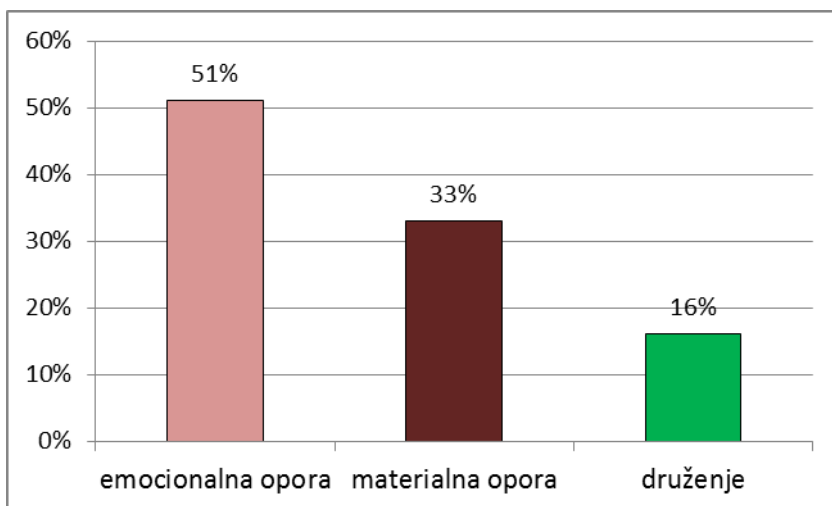
Graf 5.6: Razmerje opore druženja študentov



Po pričakovanju so bili glavni vir druženja študentov ostali Erasmus študentje (50 %) in prijatelji, ki so jih spoznali na izmenjavi (23 %). Za tri intervjuvanke, katere so bile v zvezi, je bil to partner.

5.9 Razmerje med oblikami socialne opore

Graf 5.7: Razmerje med oblikami socialne opore



Glede bistvenosti so prav vse oblike socialne opore za posameznika zelo pomembne. Študentje so največ virov navedli pri emocionalni opori (51 %), nekaj manj pri materialni (33 %) in najmanj pri druženju (16 %). Emocionalni opori so bila namenjena štiri vprašanja, materialni dva in druženju eno vprašanje, kar je verjetno vzrok za takšen rezultat. Pri emocionalni ter materialni opori so bili v prednosti prijatelji od doma, pri opori druženja pa so na prvem mestu Erasmus prijatelji in ostali, ki so jih študentje spoznali v Gironi. Med najpomembnejšimi člani omrežja je še partner, ki je bil naveden kot ponudnik vseh vrst opor.

5.10 Analiza raziskovalnih vprašanj

Vprašanje 1: Zakaj si se odločil/-a za izmenjavo Erasmus v Gironi?

Prvotni razlog za več kot polovico intervjuvanih študentov, je bilo učenje španskega in katalonskega jezika (9) ter spoznavanje novih ljudi in prijateljev (8). Približno tretjina jih je poudarila, da so prišli zaradi nove življenjske (5) in tudi akademske izkušnje (5), torej da bi videli, kako deluje tamkajšnja univerza in spoznali študij. Nekaj več kakor tretjini intervjuvancem (4) je bil cilj spoznavanje nove kulture. Kot razlog so navajali še vreme (3) (npr. **Rasa 1**: »*Ker sem želela iti v Španijo, nekam, kjer je toplo...*«. (1,5)) ter lokacijo (3) (npr. **Axelle 6**: »*...ker je Španija lepa država.*« (6,5) in Janka 4: »*Ker je blizu morja, blizu Barcelone ter so poceni leti po vsej Evropi.*« (4,5)). Za štiri intervjuvance je bila izmenjava tudi dobra izkušnja v smislu samostojnosti (npr. **Clara 10**: »*Hotela sem se tudi preizkusiti v tem, kako je, če živim sama.*« (10,5)). Ista intervjuvanka je izrazila še željo po izkusitvi študentskega življenja (**Clara 10**: »*Hotela sem doživeti študentsko življenje, ker v Belgiji živim pri starših.*« (10,5)). Eden izmed omenjenih razlogov pa je bila želja po potovanjih.

Carolina 5: »*...prav tako sem si želela okrepiti osebnost s tem, ko sem tu sama brez opore staršev in prijateljev.*« **M**: »*In ti je uspelo to doseči?*« **Carolina**: »*Želela sem se bolje počutiti v svoji koži, ne rečem, da sem to dosegla, ampak sedaj poznam sebe bolje kakor prej, se pravi, je dober začetek...*« (5,5)

Anna 9: »*...vedno je dobro, da greš študirat v drugo državo, ker na določene stvari začneš gledati drugače. Naučiš se biti bolj odprt, ne samo z učenjem ampak tudi z opazovanjem ljudi in njihove kulture...*« (9,5)

Sandra 11: »*Najprej sem mislila, da to ni zame zaradi jezika in vsega skupaj, ampak potem sem delala tu med počitnicami in se odločila, da je to zadnja priložnost, da preživim nekje svoj čas dlje kakor dva tedna, zato sem se odločila, da uživam eno leto študija...*« (11,5)

Bianca 12: »*...Španija je v arhitekturi veliko boljša kot Italija. Bila sem sita tega, kako nas učijo v Italiji in sem hotela videti, kako je drugje...hotela sem tudi iti stran s fakultete v Italiji...*« (12,5)

Vprašanje 2: Katere so dobre izkušnje, ki si jih doživel/-a v času izmenjave?

Študentje na izmenjavi so kot dobro izkušnjo izpostavili mnogo različnih stvari. Skoraj vsi so omenili izkušnjo, ki se jim je dogodila v zvezi z ljudmi. Nekatere so presenetili odprti in prijazni domačini, druge je presenetila prijaznost ter odprtost Erasmus študentov, spet tretji so bili navdušeni nad spoznavanjem novih ljudi iz cele Evrope. Ena intervjuvanka je pohvalila tamkajšnjo mentaliteto, češ da se jim ne mudi toliko, kakor se nam v naših državah, medtem ko je neko drugo intervjuvanko pri vprašanju s slabimi izkušnjami ravno to zmotilo; da si Katalonci celo na univerzi (npr. profesorji) vzamejo čas in vse prestavijo na jutri. Prav tu lahko opazimo, kako je za nekoga določena značilnost pozitivna, za drugega pa negativna. Tudi Katalonci so na nekatere naredili dober vtis, saj pravijo, da so prijazni, ampak *»enkrat, ko jih spoznaš...«*. Pet intervjuvancev je kot dobro izkušnjo izpostavilo druženje in skupne stvari, ki jih počnejo z ostalimi Erasmus študenti ali z ljudmi, ki so jih spoznali v Gironi. To so razni izleti, večerje, dogodki, potovanja ter ostale dogodivščine. Trije so omenili, da so zelo zadovoljni s trenutnim stanovanjem, v katerem živijo, kljub temu da so imeli prej z iskanjem stanovanja nekoliko težav. Dve intervjuvanki sta tudi izpostavili dobro izkušnjo kot poglobljanje odnosov, namreč prišli sta na izmenjavo skupaj kot običajni prijateljici/znanki, sedaj pa se je med njima spletel pristen prijateljski odnos, kar jima je zelo všeč. Študentje so imeli dobre izkušnje še z vremenom, ker je v Španiji topleje kakor na severu, nekomu je bila všeč tamkajšnja hrana, ena intervjuvanka pa je bila zadovoljna, da je staršem dokazala, da lahko živi sama.

Rasa 1: *»...Zelo všeč so mi bile rože in to, da povsod vse cveti. Pari se poljubljajo med seboj vsepovsod, v Litvi se namreč ne poljubljamo v javnosti. Najbolj se spominjam moje prve nedelje tukaj, ko sva šli s prijateljico ven jest. Ker je v Španiji vse zaprto, smo šli v majhen bar jesti »bocadillos«⁹, lastnik pa se je z nami začel pogovarjati v Španščini. Nisem ga prav dobro razumela. Ampak zares se je trudil z nama, spraševal je, od kod prihajava, dal nama je celo majhno darilo, dva kozarčka žganja in vžigalnik, midve pa sva obljubili, da spet prideva...« (1,6)*

⁹ Španski izraz za posebne vrste sendvičev.

Veliko jih je kot dobro izkušnjo navedlo spoznavanje ter na splošno dobre izkušnje z ljudmi.

Martyn 2: *»...Zelo mi je bilo všeč, da ljudje tukaj, če rečejo, da ti bodo pomagali, ti resnično pomagajo. Kot na primer neko dekle, ki je imelo avto in mi je rekla, da me bo kam peljala, če bom potreboval in me res je...« (2,6)*

Axelle 6: *»...Erasmus študentje si med seboj zelo pomagajo/pomagamo. Erasmusi so zares dobri ljudje. Navajena sem, da v naših šolah ljudje že prej sodijo ljudi po njihovem izgledu. Pri Erasmus študentih pa je popolnoma drugače. Vsak govori drug jezik, ampak nihče nikogar ne obsoja, vsak je vesel, da se lahko z nekom pogovarja in družijo...« (6,6)*

Carolina 5: *»Zelo me je presenetilo, ko mi je na predavanjih neka študentka sproti prevajala, kar je govoril profesor, oni namreč ne govorijo angleško, kljub temu da je nisem prosila. Še vedno sva prijateljici. Bilo je zelo prijazno od nje, saj nisem razumela niti besede katalonsko. Prav tako so v skupini, v kateri sem bila, spodbujali eden drugega, naj govorijo angleško, da bom kaj razumela. Prav tako je profesorica v osnovni šoli, kjer izvajam prakso, zelo prijazna do mene, veliko bolj kakor v Belgiji, kljub temu da ne govorim njihovega jezika. Navdušil me je tudi način, kako vidi otroke, saj jih ne razlikuje med seboj.« (5,6)*

Pripovedovali so tudi izkušnje povezane s tamkajšnjim življenjem, skupnimi dogodki in izleti.

Bianca 12: *»Prva stvar, ob kateri sem začutila, kako bi rada živela na Erasmusu, je bila skupna večerja, ko smo prišli iz Barcelone in smo odšli v »River Cafe«¹⁰. Vsi smo bili tako zagnani, da bi spoznali eden drugega, bil je res zabaven večer. Tudi zabava, ko je Anita odšla domov, je nekaj, česar se bom vedno spominjala. Anita je bila dobra prijateljica, s katero sva preživeli veliko skupnega časa...« (12,6)*

¹⁰ Tapas bar v Gironi.

Jarek 14: »Najboljša izkušnja je bil izlet v Valencio na »Las Fallas«¹¹. Prav zaradi tovrstnih stvari sem prišel sem in to je bil eden izmed najboljših festivalov. Poleg tega smo šli tja s starim avtom, bilo je zelo razburljivo in avanturistično... (14,6)

Vprašanje 3: Katere so slabe izkušnje, ki si jih doživel/-a v času izmenjave?

Veliko intervjuvanih študentov (7) je motilo, da je mogel ob prihodu vsak vse urediti sam, na univerzi je vladala zmeda, na predavanjih niso želeli govoriti angleško ali špansko, skratka univerza ni Erasmus študentom olajšala prav nič. **Bojan 3:** »Na univerzi je bilo pomanjkanje informacij. Ko sem prišel, mi nihče ni povedal ničesar, bil sem izgubljen. Vse je bilo v španščini, profesorji ne govorijo angleško...« (3,7) **Jarek 14:** »Ne morem razumeti, zakaj je internetna stran za tujce v katalonščini...« (14,7) Prav tako niso naredili nič, da bi se Erasmus študentje in njihovi domači študentje imeli priložnost družiti in spoznati, poleg tega naj bi bili Erasmus študentje enako obravnavani kot oni (da se od njih preveč zahteva). Nekateri (3) so imeli slabe izkušnje s stanovanjem, dve sta imeli slabe izkušnje s sostanovalci. Tudi vreme (pričakovali so lepo vreme, bilo pa je veliko deževnih dni) je večino nekoliko razočaralo, kot slabo izkušnjo pa so ga navedli trije. Kljub temu da je bilo pri dobrih izkušnjah omenjen dober odnos med Erasmus študenti, v tem delu dve intervjuvanki navajata, da ju je motilo, ker so se v celotni skupini začele pojavljati manjše skupinice, študentje naj bi bili preveč ločeni med sabo. Dve intervjuvanki je motilo, da je njuno stanovanje preveč oddaljeno od mesta, saj se ne moreta tako pogosto udeleževati zabav, le ena pa je omenila, da ima težave z denarjem zaradi prenizke štipendije. Tri intervjuvanke so omenile še slabe izkušnje s Katalonci. Motilo jih je, ker nočejo govoriti špansko in se niso želeli ukvarjati z Erasmus študenti. Ena izmed njih je dejala naslednje:

Rasa 1: »...s Katalonci je komunikacija skoraj nemogoča, ker so tako zaprti vase. (1,6) ... živela sem s tremi fanti, ki niso bili do mene tako prijazni, kakor bi morali biti. Bala sem se iti na stranišče, ves čas so kadili travo, vrhunec vsega pa je bilo, da sem se želela iz stanovanja izseliti, ti pa mi niso hoteli vrniti pologa, kljub temu da nismo podpisali nobene pogodbe... Njihovo obnašanje mi ni bilo všeč.« (1,7)

¹¹ Festival v Valenciji, ki se odvija od 15–19 marca.

Trije so imeli slabo izkušnjo z roparji:

Andre 7: »...oropali so me v Barceloni...« **M:** »Kaj pa se je zgodilo?« **Andre 7:** »Bili smo v Barceloni, hoteli smo najti pot do La Ramble, potem pa smo videli nekega cigana, ki je šel mimo nas. Pozdravljaj nas je, mi pa smo mu rekli, naj gre stran. Šli smo naprej, nekdo drug mi je rekel: »Glej, on ti je vzel nekaj iz žepa.« Pogledal sem v žep in denarnice ni bilo... šel sem na policijo, trajalo je en teden, da sem dobil nazaj dokumente, v denarnici pa sem imel le 10 €...« (7,7)

Naslednji intervjuvanci so se spopadali s slabimi izkušnjami, kot so počasnost sistema v Kataloniji, prevelika količina popitega alkohola in osamljenost.

Carolina 5: »Da vse traja tako dolgo, če hočeš, kaj urediti. Vse se prelaga na naslednji teden. Ker izvajam prakso na tukajšnji šoli, sem si šolo želela prej ogledati. Prosila sem svojo »tutorko«¹², da me pelje tja, ampak se je vse prelagalo na naslednji teden. Bil je že marec in še vedno nisva šli tja...« (5,7)

Anna 9: »Haha, ko sem se ga preveč napila. Ponavadi ne pijem, ampak tista noč je bila malce nora... Na začetku je bilo nekoliko žalostno, ker se nisem družila z domačini, čeprav več kakor ostali Erasmusi, toda hotela sem še več.« (8,7)

Bianca 12: »Nekatere dni sem se počutila osamljeno, najprej spoznaš veliko ljudi, ampak z nikomer nisi zares prijatelj... Na začetku sem zelo pogrešala svojo družino in sestre, potrebovala sem nekoga, ki bi me poslušal, s komer bi lahko jokala ali povedala kakšne osebne stvari. Včasih se nisem dobro počutila s sostanovalcema, saj živita čisto drugačen način življenja, sta zelo glasna, jaz pa rabim mir za učenje... Na živce mi gre, ker govorita Majorški jezik, ki je še hujši od Katalonščine in se zares počutim kot peto kolo... Mislim, da sem veliko stvari zamudila. Vedno moram jaz klicati in spraševati, kaj počnejo drugi, zato bi rada zamenjala stanovanje. Druga stvar je, da ne maram biti sama. Ker nisem navajena, da imam prosti čas, ne vem, kaj naj delam, kadar sem sama. Potrebujem nekoga za pogovor... lahko samo leživa na tleh, samo da vem, da je še nekdo z menoj.« (12,7)

¹² Tutor ali tutorka je oseba, ki študentu pomaga pri urejanju študijskih zadev.

Vprašanje 4: Kdo so ljudje od doma, ki jih najbolj pogrešaš in zakaj?

Večina intervjuvancev je za ljudi, ki jih najbolj pogrešajo, izpostavila svoje starše (7), le da je bila mama omenjena še dvakrat, brez očeta. **Carolina 5:** »Mamo, ker imam z njo zares močno vez...« (5,8) Več kot polovica je omenila, da pogreša prijatelje ali samo eno prijateljico, ker se doma veliko družijo. Tri intervjuvanke pogrešajo svoje sestre, dva pogrešata svoja brata, prav tako dva stare starše, dve pa seveda najbolj pogrešata svoja fanta (**Axelle 6:** »Pogrešam zaspati z njim in se z njim zbuditi...« (6,8)) Omenjeni so še boter (**Andre 7:** »Pogrešam tudi mojega botra, saj ga je vedno zabavno srečati...« (7,8)), sestrična (**Bianca 12:** »Sestro in sestrično, ker vse stvari počnemo skupaj...« (12,8)) ter bivši fant.

Rasa 1: »Stare starše. Vedno sem imela z njimi boljši odnos kakor z mamo... Preden sem prišla, sem bila v zvezi in njega zares pogrešam. Pogrešam tudi prijateljico, ker mi je zelo pomagala, ko sem preživljala težko obdobje, preden sem prišla sem...« (1,8)

Bojan 3: »Seveda pogrešam starše in prijatelje... Oni so pač ljudje, ki jih poznam najdlje časa in mi lahko svetujejo, ko ne vem točno, kaj storiti v določeni situaciji... Ne predstavljam si, da ne bi imel interneta, saj sem tako v stiku z njimi, kadar želim...« (3,8)

Vprašanje 5: Ali si želiš, da bi bilo v tvojem socialnem omrežju več ljudi?

Pet študentov je dejalo, da večjega omrežja ne želijo, štirje pa obratno. Pet jih je bilo nekoliko neodločenih, dejali so, da so s količino stikov načeloma zadovoljni, ampak se ne bi branili še kakšnega več.

Carolina 5: »Ne. Rajši imam zares bližnje prijatelje, kot tiste s katerimi imam le plitke vezi. Morda bi si želela imeti več stikov tukaj na Erasmusu. Bližnji prijatelji so od doma in zadovoljna sem s številom.« (5,A6)

Andre 7: »Vedno sem pripravljen na spoznavanje novih ljudi. Ampak več ljudi ko poznaš, bolj si oddaljen od vseh ostalih... Nekoč sem slišal, da če imaš več kakor pet prijateljev, nimaš nobenega...Torej da in ne...« (7,A6)

Vprašanje 6: Ali si v svojem socialnem omrežju želiš več ljudi, na katere bi se lahko zanesel/-a?

Kot so pokazali odgovori študentov, so bili le ti v večini zadovoljni s številom ljudi, na katere so se lahko zanesli. Tako je dejalo deset študentov. Eden je rekel, da morda bi jih bilo lahko več, ampak je vseeno zadovoljen, trije pa so izrazili željo, da si želijo imeti v njihovem omrežju več takih ljudi.

Clara 10: *»Ne. Poznam ljudi, ampak jim ne morem reči prijatelji. Zame je pomembnih samo nekaj. Obstajajo ljudje, ki želijo imeti veliko prijateljev, ampak jaz nisem ena izmed njih. Vzamem si čas za nekaj ljudi...«* (10,A9)

Sandra 11: *»...Nisem pričakovala, da bom sploh koga spoznala tukaj. Včasih imam težave z iskanjem pravih prijateljev. Zelo težko zaupam ljudem, ravno zato nisem pričakovala, da bom koga spoznala. In dobro bi bilo imeti več ljudi, na katere bi se zanesla...«* (11,A9)

Vprašanje 7: Katere stvari (npr. od doma) najbolj pogrešaš v času izmenjave?

Velika večina (9) intervjuvancev je dejala, da v času izmenjave najbolj pogreša osebne in globoke pogovore z bližnjimi osebami. Torej sklepam, da so bili nekoliko v pomanjkanju emocionalne opore, ki je od oseb, ki so jih spoznali na novo, niso mogli dobiti. Vsaj ne v tolikšni meri kot od ljudi, ki jih poznajo že svoje celo življenje oz. zelo dolgo časa. Skoraj polovica (6) je izpostavila še, da pogrešajo druženje s prijatelji, kamor spada tudi življenjski stil, ki ga imajo doma. Trije so rekli, da pogrešajo določene obrede od doma, ki jih ponavadi počnejo s prijatelji (**Bianca 12:** *»Druženje na trgu v Italiji...«* (12,A7), **Emma 13:** *»Vikende v Belgiji, ko gremo ven s prijatelji...«* (13,A7), **Jarek 14:** *»Pogrešam pitje vina za supermarketom, spontane stvari...«* (14,A7)). Ena izmed intervjuvank je povedala, da pogreša fizični stik, ter *»crkljanje s svojim fantom«* (**Axelle** (6,A7)). V večini so pogrešali emocionalno oporo ter oporo druženja, najmanj pa jim je manjkalo materialne. Le eden intervjuvanec je izrazil, da *»morda pogreša kakšnega strica, ki bi mu dal 1000 € na mesec«* (**Martyn** (2,A7)), ostali pa le manjše materialne stvari, kot so npr. avto, čevlji, obleke, knjige, domačo hrano oz. mamino kuhinjo.

Rasa 1: »...Pogrešam mirne trenutke, kot je npr. večerja s prijateljico in ne ves čas samo hrup, kup ljudi in podobno. Dekliške pogovore ob doma pripravljeni hrani in izlete z le nekaj ljudmi. Ali pa miren sprehod po parku, ne ves čas samo divje zabave.« (1,A7)

Carolina 5: »Pogrešam globoke pogovore. Tukaj je vse bolj površinsko in pogosto se naveličam tega. Ko gremo v La Boheme, se vedno pogovarjamo o zabavah ipd. Tukaj se z ljudmi ne pogovarjam tako odprto kot s prijatelji v Belgiji.« (5,A7)

Anna 9: »Pogrešam globoke odnose....Pogrešam čustva, ki jih čutim do teh ljudi.« (9,A7)

Jarek 14: »...Pogrešam poljski jezik. Pogrešam Poljsko, kljub temu da me dostikrat spravlja ob živce...« (14,A7)

Vprašanje 8: Kaj si pričakoval/-a preden si prišel/-a v Girono; da bodo ljudje bolj ali manj odprti za sklepanje prijateljstev?

Polovica intervjuvancev je odgovorila, da so zadovoljni z odprtostjo ljudi, mogoče so pričakovali celo, da jih bodo spoznali manj, torej so pozitivno presenečeni. Večina je povedala, da so zelo zadovoljni z odnosom in odprtostjo Erasmus študentov (to je izpostavilo 9 ljudi). Pravijo, da so zelo prijazni ter odprti, toda pojavilo se je mnenje, da je med Erasmusi, kljub temu da so vsi zelo odprti, premalo interakcije, za kar je kriva univerza. Tri intervjuvanke je zopet zmotilo, da so se začele tvoriti skupinice med študenti. Enako je omenil tudi eden od intervjuvancev, vendar na malce drugačen način:

Andre 7: »Predstavljal sem si, da bodo ljudje odprti, saj smo vsi v isti situaciji, ampak sem mislil, da bo več skupin. Saj so manjše skupine, ampak na koncu se vsi srečamo, vsi družimo med sabo, to mi je všeč. Česar nisem pričakoval, tu je toliko Belgijcev. Hotel sem spoznati druge ljudi ne samo iz moje države. Bilo bi zabavno spoznati več ljudi od tu, drugačne navade in vse to...« (7,A8)

Anna 9: »...Med Erasmusi je velika potreba, da se med seboj družijo, saj vsak prihaja iz druge države, vsi so daleč stran od doma, tako da imajo vsi ljudje potrebo po druženju.«(8,A8)

Bilo je tudi nekaj takih (4), ki so dejali, da so imeli pričakovanja, glede spoznavanja, nekoliko drugačna. Mislili so, da bodo na izmenjavi le spoznali več ljudi ter bodo ljudje bolj odprti za druženja. Predvsem so si študentje želeli imeti več stika s tamkajšnjimi katalonskimi študenti, ampak večini to ni uspelo v tolikšni meri, kot so si želeli.

Rasa 1 : *»Pričakovala sem, da bodo Katalonci bolj odprti in prijazni. So čudni in nočejo se družiti. Pri Erasmusih nisem toliko razmišljala, ker sem mislila, da bom živela s Katalonci. Pričakovala sem torej, da bom tu spoznala več ljudi. Erasmus študentje so prijazni in odprti, ampak ni mi všeč, da se ljudje samo vabijo na pijačo in večerje v naše stanovanje. Če si odprt, moraš odpreti tudi sebe, ne samo pričakovati, da bodo drugi ljudje odprti do tebe. Ljudje so razdeljeni v skupine, kar je zelo očitno... So določeni ljudje tukaj, o katerih ne vem nič. Nekateri sploh niso odprti in sploh ne govorijo.«* **M:** *»Od Erasmusov si potem več pričakovala?«* *»Da, da bo več vezi. Ampak moja prioriteta so bili Katalonci...«* (1,A8)

Bianca 12: *»...Tudi od Kataloncev sem pričakovala, da bodo bolj odprti. Poznam le tri ljudi od tu, s katerimi se družim, ostali sošolci niti ne pozdravijo, po treh mesecih se mi zdi to neumno in otročje. Res mi ni všeč. Kar naprej branijo svojo kulturo, vedno branijo svoje ideje ter običaje. Podzavestno se bojijo tujcev.«* (11,A8)

Jarek 14: *»Pričakoval sem več, zato sem malo razočaran. Največja ovira je, da ni veliko Erasmus študentov. Samo na moji fakulteti je več ljudi kot Erasmusov v celi Gironi. Upal sem, da bom imel več stika s Katalonci. Zelo je težko, opazil sem, da skoraj nobeden od Erasmus študentov nima stikov z njimi. Jaz sem v malo boljši situaciji, saj živim z njimi. Ampak če ne bi bilo tako, ne bi nikogar poznal. Ni lahko, kriv pa je sistem. Morali bi spodbujati interakcijo med Erasmus študenti in ostalimi...«* (12,A8)

Vprašanje 9: Če pomisliš na prvi mesec v Gironi, ali se je tvoje omrežje ljudi, ki so ti blizu, dosti spremenilo ali ne? (A17)

Od vseh 14 intervjuvancev jih je 13 dejalo, da se je njihovo omrežje od začetka do časa intervjuja (3. – 4. mesec) precej spremenilo. Spremenila naj bi se predvsem sestava ljudi v zunanjem krogu, kamor spadajo Erasmus študentje in ljudje, ki so jih študentje spoznali v Gironi. Največ sprememb naj bi se dogajalo v prvih dveh mesecih, potem so

se omrežja stabilizirala, saj so si v tem času študentje že izbrali tiste najbližje prijatelje. Le ena intervjuvanka je rekla, da se njeno osebno omrežje ni od začetka do konca nič spremenilo. Verjetno zato, ker ni veliko časa preživela z Erasmus študenti, saj se je vsake dva tedna vračala domov ali so bili pri njej na obisku prijatelji ter fant. Tako niti ni imela priložnosti razširiti stikov na izmenjavi. Je tudi edina intervjuvanka, ki v svoje osebno omrežje ni uvrstila niti enega Erasmus študenta ali prijatelja iz Girone.

Andre 7: *»Da, se je spremenilo. Najprej sem poznal le eno osebo, čez nekaj dni sem spoznal Erasmus študente in druge ljudi. Ko se enkrat začneš družiti z več ljudmi, imaš nekoga rajši, ljudi od doma vidiš manj in manj, skupina bližnjih ljudi se začne menjati, ampak ljudje, ki so ti zares blizu, se ne spremenijo, ker smo tukaj le za kratek čas. Zunanji krog se je spremenil, notranji je ostal isti.« (6,A17)*

Clara 10: *»Da, nisem poznala toliko ljudi. Z Emmo si nisva bili zelo blizu, tudi odnos s fantom Fredrickom se je izboljšal, bolj spoštujeva eden drugega. Bili so ljudje, s katerimi smo se družili na začetku, a se ne več. Vendar moji starši so v mojem srcu, so vedno tu...« (10,A17)*

Vprašanje 10: Ali si bil/-a v razmerju pred prihodom v Girono, (A18) ter kaj si misliš o zvezah na Erasmusu? (A19)

Devet intervjuvancev je dejalo, da so bili pred prihodom na Erasmus v ljubezenskem razmerju. Od tega sta dve intervjuvanki ostali skupaj s svojim fantom, kar je po njunem mnenju zvezo še okrepilo. Štirje intervjuvanci pred prihodom v zvezi niso bili. Prav tako štirje so se v razmerje spustili prav na izmenjavi, dva sta končala že v tistem času. Glede uspešnosti zvez, ki se dogodijo na Erasmusu, so študentje nekoliko razdvojeni. Nekateri so mnenja, da se zveza lahko obnese, če si ji dovolj vdan. Nekateri poznajo ljudi, ki so se spoznali na Erasmusu in so še vedno skupaj, zato verjamejo, da se lahko obnese. Po drugi strani so mnenja tudi slaba, študentje nimajo vere v tovrstna razmerja, saj naj bi bila situacija tam drugačna, nerealna od tiste, ki nastopi ob prihodu domov. Ena izmed ovir naj bi bila, da je težko imeti nekoga, ker te to ovira pri navezovanju družbenih stikov z ostalimi. Razmerja na Erasmusu naj bi po mnenju

intervjuvancev nastajala tudi, ker študentom manjka čustvene bližine, ki so jo navadno deležni s strani svojih bližnjih in potrebujejo nekoga, ki jim bo nudil oporo.

M: *»Kaj pa tukaj, imaš fanta?«* **Rasa 1:** *»Imam. Tu je lažje imeti fanta zaradi čustvenega stanja. Včasih si sit vseh, ampak on mi mora biti v oporo, mora biti ob meni. Nihče od vas ni obvezan, da mi mora biti v oporo, ampak on je. Če mi kaj ni všeč, lahko zaprem vrata in grem drugam, toda z njim je drugače.«* (1,A19) **M:** *»Kaj pa si na splošno misliš o zvezah, ki se zgodijo na Erasmusu?«* **Rasa:** *»Imam zelo slabo mnenje. Morda je mogoče, da bo kdo od parov ostal skupaj. Ampak v splošnem pa ne. Ljudje, ki so na Erasmusu, so ponavadi mladi in stvari se spremenijo, ko pridejo v svojo državo, tam gredo ti pari narazen.«* (1,A19)

Marina 8: *»Da.«* (8,A18) **M:** *»Kako je tvoj odhod vplival na razmerje?«* **Marina:** *»Moje življenje tukaj ni imelo vpliva na razmerje, vendar sem ugotovila, da nekatere stvari doma niso delovale kot bi morale, tako da bi se tako ali tako končalo enkrat v prihodnosti. To mi je samo pomagalo odpreti oči...«* (8,A18) **M:** *»Kaj pa si misliš o tukajšnjih razmerjih?«* **Marina:** *»Večina jih traja kratek čas. Večina ljudi ne razmišlja o prihodnosti, ampak si le želi, da bi zveza trajala dlje. Vsi vemo, da je težko, toda ne nemogoče. Mislim, da so Erasmus študentje tisti, ki še ne vedo točno, kaj bi želeli v življenju...ne maram razmišljati preveč, kaj se bo zgodilo v mojem primeru, ker vem, da je nekoliko nemogoče. Mislim tudi, da so si ljudje tukaj bližje, ker nekoga pogrešajo ter želijo, da bi jih nekdo zaščitil...«* (8,A19)

Sandra 11: *»Ne, zato je bilo lažje.«* (11,A18) **M:** *»Kaj pa si misliš o tukajšnjih razmerjih?«* **Sandra:** *»Tukaj imamo drugačna življenja. Včasih mislim, da je to vse samo za trenutek. Menim, da se bo po odhodu vse spremenilo. Tu nimaš istih problemov kot v resničnem življenju. Ni ti treba iti v službo in vse to...Upam, da bodo pari, ki bodo preživel, ampak večina ne bo. Tu je tudi druga kultura. Odvisno je, če se lahko najdeš v drugi državi. Jaz bi rada imela poljskega fanta, ker nama je skupna kultura, mišljenje ter jezik... Zares moraš biti vdan razmerju, da traja.«* (11,A19)

6 SKLEP

Kvantitativni podatki so pokazali, da ženske v osebnih omrežjih študentov prevladujejo, vendar zopet ne v takšni meri, kakor trdijo nekateri avtorji. Velik del emocionalne opore naj bi nudile ženske, tako ženskam kot moškim, ne pa obratno. Ženske se po emocionalno oporo največkrat na moške ne obračajo (Fischer in drugi v Mandič in Hlebec 2005). Izkazalo se je, da se ženske prav tako po vse vrste opore obračajo tako na moške kot na ženske. Glede na razmerje intervjuvancev (10 žensk in 4 moški) bi lahko zaključila, da so ponudniki socialne opore glede na spol v mojem primeru zelo izenačeni.

Razvrščanje ponudnikov socialne opore v koncentrične kroge je pokazalo, da so osebe, ki jih študent pozna dolgo časa, to so starši, partner, bratje in sestre, bližnji sorodniki in dobri prijatelji, uvrščene v najintimnejši notranji krog omrežja. Prijatelji od doma, nekateri sorodniki ter tisti prijatelji, ki so jih študentje spoznali na izmenjavi, pa so bili večinoma uvrščeni v drugi in tretji krog osebnih omrežij. Raziskava »Navezanost in bližnji odnosi skozi življenje« je pokazala, da so najdalgotrajnejši in najintenzivnejši prav odnosi, ki nastanejo v zgodnjem obdobju življenja (Antonucci in drugi 2004).

Po številu ponudnikov opore so študentje največkrat navedli prijatelje od doma ter prijatelje, ki so jih spoznali na Erasmusu. Za to je deloma kriva geografska umeščenost posameznika, ki je namreč ena od pomembnih faktorjev, ki vpliva na kakovost prejemanja socialne opore ter od katere osebe jo bo posameznik prejemal. Geografska oddaljenost je pomembna informacija za omrežja socialne opore. V primeru bolezni je lahko zelo pomembno, ali ima nekdo vir opore v bližnjem okolju ali ne (Wenger v Hlebec in Kogovšek 2006). Kljub temu da je partner ponudnik vseh vrst opore, je bil v tem primeru naveden najmanjkrat. Iz tega lahko zaključim, da se osebe, ki so v partnerskem odnosu, v manjši meri udeležujejo Erasmus izmenjav kakor samske.

Pri emocionalni opori številčno kot ponudniki izstopajo prijatelji od doma. Vsi ostali so bolj ali manj izenačeni, kar pomeni, da so študentje v času izmenjave uspeli navezati odnos z ostalimi študenti in drugimi prijatelji iz Girone, ki so jim študentje zaupali svoje osebne težave. Materialno oporo so večini študentom nudili starši (npr. za izposojanje večje vsote denarja), za izposojanje manjših stvari pa bi se obrnili k prijateljem, bodisi

tistim od doma bodisi tistim z Erasmusu. Po oporo druženja so se, kot je bilo pričakovano, posamezniki obračali na Erasmus študente, na ostale prijatelje, katere so spoznali v Gironi, občasno pa na prijatelje od doma, kadar so jih ti obiskali.

Razlogi, zakaj so se študentje sploh odločili za študijsko izmenjavo v Gironi, so bili različni. Med glavnimi so bili učenje novega jezika, spoznavanje novih ljudi in prijateljev, pridobivanje akademskih in splošnih življenjskih izkušenj, spoznavanje nove kulture, mnoge pa je privlačila misel, da se odpravljajo nekam, kjer je lepo vreme ter čudovita lokacija za življenje. Nekateri so se želeli preizkusiti v samostojnem življenju brez staršev in na sploh v drugi državi. Na izmenjavi so študentje doživeli mnogo dobrih izkušenj, nekaj tudi slabih. Pod dobre izkušnje so navajali predvsem odnose z ljudmi, vseh jim je bil način življenja Kataloncev ter njihova mentaliteta, kljub temu da jih je bilo veliko zaradi te iste zadeve razočaranih. Po eni strani navdušeni nad odprtostjo in brezskrbnostjo nekaterih domačinov, po drugi pa razočarani nad zaprtostjo, nedostopnostjo, brezbržnostjo drugih ter študentov na fakulteti. Pričakovali so namreč, da bodo domačini uspeli navezati več stikov, da bodo bolj pripravljeni na druženja in spoznavanja. Nekateri so sicer bili, večina pa ne. Dobre izkušnje, ki so jih obogatile, so bile povezane z novimi poznanstvi z Erasmus študenti, saj so se spletla mnoga globoka prijateljstva. Na splošno so bili odnosi zelo pozitivni, nekatere je motila razdelitev relativno velike skupine (kljub temu da je bila glede na ostala mesta skupina Erasmusov zelo majhna – okrog 55 ljudi) v manjše skupinice. Na začetku so se študentje soočali predvsem s težavami, kot so iskanje stanovanja, razumevanje sistema na fakulteti ter navajanje na novo življenje. Pojavile so se tudi izkušnje s tatovi, kar je po mojem mnenju značilnost večjih mest in nekaj, kar se bolj verjetno dogodi turistu kot pa nekomu, ki je v okolje infiltriran in adaptiran. Veliko jih je izrazilo razočaranje nad organiziranostjo fakultete in načinom obravnavanja Erasmus študentov. Po mojem mnenju zato, ker je »Universitat de Girona« ravno v tistem času, ali kakšno leto prej, začela izvajati Erasmus program, tako da še niso bili povsem utečeni. Mislim tudi sama, da bi za določene osnovne stvari (npr. spletna stran za Erasmus študente je bila v katalonščini) lahko mnogo bolje poskrbeli.

Na vprašanje, koga od doma najbolj pogrešajo, je večina izpostavila svoje starše, ožjo družino, najbližje prijatelje in seveda partnerja. Velika večina je v času izmenjave pogrešala osebne in globoke pogovore, ki jih imajo navadno s svojimi najbližjimi prijatelji oz. bližnjimi osebami. Iz tega lahko sklepam, da so bili vsi študentje večino časa obdani s tamkajšnjimi prijatelji, vendar še vedno niso od njih uspeli dobiti tolikšno količino emocionalne opore, kot jo dobijo doma od svojih bližnjih. Veliko jih je dejalo, da ne pogrešajo toliko svoje domače in prijatelje, saj imajo tam vse, kar si želijo, svoje bližnje bodo pa itak kmalu videli. Na vprašanje, ali bi si v svojem socialnem omrežju želeli imeti več ljudi, jih je približno polovica pritrdila, druga polovica je bila s številom stikov zadovoljna. Dejali so, da so jim bolj kakor število ljudi, ki so jim blizu, pomembni kakovost in globina odnosa. Medtem je večina študentov zadovoljna z ljudmi, na katere se lahko zanesejo.

Nekateri študentje so imeli nekoliko drugačna pričakovanja, kar se tiče spoznavanja novih ljudi. Veliko jih je bilo presenečenih nad odprtostjo Erasmus študentov ter njihovo pripravljenostjo na druženje, medtem ko so bili nekateri malo razočarani nad pripravljenostjo druženja katalonskih študentov in domačinov. Ti so bili po mnenju intervjuvancev preveč zaprti in nepripravljeni vključevanja novih ljudi v svojo družbo.

V času bivanja je prihajalo do določenih sprememb, ki so se pojavile v sami strukturi socialnih omrežij študentov. Pri večini se je spremenil le zunanji krog, notranja dva, kamor so uvrščali predvsem ljudi od doma, sta ostala bolj ali manj enaka. Omrežje se je spreminjalo v prvih 2–3 mesecih, kasneje se je stabiliziralo.

Erasmus izmenjava lahko tudi vpliva na nekoga, ki je v partnerskem odnosu. Devet intervjuvancev od štirinajstih je namreč dejalo, da so bili pred odhodom v zvezi, končali pa so jo zaradi odhoda na Erasmus. Seveda je čas mladostništva obdobje, ko so partnerske zveze šibkejše kakor v kasnejšem obdobju, zveze so krajše, razhajanja bolj verjetna. Od vseh intervjuvancev sta imeli samo dve intervjuvanki doma svojega partnerja, ena ga je spoznala na izmenjavi. Ti dve sta bili mnenja, da je Erasmus izkušnja njuno zvezo le še okrepila. V trajnost zvez, ki nastanejo na Erasmus izmenjavah, študentje nekoliko dvomijo, saj je Erasmus življenje »drugačen svet« kot tisti, ki ga imajo doma.

Erasmus izmenjave bi se moral udeležiti vsak študent v času študija, saj preko izkušnje posameznik pridobi socialne sposobnosti, spozna nove ljudi, kulturo ter izkusi, kakšno je življenje zunaj meja. Včasih se sreča s slabimi situacijami, vendar večkrat z dobrimi. Čeprav pogreša svoje domače, tam spozna nove zanimive ljudi, ki mu pokažejo, da je včasih potrebno razmišljati drugače oz. ne samo črno-belo. Ena izmed intervjuvank je dejala: *»Opora ki jo dobiš, je v tvojih rokah. Če sama sebi dovolim, da sem žalostna in kar naprej razmišljam o tem, kaj vse pogrešam tukaj, bom zares žalostna. Ampak potem si rečem, sedaj si tukaj, potegni iz tega najboljše... Nikoli pa nisem obžalovala, niti enkrat, da sem prišla sem. Zelo dobra izkušnja«.* (Axelle 6: 6, na koncu)

7 LITERATURA

Adam, Frane. 1982. Kvalitativna metodologija in akcijsko raziskovanje v sociologiji. *Časopis za kritiko znanosti, domišljijo in novo antropologijo* 10 (53/54): 133–243.

Ajruch, Kristine J., Toni C. Antonucci in Mary R. Janevic. 2001. Social networks among blacks and whites: The interaction between race and age. *Journal of Gerontology: Social sciences* 2. Dostopno prek: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11245365> (10. januar 2010).

Andre 7. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 16. maj.

Anna 9. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 19. maj.

Antonucci C. Toni, Hiroko Akiyama in Keiko Takahashi. 2004. Attachment and close relationships across the life span. *Attachment & Human Development* 6 (6): 353–370.

Axelle 6. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 15. maj.

Bianca 12. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 25. maj.

Bojan 3. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 1. maj.

Carolina 5. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 11. maj.

Clara 10. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 20. maj.

Černigoj Sadar, Nevenka. 1998. Od časa, ki obstaja, do blagostanja. *Družboslovne razprave* 14 (27/28): 86–97.

Dremelj, Polona. 2003. Sorodstvene vezi kot vir socialne opore posameznikov. *Družboslovne razprave* 19 (43): 149–170.

Emma 13. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 28. maj.

Europa. Press releases rapid. 2011. *The Erasmus programme in 2009/10*. Dostopno prek: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/375&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (6. junij 2011).

Giddens, Anthony. 1991. *Modernity and self-identity: self and society in the late modern age*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

--- 1993. *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Granovetter, Mark. 1973. The strength of weak ties. *American journal of sociology*. 78 (6): 1360-1380.

Haralambos Michael in Martin Holborn. 1999. *Sociologija: Teme in pogledi*. Ljubljana: DZS.

Hlebec, Valentina. 1999. *Evaluation of survey measurement: instruments for measuring social networks*. Doktorska disertacija. Ljubljana: FDV.

--- in Tina Kogovšek. 2006. *Merjenje socialnih omrežij*. Ljubljana: Študentska založba.

---, Barbara Domanjko in Majda Pahor. 2009. *Kako misliti, opazovati in razumeti omrežja starejših ljudi v Sloveniji*. Starejši ljudje v družbi sprememb. Ljubljana: Založba Aristej d.o.o.

Hlebec, Valentina, Matic Kavčič, Maša Hrast Filipovič, Andreja Vezovnik in Martina Trbanc. 2010. *Samo da bo denar in zdravje: Življenje starih, revnih ljudi*. Ljubljana: FDV.

Iglič, Hajdeja. 1988a. Ego-centrične socialne mreže. *Družboslovne razprave* 5 (6): 82–93.

--- 1988b. *Analiza socialnih mrež: prikaz osnovnih značilnosti socialnih mrež Jugoslovanov*. Ljubljana: Inštitut za sociologijo pri Univerzi v Ljubljani.

Janka 4. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 4. maj.

Jarek 14. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 30. maj.

Kogovšek, Tina. 2001. *Ocenjevanje zanesljivosti in veljavnosti merjenja značilnosti egocentričnih omrežij*. Doktorska disertacija. Ljubljana: FDV.

--- in Anuška Ferligoj. 2003. Merjenje egocentričnih omrežij socialne opore. *Družboslovne razprave* 19 (43): 127–148.

---, Valentina Hlebec in Polona Dremelj 2003. Omrežja socialne opore Ljubljančanov. *Družboslovne razprave* 19 (43): 183–204.

Mandič, Srna in Valentina Hlebec. 2005. Socialno omrežje kot vir upravljanja s kakovostjo življenja in spremembe v Sloveniji med letoma 1987 in 2002. *Družboslovne razprave* 21 (49/50): 263–285.

Marina 8. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 17. maj.

Martyn 2. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 19. april.

Mesec, Blaž. 1988. *Uvod v kvalitativno raziskovanje v socialnem delu*. Ljubljana: Visoka šola za socialno delo.

Novak, Mojca. 2003. Omrežja socialne opore prebivalstva Slovenije: uvodni razmislek. *Družboslovne razprave* 19 (43): 99–101.

---, Nevenka Černigoj Sadar, Srečo Dragoš, Polona Dremelj, Anuška Ferligoj, Valentina Hlebec, Tina Kogovšek in Mateja Nagode. 2004. *Omrežja socialne opore prebivalstva Slovenije*. Ljubljana: Inštitut Republike Slovenije za socialno varstvo.

Pajnič, Neža. 2009. *Brošura za študente*. Ljubljana: Center za mobilnost in evropske programe izobraževanja in usposabljanja.

Rasa 1. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 15. April.

Rogelj, Tanja, Mirjana Ule in Valentina Hlebec. 2004. Socialna opora med dijaki glede na njihov individualni položaj v strukturi popolnega omrežja v razredu. *Družboslovne razprave* 20 (45): 13–32.

Ragin, C. Charles. 2007. *Družboslovno raziskovanje - enotnost in raznolikost metode*. Ljubljana: FDV.

Sandra 11. 2009. Intervju z avtorico. Girona, 22. maj.

Seider, Reinhard. 1998. *Socialna zgodovina družine*. Ljubljana: Studia Humanitatis.

Sugarman, Leonie. 1993. *Life-Span Development*. London: Routledge.

Survey Research center. 1980. *Social networks in adult life: Network Questionnaire*. Michigan: Institute for social research The University of Michigan.

Ule, Mirjana, Maca Jogan in Tanja Rener. 1991. *Družina, integracijski odnosi in odnosi med spoloma: poročilo o delu za leto 1991 (Sociologija)*. Ljubljana: RRS.

Vaux, Alan. 1988. *Social support, Theory, Research and Intervention*. New York: Praeger.

Wikipedia. 2012. *Erasmus programme*. 2012. Dostopno prek: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Programme (1. februar 2012).

PRILOGI

Priloga A: Vprašalnik o socialni opori za študente na izmenjavi

Network Questionnaire for students in the Erasmus exchange programme

ID number of student:

Date of interview:

Length of Interview:

Student's country:

Before I begin I want to tell you, that this interview is completely voluntary. If we should come to any question which you do not want to answer, just let me know and we'll go to the next question.

For beginning I would like to ask you, if you can answer me to some questions, related to your staying here:

1. What is the date of your arrival to Girona?
2. How long are you planning to stay here?
3. On which faculty are you studying here?
4. The year of your studies?
5. Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?
6. Can you describe me one more good experience/-s that you can remember from the time, you arrived to Girona? It can be related to people, finding flat, anything...
7. Describe me one/ more bad experience/-s, which you can remember from the time, you first arrive here.
8. Who are the people from home, that you miss the most and why?

I want to continue by asking you some questions about the people, who are important in your life RIGHT NOW. To get it straight, I am going to ask you to help me draw a diagram, which will refer to as your personal network.

This is you in the middle (Show the diagram).

The first circle will include only the person or persons that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

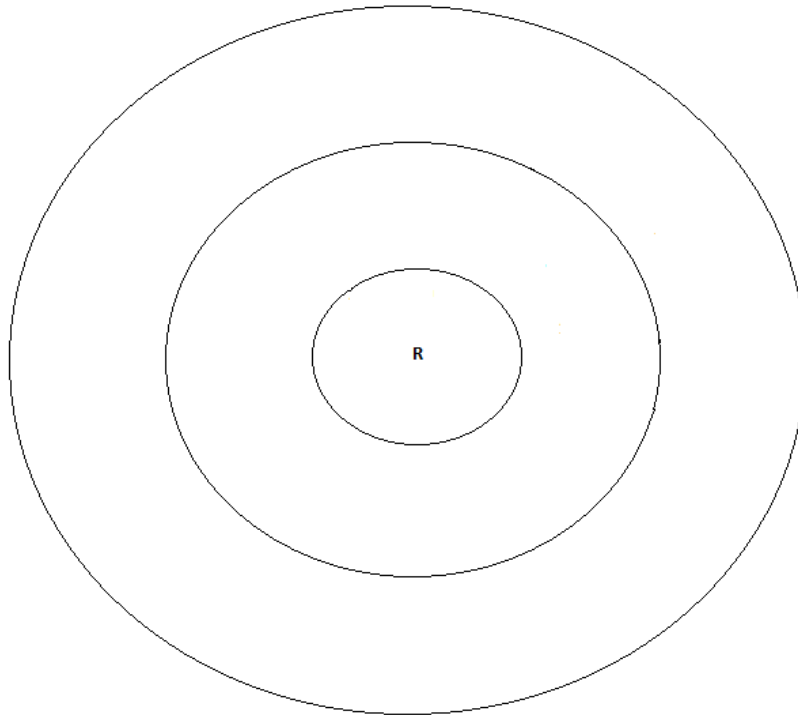
In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now I would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW- focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.

The diagram:



A1:

Beginning with the people who you feel closest to, is there any person or persons that you feel so close to, that it is hard to imagine life without this person?

NO—GO TO A2

YES—A1a: Would you tell me their first name and initial (Is there anyone else, you feel that close to?)

Enter 1st name and last initial and number them in the circle closest to R, starting at 12 o'clock.

A2:

Are there people to whom you may not feel quite that close, but who are still very important to you?

NO—go to A3

YES—A2a: Would you tell me their first name and last initial? (Anyone else?) (Enter 1st name and last initial number them in middle circle, starting at 12 o'clock).

A3: Are there people, whom you haven't already mentioned who are close enough and important enough in your life RIGHT NOW that they should be also placed in your network?

NO—go to A4

YES–A3a: Would you tell me their first name and last initial? (Anyone else?) (Enter 1st name and last initial number them in middle circle, starting at 12 o'clock).

A3b: Count the number of people in each circle:

A3b1: Number of people in the first circle:

A3b2: Number of people in the second circle:

A3b3: Number of people in the third circle:

GIVE THE DIAGRAM TO THE PERSON WHO YOU ARE INTERVIEWING:

A4: I'd like to ask you some questions about people in your network. As I asked each question, please tell me the number next to the name of each person, who does a particular thing for you. If no one does it, just say nobody.

»00« = NOBODY

» I don't know« to any question, try to ask »What do you think / What do you mean by that ?«

CIRCLE NUMBERS THAT R MENTIONS FROM DIAGRAM:

A4a. Are there people you confide in about things that are important to you?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A4b. Are there people, who reassure you when you're feeling uncertain about something?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A4c. people who you talk to, when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A4d. ... Who make sure that you were cared for if you were ill?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A4e. ...from who you borrow a certain thing?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A4f. ...with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
A4g. ...from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

A5: Still thinking about your network, how many people in your network...

	1. all	2. most	3. half of them	4. a few	5. none
A5a. How many people, don't understand you?					
A5b. ...is it possible, that they get on your nerves?					
A5c. ...how many they now one another?					

A6. Now about changing your network, would you want more people in it?

1. YES
2. NO

A7. If you think...what is the biggest thing, that you miss here...for example do you miss people with who would you be able to talk to personal things, people for sports activities, people to have drinks and dinner with etc.?

A8. What were your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect more or less? Did you think that people would be more open for making friendship, or the other way around?

A9. Would you want to have more people you could depend on?

A10. Now I would like to ask you some questions about individuals in your network

A10a. Ask in which circle is the person.

A11. Is a person man or woman?

A12. Is he or she relative, friend?

KODS:

1. boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. mother, 3. father, 4. sister, 5. brother, 6. other relative, 7. friend from home, 8. friend from Erasmus, 9. Other friend that you met in Girona.

A13. Do you live together, or what is the distance (Girona)?

A14. Do you live together, or what is the distance (Home)?

A15. What is the age of this person?

A16. Would you say you are usually in touch with this person... (AT THE MOMENT- Living here in Girona)?

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A10. circle:	1.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

A11.	1. man 2. woman	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2
A12. relationship with this person										
A13. ERASMUS										
	1. We live together	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2. We both live in Girona	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3. We go to the same University	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	4. We are both at the Erasmus programme	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
A14. HOME										
	1. We live together	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2. We both live in the same town	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3. We live in the distance of 30 min with car	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
A 15. AGE										
	1. younger	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2. same age	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3. older	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
A 16. Frequency of staying in tuch:										
	1. Every day	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2. Few times a week	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3. Once on 14 days	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	4. Once a month or less	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

Vir: Antonucci (1980).

A17: Now if you think about your first month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you feel close to changed or not?

A18: Before you came here, did you have a relationship?

A19: How has your decision that you are going to Erasmus affected that relationship?

A20: What is your opinion abot relationships that are happening/happened here?

Priloga B: Transkripcije intervjujev

ID number of a student: 01 (Rasa)

Date of interview: 15.4.2009

Length of interview: 59:00 h

Student's country: Lithuania

Before I begin I would like tell you, that this questionnaire is completely voluntary. If there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue, or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain them to you. For the beginning I will ask you some questions related to your staying here in Girona.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Rasa: 21st of January 2009.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Rasa: That is the most difficult question. I should stay here for 5 months, but I would like to stay here as long as possible. But of course I want to finish my master's so if it would be a perfect life, I would just go for 2 months back to Lithuania and then to come back here or somewhere else. I really like living abroad. Well more yes than no.

Me: Why is it no?

Rasa: Because of my family, my county, my language, my work, my experience, my friends...if I want to start to work here or somewhere else, I have to start everything from zero.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Rasa: Economics.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Rasa: Master's, so 5th year. I already had my bachelor degree 2 years ago. I started my university when I was 16.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Because I wanted to go to Spain, somewhere where it is warm.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experience/-s that you had when you came here, for example for your first week or first two weeks or maybe even during all this time that you stayed here?

Rasa: First of all the weather was warm in compare to Lithuania and I loved the flowers which were blossoming here, that people are kissing everywhere in metros and everywhere. Not in Girona but in Barcelona. Because in Lithuania we don't do that, we don't kiss on public places. I have more bad experience with my flat, but the first few days I stayed with Inge, who had a really nice landlord and he showed a lot of hospitality. Inge just told him that I don't have where to live and he said it is not a problem for me to stay there.

So one thing that I really remember was my first Sunday here. We went out to eat something, but everything is closed in Spain so we went to one small bar just to eat 'bocadillos', and the owner of the bar started to talk to us in Spanish. I understood maybe a small percentage, but

he was really trying and asking where we come from and looking words in a dictionary. He gave us a small present, two small glasses of liquor and a lighter and we said that we will come back there.

Me: So you think that people here accepted you well?

Rasa: Maybe that guy was the most open person in all 'Cataluña'. But maybe because now I don't go to small bars anymore and I don't give myself an opportunity to meet people like I have then.

Me: Is there anything else good that you can remember or has stayed in your mind?

Rasa: I really like this flat for example. But people in Girona I don't like so much. I mostly communicate with Erasmus students, because it is almost impossible to socialize with Catalonians. I lived with three Catalan boys and I don't want to do that anymore. They were not so great.

7. Me: What about bad experience/-s?

First bad experience was in Barcelona, when five people tried to steal something from me. Five I saw but I wonder how many I didn't see. Also women, normal people, also gypsies. One normal woman went to work and she wanted to steal from me, when we were asking her to help us with buying a ticket. Also one Arab woman was standing in a bus station with a baby and she was talking on the phone, but I was observing her and that baby didn't move, she passed us and she bumped into Inge and Inge told, "What are u doing?" and she started to apologize. Barcelona is famous as city of thieves. And I was sitting on my luggage when we were waiting for the bus and I saw gipsy women with fake child and at some point they changed that child. So it was my first bad experience. So later I wasn't very successful with my flat, I had to live with 3 boys, who weren't really friendly as they supposed to be. I was afraid to go to the toilet and they were all the time smoking weed. The highlight was the story with my deposit, which they didn't want to return. They demanded that I have to find a new person to live in the flat, when I decided to change the flat. But we didn't sign any contract at all. I think that it would be polite if they were cooking lunch, that they would also invite me if I was in my room. But they didn't. So I didn't like their behavior.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

My grandparents. I always had better relationship with them, than with my mother. My grandfather is a writer and he sometimes lives with us and some time he spends at the countryside. Before I came here I had a relationship. Not a successful one, but I really miss him. I also miss my friend, I have many friends with who I am meeting just for drinks, but true I have just 2 friends. One is really busy with her boyfriend, other one I don't miss so much as I have thought. She wants to speak on Skype sometimes, but I tell her that I am busy. I didn't expect that I would be on Skype talking with my parents two hours a day, because in Lithuania I live alone. I don't talk with them or with my sisters every day. And this friend that I miss helped me a lot, because I had a difficult period before I left. And she helped me a lot. If you meet someone every day, you have things to talk about. But if you don't you don't have so much to talk about. So you should talk every day with a person. Let's say with Inge we speak now every

day, but I am sure that when we come back, we have nothing to talk about. And I also miss my flat.

Me: Do you miss living alone?

Rasa: I do. Sometimes five people to live with it is too much for me. I couldn't live like this forever. Maybe 1 or 2 years max. I couldn't live with someone in the same room, except with my husband. I want to leave things where I want. So I miss all the things in my flat.

I want to continue by asking you some questions about the people , who are important in your life RIGHT NOW. To get it straight, I am going to ask you to help me draw a diagram, which will refer to as your personal network.

This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

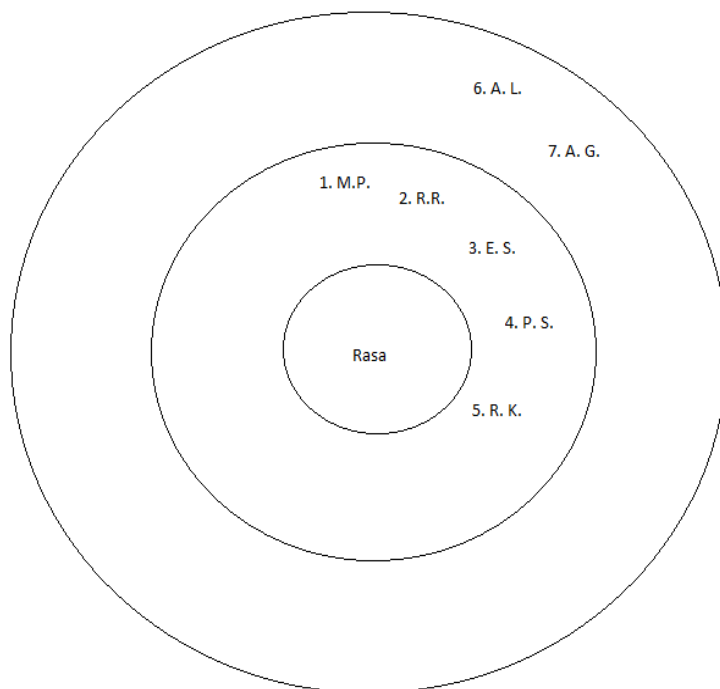
Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now I would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW- focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.

Rasa: Do you mean people from my whole life or just now?

Me: Everybody from the time that you are here.

Rasa: The first circle will be empty, because I don't think there are people that I couldn't live without.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Rasa: 7.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Rasa: 0.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Rasa: 5.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Rasa: 2.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: If you think about this people, for whom of them would you say that they are people for whom you can confide in about something that it is important to you? For example, something important happens to you and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers, who are these people.

There can be many of them, there can be just two, as you wish.

Rasa: 1, 2, 3, 5.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Rasa: 1, 3, 4, 5.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Rasa: 1, 2, 3, 5.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken care of, if you would have been ill?

Rasa: 3.

A4e: Me: People, from whom would you borrow a certain thing?

Rasa: 1, 2, 3.

A4f: Me: People with whom you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time that you are here.

Rasa: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.

A4g: Me: People from whom you could be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Rasa: Do you mean people from here or from home?

Me: Well, it can be both.

Rasa: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Rasa: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Rasa: All, very possible (laughter).

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Rasa: Most.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like there would be more people in it?

Rasa: It depends, if I would meet some nice person it would be fine, but I don't have a need to have more people. So I am fine.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here? Let's say people with whom would you be able to talk to or to go somewhere...

Rasa: Personal conversations, drinks, dinners. I also miss some peaceful moments, like heaving quiet dinner with my friend and not all the time just noise, bunch of people and things like that. Also girly talks with homemade food, or just to go somewhere with just a few people. Or calm talk in a park, not just going out to have wild parties.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Rasa: I expected that Catalonians would be more open and nice. They are strange and they don't want to socialize. From Erasmus I didn't think so much, because I thought that I will live with Catalonians. So I expected to meet more people from here. Also some Erasmus students look friendly and open but I don't like this. That people are inviting themselves for dinners and drinks to our flat. If you are open, you have to open yourself, not just to expect that people will be open for you. People are also divided into groups and it is very obvious. I am not saying that it is good nor it is bad. There some people from Erasmus that I don't know anything about. Some people don't speak at all, they are not open.

Me: So from Erasmus you expected more?

Rasa: I guess so, that there will be more connections. But my priorities were Catalonians. Here we are forced that we hang out, because we live together. I am not sure it would be like this if we were at home. Here it all depends from circumstances.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Rasa: No I think I have enough.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	2	2	8	1,4		2	1
2	2	2	8	1,4		2	1
3	2	1	1	2,4		2	1
4	2	1	8	1,4		2	1
5	2	2	7		2	2	3
6	3	1	9	2		3	4
7	3	1	8	2,4		2	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. Other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. Other friend that you met in Girona.

A10. circle: 1, 2 OR 3.	
A11.	1. man 2. woman
A12. relationship with this person: KODS	
A13. ERASMUS	
	1. We live together 2. We both live in Girona 3. We go to the same University 4. We are both at the Erasmus programme
A14. HOME	
	1. We live together 2. We both live in the same town 3. We live in the distance of 30 min with car
A 15. AGE	1. younger 2. same age 3. older
A 16. Frequency of staying in tuch:	
	1. Every day 2. Few times a week 3. Once on 14 days 4. Once a month or less

A17: Me: Now if you think of your fist month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Rasa: Yes it has changed. But from now till the end, it will probably stay the same.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Rasa: Yes and no. Now we are not together anymore. The big part of our separation was Erasmus.

A20: Me: What do you think about relationships that are happening here? Do you have a boyfriend here?

Rasa: I have. It is easier to have a boyfriend because of the emotional state. Sometimes you are fed up with everybody, but he has to support me, he has to be there for me. None of you is obligated to support me, but he has to. If I don't like something I can close the door and walk away, but with him no.

Me: What about in general, what do you think about Erasmus relationships?

Rasa: I have a very bad opinion. I think that maybe it is possible that somebody will stay together, But in general not. Because usually people in Erasmus are young and things change when you go to your country and I think the separation usually appears.

ID number of a student: 02 (Martyn)

Date of interview: 19.4.2009

Length of interview: 00:32 h

Student's country: Belgium

Before I begin, I would like to tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue. Or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Martyn: 1st of February.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Martyn: Until the 5th of July.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Martyn: Constructional engineering.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Martyn: Fourth, masters.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Martyn: Because I wanted to do something new, I wanted to meet new people and go away from Belgium for a while. And to enjoy some beautiful weather. I was worried about the price, but the scholarship was OK, so...

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experience/-s that you had when you came here, for example for your first week or first two weeks, or during all this time that you stayed here?

Martyn: That it is very easy to meet new people if you try it.

Me: What about some particular thing that has happened to you that you can remember. Something that maybe surprised you, on a good way of course.

Martyn: I clearly liked that if people here tell you they will help you, they really help you. Like one girl who told that she has a car and she said that she can drive me if I need and she really did. In Belgium they would say it, but they don't really mean it. One week after coming here we went off to Barcelona, with a girl that I have never met before. So my impression of Catalan people is that if they say something, they really mean it.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Martyn: It was raining here and I almost got robbed in Barcelona. They tried to steal my wallet, but I didn't have it in my pocket, so they didn't. But it was a bad experience. I will remember it. And the next time I went to Barcelona, I saw that this has happened to somebody with the same trick.

Me: But here in Girona it is safe?

Martyn: Yes Girona is safe, it is a small city. But if you pass the bus station during night, there is always at least one guy that will ask you for a cigarette, so I don't really pass it. Also bad experience is that you have to work out everything by yourself.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Martyn: After three months, I began to miss all my family, my father and my sister, I miss them the most, I am closest to them in Belgium. The other people I miss, but not so much.

Me: So before you came here, you thought that you will miss more of your friends?

Martyn: I was a bit scared of that, because you don't know anyone. I was scared that it would be difficult to meet new people and that I won't feel at home. But after one month, I could imagine living here. If I would know before that it will be so great, I would have asked to go for one year.

I want to continue by asking you some questions about the people who are important in your life RIGHT NOW. To get it straight, I am going to ask you to help me draw a diagram, which will refer to as your personal network.

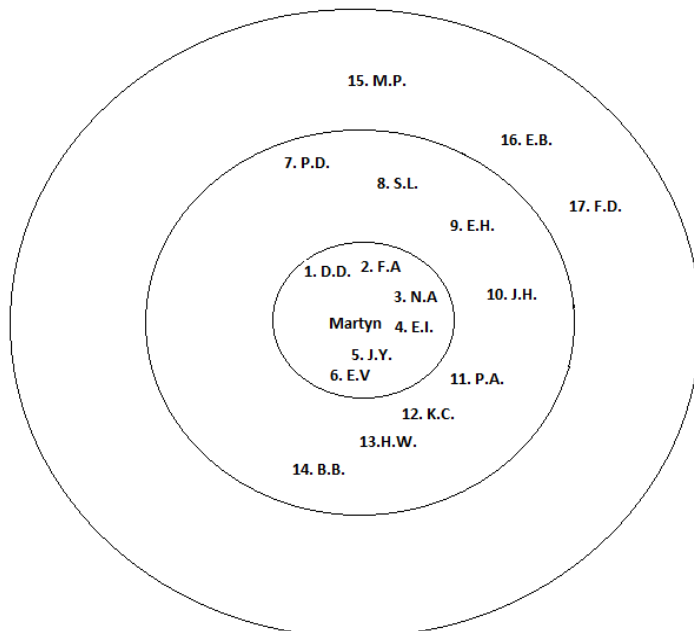
This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now I would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW- focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Martyn: 17.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Martyn: 6.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Martyn: 8.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Martyn: 3.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: Are there people you confide in about things that are important to you? Tell me who are they.

There can be many of them, there can be just two, as you wish.

Martyn: 1, 2, 3, 4.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Pol: 1, 2, 4, 5.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Martyn: 1, 4.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken cared of if you would have been ill?

Martyn: 1.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Martyn: All 17.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time.

Martyn: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17.

A4g: Me: People from who you could be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Martyn: 1, 2, 3.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Martyn: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Pol: Most.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Martyn: Half of them.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Martyn: No, I am satisfied.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here; like people with who would you be able to talk to or to go somewhere, etc.

Martyn: For now I have everything that I want. I miss some rich uncle that would give me 1000€ a month. I don't really have a feeling that I am missing something.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Martyn: It is easy. I really thought that it would be more difficult.

Me: Did you think that you will have more contacts with local people, or you thought that mostly you will hang out with Erasmus people?

Martyn: Mostly Erasmus. Well there are also 3 or 4 people that I know well from Cataluña, so that is more than I expected. It is difficult to meet people that they live here for a long time. So I expected to meet more or less people that I have met, but I was afraid that it would be more difficult.

Me: Do you think that you easily met people, because there are a lot of Belgium's?

Martyn: No, it doesn't really matter.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Martyn: No, it is OK.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

13

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	1	7, 8	2, 3, 4		2	2
2	1	1	3		1	3	3
3	1	2	4		3	3	3
4	1	2	7		2	2	2
5	1	2	8	2		1	2
6	1	2	8	2		3	2
7	2	1	6		3	3	2
8	2	1	8	2		1	2
9	2	2	8	2		1	2
10	2	1	9	1, 2		2	2
11	2	1	9	1, 2		1	2
12	2	1	7		2	2	2
13	2	1	7		2	2	2
14	2	2	8	2		3	2
15	3	2	8	2		3	2
16	3	2	8	2		2	2
17	3	1	8	2		3	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your first month here in Girona. Has your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Martyn: It is quite different.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Martyn: I had and we broke up. It would be possible to stay together, but it would be very difficult. It is if you don't see each other.

A20: Me: What do you think about relationships here? Can they get serious?

Martyn: I think they can, but also think it is difficult because there are so many people.

¹³ Za lažjo razumljivost glej tabelo pri prejšnjem intervjuju, pri istem vprašanju.

ID number of a student: 03 (Bojan)

Date of interview: 1.5.2009

Length of interview: 53:45 h

Student's country: Slovakia

Before I begin, I would like to tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue, or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it/them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Bojan: 23rd of January.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Bojan: It is a difficult question, but I think I will stay here till the 1st of July.

Me: But if you have an opportunity, you would stay longer?

Bojan: Yes, for sure.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Bojan: Faculty of Economics.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Bojan: The second.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Bojan: It was a hard decision. I was in high school when my friend went for Erasmus. I visited him and I liked it a lot. I saw that after a few months, he could speak foreign language very good. Italian, he was in Italy. He met a lot of friends from Europe and also from all over the world. So I decided that when I will be at the University, I will go for sure on Erasmus. So when I was on University I went for Erasmus. Meeting people was the biggest motivation.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experience/-s that you had when you came here, for example for your first week or first two weeks or maybe even during this time that you stayed here?

Bojan: I had many good experiences. If you are in a society where are only the people who are studying at the university, you cannot expect anything bad, because it supposes that they are all intelligent people. So I adapted quite well I think and I enjoyed with this group of people from all around the Europe and world and everyone can give me different opinions and tell me experiences related to their life. And I also had a good experience with flat. I lived at the university and it was very expensive, so I couldn't afford anymore, so I was in urge to find accommodation. So the first advertisement was at the webpage of our university. I just called, visited the flat and it is one of the best flats that I have seen in Girona. So I consider it as a very good experience, with a bit of luck. What also surprised me is food. I am not use to it. Spanish people have two dishes and one dessert at the time, so you can try many different dishes at the same time. And also you have dinner at about 11 in the evening and if you are going out, you have to eat something if you are planning to also drink something.

Me: Are you going to a lot of parties?

Bojan: I am trying to take advantage of this place, so if I am not sick I am on party.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Bojan: There was a lack of information at the university. When I got here, nobody told me anything, so I was a bit lost at the time. Everything was in Spanish, teachers don't speak English, and staff doesn't speak English. So my all first meetings at school, about how to use internet side of our school and so on, I was just sitting and looking, because I was not able to speak Spanish. I also think I am not the only case who didn't speak Spanish at all. So it was very difficult for us at the beginning.

Me: But then you somehow managed it?

Bojan: Oh yes, than day by day I improved my Spanish.

Me: So what do you think, which period was the most difficult?

Bojan: The beginning. Because you don't know anyone, you don't know school, I came here alone and so it was completely new world for me.

Me: But University helped you with accommodation?

Bojan: Yes it was very difficult for me, because I didn't have accommodation, I was supposed to be homeless and one woman from the staff made exception for me and gave me accommodation for two weeks at the Uni. It helped me at the beginning, because I had many other problems I had to solve, not only the accommodation, also for example mobile phone, papers around school, to choose the subjects, of course to meet people also, because I was alone. The most important thing for me was to meet some new people, to make some new friends, because my ability to speak Spanish was limited, so I wanted to have someone who can at least translate some things for me. It was difficult, but two three weeks later I finally started to enjoy it. And on Erasmus it is very easy to meet people. Because I think most Erasmus people are not here to study, but to meet people, to have cultural experience, to travel together. So I think Erasmus is not about studying.

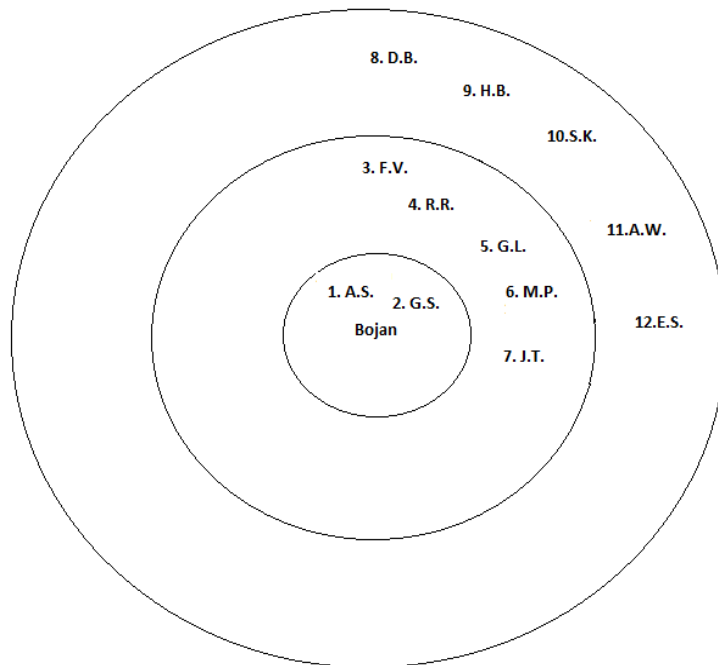
Me: Did you get the feeling that people who are from your speaking countries you can connect more quickly than with others?

Bojan: The first person I met here was from my country, but I don't think that we are good friends, because she is completely different person that I am and I don't feel like socializing with her. She was a bit helpful at the beginning, but not anymore. I think I found many people that I like more from other countries. So it doesn't have to mean that if two people are from the same country they have to get along the best. Bad experience is also the weather. When I was coming to Spain I was expecting that the weather will be sunny, 35 degrees, people going out with shorts. It was like that in February, but now it is April, the beginning of May, and the weather is really horrendous. Raining all the time. When I was comparing weather forecast to my country, I always found out that in my country it is better.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Bojan: Of course I miss my parents and friends. It is strange question why. They are my closest people I know them for the longest time and they know me. They can advise me in a situation when I don't know exactly what to do. I can't wait to see them because it would be strange not to miss them. I can't imagine having no internet, because I can be in contact with people whenever I want. Of course I miss them, but not like I am being depressed about it. I could easily be here for half of year more. I would appreciate if some people would come to visit me.

So this diagram is referring to people who are important in your life right now. Try to think which people are so important to you that you cannot imagine life without them, those who are important but not so much, and those who are important but less than those in the first two circles. You can include people from home and from here. So try to concentrate on Erasmus network, and include friends and people from home.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Bojan: 12.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Peter: 2.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Bojan: 5.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Bojan: 5.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: If you think about this people, who are those you can confide in about something that it is important to you? For example, something important happens to you, and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers.

There can be many of them, there can be just two, as you wish.

Bojan: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Bojan: 4, 6, 7, 9, 10.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Bojan: 4, 6, 7, 9.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken cared of if you would be ill?

Bojan: 4, 5, 6.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Bojan: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time.

Bojan: 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Bojan: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Bojan: A few of them.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Bojan: A few of them.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Bojan: Most of them.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Bojan: Maybe a bit more.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here?

Bojan: I miss specific sense of humor from one person, being ready for anything.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Bojan: I am surprised in a good way. I didn't have high expectations, because I have never been in similar environment. So I am surprised in a good way.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Bojan: Maybe but I am quite satisfied.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	1	2		1	3	2
2	1	2	3		1	3	2
3	2	1	8	1, 4		2	1
4	2	2	8	1, 3, 4		2	1
5	2	2	8	1, 3, 4		2	1
6	2	2	8	1, 4		2	1
7	2	2	7		2	2	2
8	3	2	8	2, 3, 4		2	2
9	3	2	8	2, 4		2	2
10	3	2	8	2, 3, 4		2	2
11	3	2	8	2, 4		2	4
12	3	1	8	2, 4		2	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your first month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Bojan: Yes the network has changes, some people stayed the same and some of them are inside now that I didn't know before and some of them were in then but they are not now. It has changed a lot, just one person is stable. As the time was passing I met more and more people and then I decided with whom I can be more. So at the beginning there were more or less people who I was depended on, like about flat or school or something, they were not really friends.

There is really interesting what people you know from the beginning and what people you know now.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Bojan: I had.

A19: Me: How your Erasmus affected on the relationship?

Bojan: We broke up.

A20: Me: Do you have a relationship here?

Bojan: No I don't.

ID number of a student: 04 (Janka)

Date of interview: 4.5.2009

Length of interview: 53:45 h

Student's country: Czech Republic

Before I begin, I would like tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue. If you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Janka: 7th of January.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Janka: Till the end of August.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Janka: Faculty of arts.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Janka: Second and the third year. I am studying two things.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Janka: Because I wanted to learn Catalan. It is close to the sea, close to Barcelona and there are cheap flights for all over the Europe. Also to meet new people, to see how the university works here and in my country so I can compare it.

¹⁴ Tabela za lažje razumevanje je pri prvem intervjuju, pri istem vprašanju.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experiences that you had when you came here, for example for your first week or first two weeks, or maybe even during this time that you stayed here?

Janka: My flat mates and my neighbors. I was really surprised how helpful they were at the beginning. They helped me to meet many new people and to socialize a lot, also to make new friends. My flat mates are very open, which is not so common here in Catalunya. There aren't many people like that. Normally people from Girona are very closed, so I was really surprised that they are so open. They are like people from the south of Spain, not like typical Catalan people. Also people that I met on Erasmus. Before I got here the university provided all kinds of information, how to reach the university, about accommodation and all sort of things. So it was quite nice that they were willing to help us. But it was a bit easier for me because I have spent so much time in Barcelona and in general in Spain, so it was quite easy for me to find a flat and all the other stuff.

7. Me: What about bad experience/-s?

Janka: The weather, because I was use to the nice weather in Barcelona, the sun was shining all the time. There is no rain, no clouds. And here it is very cold, the sun is not normal here and inside the buildings it is very cold. Catalans were good, open, at the beginning they were not so interested about the other students but then they got along well. And I speak Catalan so it is easier.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

I should supposed to say that my family, but I am very fine here, so it is OK that they are in Czech Republic and I am here. I also miss some friends, but they were all here so it is not a problem.

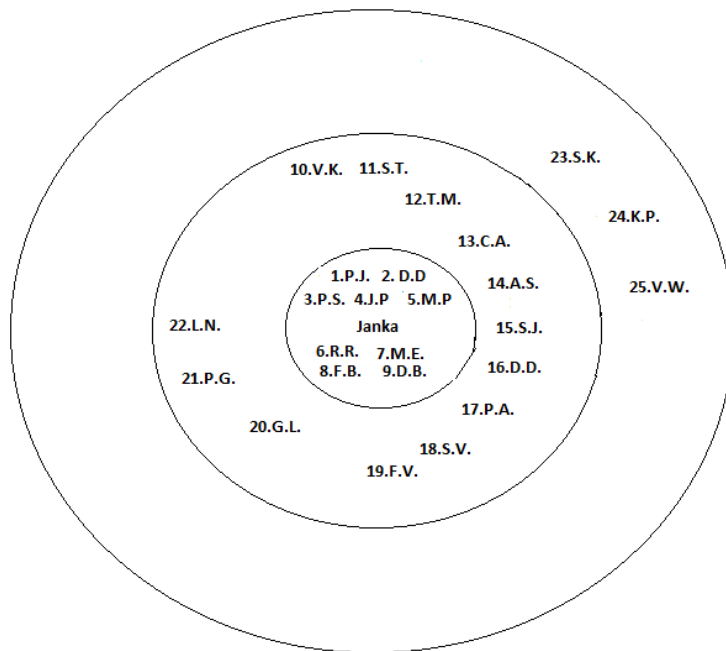
Me: So there is no need for you to come back home more than it is necessary?

Janka: Exactly. Enough is one week, to visit and then to go back.

Now I will ask you some things about your personal network, about people, who are important to you in your life right now. This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Janka: 25.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Janka: 9.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Janka: 13.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Janka: 3.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: Are there people you confide in about things that are important to you?

Janka: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something.

Janka: 1-14, 18, 20-25.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Janka: 1, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 25.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken cared of if you would be ill?

Janka: 1, 3, 13.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Janka: 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 14.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip...during this time?

Janka: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Janka: 1, 3, 7, 8, 13, 14.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Janka: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Janka: A few.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Janka: Most.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Janka: No, I am satisfied.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here?

Janka: Czech cuisine, food and some of my friends, but it is not a problem with all the technology. It is not a problem that you are miles away. I also miss my shoes and my clothes that I left at home. Nothing is really missing so much here.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Janka: I thought that I will meet less people. I am surprised that Erasmus students are so open and friendly. Some of my friends were on Erasmus and they were a bit disappointed because they were only hanging out with people from their own county and not so much with others.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Janka: There are enough people.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	1	9	1		3	1
2	1	1	9	1		3	1
3	1	1	9	2		3	1
4	1	1	8	2, 4		3	2
5	1	2	8	2, 4		1	2
6	1	2	8	2, 4		2	2
7	1	2	2		1	3	2
8	1	1	3		1	3	2
9	1	2	8	2, 4		3	2
10	2	2	8	2, 4		3	2
11	2	1	7		2	3	2
12	2	1	7		2	3	2
13	2	1	Bcn	Bcn		3	2
14	2	1	Bcn	Bcn		3	2
15	2	2	8	2, 4		3	2
16	2	1	8	2, 4		3	2
17	2	1	8	2, 4		3	2
18	2	2	8	2, 4		3	2
19	2	1	8	2, 4		3	2
20	2	2	9	2		3	2

21	2	2	8	2, 4		3	2
22	2	1	Bcn	Bcn		3	2
23	3	2	7	2		3	2
24	3	2	7	2		1	2
25	3	1	7	2		3	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your fist month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Janka: It is not so different, but at the beginning Erasmus students weren't here. So I was socializing just with my friends from Barcelona, my friends from Girona and flat mates. And some of my Czech friends and when Erasmus students arrived, I started to go out more often with them. So it hasn't changed a lot.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Janka: I broke up with my boyfriend, to go here free.

A19: Me: How your living here affected this relationship?

Janka: I had a boyfriend from Barcelona for quite a long time, but I would like to spend my time here, not to stay all the time in Barcelona.

A20: Me: What do you think about relationships that are happening here?

Janka: Very short, very nice, something that goes together with Erasmus. I know some people who had met in Erasmus exchange and they live together, they are happy, it can be something more, but mostly it is for fun.

ID number of a student: 05 (Carolina)

Date of interview: 11.5.2009

Length of interview: 42:33

Student's country: Belgium

Before I begin, I would like tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Carolina: 22nd of January.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Carolina: Until the 12th of June.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Carolina: Psychology and Education, I will be a teacher.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Carolina: 3rd year.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

I wanted to make my culture wider, so I wanted to meet other cultures, meet different kinds of people and I wanted to be stronger in my personality. Because being away from home, doing

everything on my own, without heaving background of your parents and friends who can help you anytime and you can go to them whenever you want.

Me: So has this experience helped you like you have expected?

Carolina: I don't know it is hard to say, for example I am not that confident, so I wanted to think in more positive way about myself and I am not saying that I think very positive about myself, but I got to know myself a bit better so it is a good point to start I guess. The other thing for me was also, that there were so many Belgium's here, it was really nice for me, but sometimes I didn't have a feeling that I am abroad. I thought sometimes that it is same as at home. So sometimes it is better to stay away from people from your country, so the other world opens to you.

Me: Why have you decide that you will go to Girona?

Carolina: I wanted to go to Spain, to learn Spanish, so one options were Madrid, Barcelona or Girona, than I heard Girona is only in Catalan, but I didn't want to go to Madrid or Barcelona, because these cities are way too big for me, than I decided that I really want to go to Spain, even if I don't learn Spanish, so I decided to come to Girona.

Me: Are you satisfied with your decision?

Carolina: If I would do it again, I would probably choose some other country.

6. Can you describe me one or more good experience that you had when you first arrived to Girona and during this time. It can be related to anything.

Carolina: What surprised me in a good way was that teachers weren't English and at the beginning there was a girl, that sat next to me, and she started to translate everything for me and I didn't ask for it, even now we are friends. It was really nice, because I didn't understand a word in Catalan and she was so patient. And when we were doing some group work, they were encouraging eachother that they should speak English, otherwise I will not understand. As well I do a practice in primary school, and the teacher there is really nice, here I had the best classes, much nicer than in Belgium. Even if I don't speak their language and they don't speak mine, they are so open for everything and everyone. And her way of seeing children was very inspiring. She is treating children equally, she doesn't make any differences, she doesn't say for example this child is difficult, this one has this, that one has that and similar things.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Carolina: That everything takes such a long time to arrange. I am not use to it, because in Belgium everything is very strict, but here you send an email, they don't answer. I had many things to arrange, like teaching in the school. So I asked my tutor when we can call to school where I am teaching now, so that I can take a look at it, and she said that we will call next week. So it is always next week. At the end it was March and we didn't go there.

Me: What do you teach?

Carolina: We have like projects, last week I was teaching Dutch language. Today I was teaching Flemish song, next week we have cooking class and then some physics. It is really interesting but difficult, because it is hard to prepare things that you will say in Catalan.

Another thing that I was not expecting here was Erasmus group; Other people that went for Erasmus told me, that people should be like one big family, doing things together all the time, but here in Girona I think there are more small groups. It is not disappointing, but would be

nicer if there would be just big family. In Brussels, we have one person just to receive Erasmus students, to prepare activities for them, to make them socialize. And by activities I don't mean just going to La Boehme. I think if this was better, there wouldn't have been so many groups.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Carolina: My mother, because I have really strong connection with her, my sister, I don't know why, because we really don't have strong connection, we are really different. But when I call her, I really feel like I am missing her. And also my close friends.

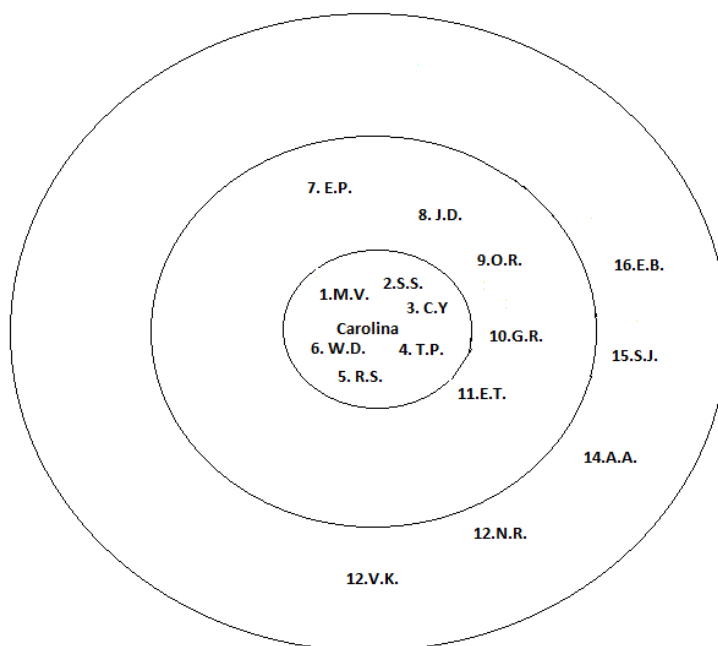
Now I will ask you some things about your personal network, about people, who are important to you in your life right now. This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now i would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW- focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Carolina: 16.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Carolina: 6.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Carolina: 5.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Carolina: 5.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: If you think about these people, for whom of them would you say you can confide in for something that it is important to you? For example, something important happens to you, and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers, who are these people.

Carolina: 1, 2, 3, 6, 11.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Carolina: 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Carolina: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken care of if you would have been ill?

Carolina: 13, 14.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Carolina: 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 13.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time.

Carolina: 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Carolina: 1, 2, 6, 10.

A5: Still thinking about your network. Just answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Carolina: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Carolina: A few.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Carolina: Most.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Carolina: No. I prefer to have really close friends, than to have many friends with superficial contacts. It would be maybe nicer to have more contacts here in Erasmus. So closest friends are from home and I am satisfied with the number.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here, people with who would you be able to talk to or to go somewhere for example?

Carolina: I miss deep conversations, because here it is often superficial and sometimes I get fed up with it. And I think to myself that I really want to talk to my friends. Like when we go to

La Boehme, we always talk about the parties and things like that. And also with people who are here I don't talk as open as with my friends from Belgium. But it is normal. You can't expect this from Erasmus programme.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less, did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Carolina: I thought that people would be more open. It was right from the beginning that these groups started to form. And it is not exactly like that.

Me: What about people from Cataluña?

Carolina: About that I didn't have expectations. I thought I will meet only Erasmus and I actually met some Catalan people and they are really nice and open. One time I was talking I'n English with somebody and a girl was standing next to me and she gave me that strange look, like she was thinking, "come on speak normal, Catalan".

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Carolina: I think so. Because right now, that group that I can depend on is quite small so it is nice to know that there is always someone there. Now my group is so small, that one person makes a difference.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	2		1	3	2
2	1	2	4		2	3	3
3	1	2	7		2	2	3
4	1	2	7		2	2	2
5	1	2	6		2	1	2
6	1	2	6		2	3	2
7	2	2	7		2	2	3
8	2	2	7		2	2	2
9	2	2	6		2	3	4
10	2	1	6		1	3	2
11	2	2	7	2		2	3
12	3	3	8		2,4	2	2
13	3	3	8	1,4		2	1
14	3	3	8	1,4		2	1
15	3	3	8	1,4		2	1
16	3	3	8	2,4		2	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your fist month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Carolina: It has changed for people from Erasmus, but other stayed the same.

A18: Me: Before you came here, were you in a relationship?

Carolina: No.

A19: Me: Do you think it is possible to have a relationship here?

Carolina: I think that here it depends on what you want and what the other wants, so it is possible to have a relationship on Erasmus. And I know some people who are still together.

ID number of a student: 06 (Axelle)

Date of interview: 15.5.2009

Length of interview: 40:13 h

Student's country: Netherlands

Me: Let me tell you that this interview is completely voluntary, if there will be any questions which you would not like to answer or you don't completely understand, just let me know and we will continue or I will try my best to explain them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Axelle: January 22nd 2009.

2. Me: And how long are you planning to stay here?

Axelle: Until June 7th.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying?

Axelle: Faculty of Law, I am making my master degree.

4. Me: Which year?

Axelle: It is 4th year.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus? Not just Girona as a town, but also other reasons for which you have decided to go to Erasmus.

Axelle: I wanted to go to Spain, because I studied Spanish a little bit, and I thought Spain is a beautiful country, so I thought that I would go for Erasmus, because first of all I wanted to go as a soccer player, and the club would pay a semester for me in Madrid, but then I got injured and I handed over my contract and they still agreed with me that I go to Spain, so I did. I wanted to go and then my university had like Erasmus exchange programme, at first they had one in Madrid and Girona, but this year they only had one in Girona so as you know that is not the best place to go to learn Spanish.

Me: So the main reason for you was to learn Spanish?

Axelle: And Spanish culture, yes.

6. Me: So can you describe me one or more good experience/-s that you had when you arrived here and during this time that you are staying here. It can be related to people, to flat, to your University, to anything that you consider as a good experience. (Something that has really surprised you, that people are different, anything that you can remember) or that you can say this has really helped me that I like it here or something like that.

Axelle: The positive way is that my neighbors were the Spanish people I got to meet, so because of them I met a few people from Girona and I really liked them, but those were the only people whom I had contact with, I mean from the locals here. And again I was surprised about the language, even when I was talking with locals, they had difficulties talking to me in

Spanish, they had to think. For them is like for us to choose whether we want to talk in our native language or in English. So they rather speak Catalan.

Me: And even some tandems couldn't speak Castellán.

Axelle: No, can you imagine? So that is why I could live here, but if I would have a possibility to choose, I would definitely go for someplace else and not Cataluña.

Me: Anything more?

Axelle: Positive in a way that Erasmus students all helped each other out.

Me: So with Erasmus students you have a good experience?

Axelle: Yes, they are really good people. Cause normally you have people like in my school, you have groups and you judge people before you even know them, on looks or on language, or on whatever, but on the Erasmus its different everyone speaks completely different language, is completely different but no one judges, for everyone it was important to have someone like to talk to or to start off with, so everyone is like that, maybe otherwise you would not go to Erasmus exchange, so it was positive for me. It was completely different when I went to USA, so I was the only foreigner; I played in united soccer team, so here it's different.

Me: Yes 'cause all the people come here with the same intention. So you think it's not really hard if you are Erasmus student to connect with others?

Axelle: No if you are Erasmus it is OK, it would be harder if someone would come here from Madrid in that case it would be more difficult to adjust, or to feel OK. 'Cause for Erasmus, there is many people in the same boat and it is really easy.

7. Me: What about bad experiences?

Axelle: Well obviously the negative side is that they only talk Catalan here, that surprised me, so negative are the people here, that they only want to be Catalan and in class that they don't want to talk Spanish and that the people are not like the people that I know when I go to vacations on the south of Spain, here is more like Northern Europe. I have more contacts here with foreigners you know what I mean? So I would never want to live here. But there are many nice foreigners like right now in the English pub, I was sitting there waiting for you, I sort of talked with a bunch of Irish people and they were really nice, but local people not so much, not as I expected.

8. Me: Who are people from home, who you miss the most? And try to say why.

Axelle: My boyfriend and my mum and besides that because I've been used to being far away, so I wasn't afraid how it will be. But little kids, like kids from my sister and from my brother, they grow up really fast, so I miss them, but people who I miss really are my boyfriend and my mum.

Me: Because I think that before you go like this, you think that you will miss more people, at least for me it was like this but I am just fine. And with internet things are easier.

Axelle: Yes also at home you don't see each other every other day, you talk on phone or something. I miss sometimes when my friends tell me, "oh we were out last night heaving dinner", and I say to myself, "yes I miss that"...but no big deal.

Me: And we are here for a short time.

Axelle: And I have been home like every three weeks, because I had exams. It would be so much different if I was somewhere where Ryanair wouldn't fly. I had a chance to choose Mexico but...

Me: This is almost like you would have been in Belgium and you would have to go with train. Just easier.

Axelle: Yes so I mean that way you don't really ...I mean at one point I was there for one week and at one point I was there again 10 days later. So basically I saw my friends more than I do normally.

Me: For Ester many people went home, but I think you are the one who go home most often and has people over most often.

Axelle: I wouldn't go home if I wouldn't have had exams. People would rather come here, because the weather is better. But sometimes it rains also day after day...but my mum I miss the most. Even though I don't see her very often, because obviously I don't live at home anymore, but still I am like very close to my mum, my dad too, but it's different. And my boyfriend. I just miss falling asleep together, waking up. With friends you miss laughter, but with boyfriend I just miss everyday things. It is good I didn't have a boyfriend when I was in USA.

Me: I think it is also a good challenge for you two.

Axelle: It is, but I didn't have any doubts about it, I am not opened for other guys at all, I can talk with them and all. And he is also very into it, he would never cheat, I always had boyfriends like that, but obviously every girl says that. He had like two girlfriends before and he didn't cheat. So he is really loyal guy. I didn't have any doubts about that. And I told him, that if something happens when I am gone it is good to know now. It is a good test, but it wasn't really a test for me, I don't know. And I told him that I have to go somewhere I didn't ask him for permission, not like weather you like it or not, but I told him that I am going. I took a chance with that. But it is just really hard being away.

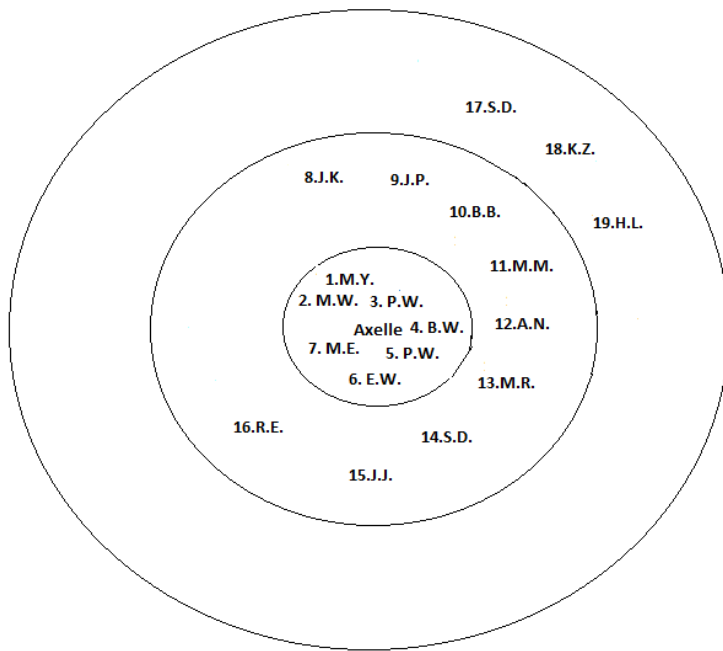
Me: So now you have to draw a diagram and include people who are important to you right now. This is you in the middle, people without who you can't imagine heaving life, people who you are really close to and people who are important to you, but not so much but still you can give them a place in your social network. So try to concentrate on this time that you are here. Because it is different now than when you are at home.

Axelle: So I have to concentrate on the period that I am here? Without whom I can't live without when I am here.

Me: Yes, probably here aren't any people who you can't live without, but you can include your boyfriend for example. So in this time; people who are most important to you from here and from home.

Axelle: So I put initials only?

Me: Yes so that you will know who they are.



A3b: How many people are there in whole network?

Axelle: 20.

A3b1: Me: So now if we just concentrate on this people. What is the number of people in the first circle?

Axelle: It is 7.

A3b2: Me: In the second?

Axelle: 10.

A3b3: Me: And the third?

Axelle: 3.

A4: Me: I would now like to ask you a few questions about people in your network. For each question that I will ask you, you need to tell me numbers of people who would do a particular thing for you.

A4a: Who are the people you confide in about things that are important to you, let's say something big happens to you, so you talk to them, you trust them and things like that.

Axelle: 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, and 15 and 11.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you are feeling uncertain about something?

Axelle: 8, 10, 12, 15, 11, 18, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

A4c: Me: People, with who you can talk to, when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Axelle: 1, 2, 3, 12, 15, 8.

A4d: Me: People that you think that they would take care of you if you were ill?

Axelle: Here, would they fly over or something?

Me: Basically, if these are all from home...

Axelle: All of them, except 17 and 18.

A4e: Me: From whom would you borrow a certain thing?

Axelle: 7, 11, 14, 16, 15, 12, 10, 8, 9, 19, 17, 18.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example out go out in the evening or on a trip?

Axelle: Well I also socialize with my mum; I go out with her and things like that. So: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 I guess all of them.

A4g: Me: From whom you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money, like 200€?

Axelle: You mean if they would have it and they would give it to me?

Me: Well I am sure they would all give it to you, but who would you say?

Axelle: If I really need I would ask my mum or dad...so everyone except 17.

A5: Still thinking about your network...

A5a: Me: So if you are still thinking about these people, how many people in this network don't understand you? Maybe with someone you are just related and that is why you feel so close to, but in fact they don't understand you.

Axelle: A few.

A5b: Me: So how many of this people would be possible to get on your nerves?

Axelle: A few, my sister for sure.

A5c: Me: How many they know one another?

Axelle: They all know each other. They also say "Hi" to each other.

A6: Me: So if you think about this network. Would you want that more people would be in it or you are satisfied?

Axelle: I am satisfied. If I would have much larger it wouldn't be good than.

A7: Me: Think about the biggest thing that you miss here. Are the people with who you can talk to, or maybe someone to go out for a dinner or to do sports, or whatever?

Axelle: The thing I miss the most is just cuddling with my boyfriend, fiscal contact, because going out and stuff, you can do that. And socialize; you can do that, so I think fiscal contact, yes.

A8: Me: OK, what about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect more or less, did you think people would be more open for friendships or the other way around?

Axelle: Erasmus students are surprisingly open to it and others are surprisingly closed.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you could depend on? Here and everywhere. 'Cause here in your network are just people from home. That means that here you have people who aren't your friends, so did you expect more?

Axelle: Hm...I expected Spanish people to be more open, so I expected to mingle more. But it is my fault, because I had to study for my exams back home, because I had to go home lots of times, I know in other case it would have been much different, cause I am open to people and socializing and everything, but there were just circumstances that let me be here just 50%. So sometimes when I don't need to study I have like a night off, but that is rarely. I know that if I wouldn't have had that, I would have more people to socialize with. Even now I don't have time to socialize with people that I know, with you and with the locals like with Monica and with the other girls. They live here and I don't even have time to meet with them, so...no I don't need more people to socialize with. I have difficulties with spending time with people that I know.

A10: Now I will just ask you some questions about individuals in your network.

	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	1	1	/	1	3	1
2	1	2	2	/	2	3	2
3	1	1	3	/	2	3	2
4	1	1	5	/	3	2	3
5	1	1	5	/	2	3	2
6	1	1	5	/	2	3	2
7	1	2	4	/	2	3	2
8	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
9	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
10	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
11	2	2	7	/	2	2	3
12	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
13	2	2	7	/	2	2	3
14	2	2	7	/	2	2	3
15	2	2	6	/	2	3	3
16	2	1	6	/	2	3	4
17	3	2	7	/	2	2	4
18	3	2	7	/	3	2	4
19	3	2	7	/	2	2	4

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: So if you think about your first month here, first 14 days, would you say that this group of people has changed or it stayed the same? Would you be able to make a comparison or it is more or less the same?

Axelle: It is more or less the same, yes.

Me: So nothing really changed?

Axelle: No.

A18: Me: So before you came here you had and you still have a boyfriend. How your leaving affected your relationship?

Axelle: It has made it stronger.

Me: Next question is not for you, because you don't have a relationship here. So if you have any more things to add, you can say something more.

Annette: Well support that you get is in your own hands. If I allow myself to be sad and if I think about the things that I miss all the time, I really get sad. But then I say to myself, well you are here; just make the best out of it you know. It has to do with the thing that I have to study a lot for my school at home. And I have never regretted, not even once that I came here. So it is really good experience.

ID number of a student: 07 (Andre)

Date of interview: 16.5.2009

Length of interview: 49:02 h

Student's country: Belgium

Me: Before I begin I would like to tell you that this interview is completely voluntary and if there will be any questions that you would not like to answer, just tell me and we will skip it. Or if there is something that you don't understand, also let me know.

Andre: OK, sure.

Me: For the beginning I will ask you some questions related to your staying here:

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Andre: 1st of February 2009.

2. Me: And how long are you planning to stay here?

Andre: Until the 1st of July.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Andre: Arhitectura Technica. I am writing my thesis.

4. Which is the year of your studies?

Andre: How do you mean? I am in the 4th year.

5. Me: So why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Andre: To meet different people, different cultures, to live by myself, to sit in the sun and to have a new experience, something to talk about, something that you can put on your resume, to learn a new language...

Me: Did you learn it?

Andre: I think I did.

Me: Catalan?

Andre: Catalan and Spanish.

Me: And why you decided for Girona?

Andre: Girona was my second choice. First I wanted to go to France, to improve my French and Girona was my second and I didn't get my first choice, 'cause there were too many people and I decided for Girona 'cause it is on the south and I like the culture, because I like Barcelona and I wanted to be close to Barcelona, so I decided for Girona. And I like the people who are living here, they take everything easy and they wake up late, they go out late and it is perfect for me, because I like to stay up late. And I like to sleep until 10, 11 o'clock here. Even when I have class, my classes start later. So this is what I really like.

6. Me: So can you describe me one or more good experience that happened to you here, it can be related to people, culture, something that has surprised you, that you are not use to it, or something related to searching for flat, something that stayed in your mind, and you say "wow" that is a really good thing that happened to me here.

Andre: The first time that I arrived here I didn't have any flat and after two days we got an email from this girl that we never saw and she immediately helped us with finding a flat, and

we had a flat in a day and she just arranged everything for us and afterwards we met her and she was really friendly and now she is a very good friend.

Me: Where did you find her?

Andre: On the internet. And she is always helping me. And she is going out a lot as well. It is strange that somebody you have never met does a lot of afford for Erasmus students here. And another good experience is that when we first arrive here, all the Erasmus students they were like really friendly and it was a big group. And the fact that you can travel a lot, you can go from one place to another, because the professors don't mind if you skip a few classes, they say that when you are here you have to enjoy yourself, and go to the parties. I really like the mentality, like going to Valencia, to see "Las Fallas" and Mallorca few days ago, and Cadaques was also really nice and I would like to visit a lot more, like Seville, more on the south. But I am running out of time. In a few weeks I will have to do a lot for school, but after the presentation of my thesis, which is on 22nd of June I have one week of complete holidays so I can do what I want and I hope to go visit some places for the last week. And then to go back home, and then hopefully go to Madrid, maybe Portugal, well we will see...if I can find something cheap of course.

Me: So you have good experience with Cataluña people, I mean this girl helped you, do you think they are open and all?

Andre: Yes Cataluña people, once you get to know them they are really friendly. My roommates, they are always inviting me to places, or just something to do, and I saw that Pol's roommates do it as well. They saw me once and they invited me to go to carnival with them to their place as well, and we could stay at their home and they made dinner for you and when you meet some new friends, they introduce you, so you get to know a lot of people really quickly like that.

7. Me: What about some bad experiences that you had?

Andre: Bad experiences, hm...Maybe they are more weather related, bad experiences. First day that I arrived here it was rainy. And I had to walk with my suitcases through the rain. And I didn't know where I was and I had to find my way to the youth hostel. So the first few days weren't so good, I had to find my place here, but when we were at the youth hostel, we immediately met one Belgium guy and he was helping us already. So just the first few hours were a bit strange. And some more bad experience...I have no bad experiences to people. Oh I got robbed in Barcelona that was a bad experience. Oh yes that was actually a really bad experience.

Me: What happened?

Andre: We were in Barcelona and we tried to find our way to La Rambla and we saw some gypsy pass us and he says "hello" and we said "go away" and we were walking a bit further, so some other guy told me, "hey that guy took something out of your pocket" and I turned around and guys were gone. I checked my pocket and my wallet was gone.

Me: So he stole your wallet? Did you have documents inside?

Andre: Yes my ID card and I went to the police to get my passport and it took a week to get my documents back, it was nothing in my wallet really, just 10€. So I blocked my cards and they send me everything from home. It was really unpleasant, but I didn't let it to ruin my day, I just went on and visit all the places in Barcelona. Barcelona is a great place; I have heard many

stories about the people who got robbed there. And I have learned an important lesson, not to put my wallet in my back pocket. I mean somebody can just bump in to you takes it and you don't notice it and immediately it is gone. So you have to watch out in Barcelona.

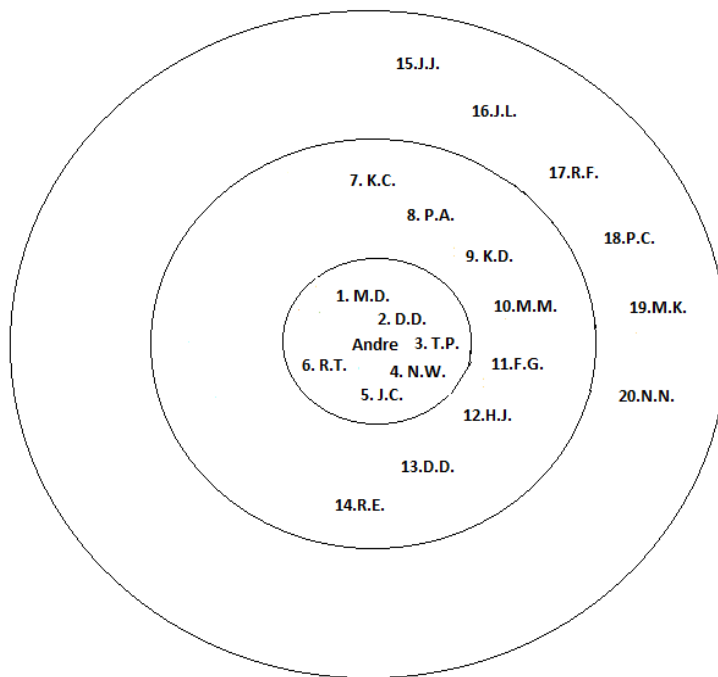
And also similar happened to Max in La Boehme, he had new earplugs for his iPhone and he put his bag in the corner of la Boehme and somebody stole his iPod and earplugs. And to Jelle somebody stole his sweater in Lux. So the most terrible thing that can happen here is to lose your documents or to have an accident.

8. Me: Who are the people from home that you miss the most and why?

Andre: I think the most I miss my family, my parents and my oldest brother, I hadn't seen him for a long time. When I left he just had a little kid and I think now she is one year old, so when I get back she will already walk and talk already probably, so it will be a big change I guess. I miss my other brother as well, but not as much. My friends in Belgium who are really busy now with their thesis, so just one came to visit us, others might come at the end of the summer. And my godfather has a great guy as well, he might come visit, but usually I go to see him, it is always fun to see him. I would like to see him again when I get back. He won't have time, but my parents might come visit me. I think 5 months is OK and they are not so far away, so if you have internet you can talk to them. So it is not that I really miss them, like that I want to go back. I could even stay for a whole year. So sometimes we talk and I ask what's happening and they say "not much" so I am glad I am here.

Me: So now try to concentrate on this period of time that you are here. Who are the people that are important to you, for example here you have met some new friends, but you still have friends from home and family which is important to you. Try to include people from here and people from home.

So write in this diagram and here in the middle it is you. So in the first circle are people, who are so important to you, that you can't imagine life without them. People from home or from here. So you can leave empty space or you can write somebody, depends on your perception of without who you can't imagine life without. So in the second circle are people who are important to you, but less than these and in the third circle are people who are important to you but not as much as these. Just write their initials, so you will know who they are. And try to write less than 20 people.



A3b: Me: Count the number of people in each circle:

A3b1: Me: What is the number of people in the first circle?

Andre: it is 6.

A3b2: Number of people in the second circle?

Andre: it is 7.

A3b3: Number of people in the third circle?

Andre: it is 7.

A4: Me: So now try to concentrate on people in this network and for each question that I will ask you, tell me numbers of people which they do a particular thing for you.

A4a. Me: Are there any people you confide in about things that are important to you? Something important happens to you and you tell them about it?

Andre: What kind of things?

Me: Well something that has happened to you and you won't just go around telling people. Or you have some emotional crisis and you just have to tell someone.

Andre: Let's say 1, 2, 3, 4, depends what it is about though.

A4b: Me: Are there people who reassure you, when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Andre: 3, 4, 13, 14.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to, when you are feeling nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Andre: 5-14.

A4d: Me: Who would make sure that you were cared for if you were ill?

Andre: 1, 2, 8, 15- 20.

A4e: Me: People from who you would borrow a certain thing?

Andre: 8, 15,16,17,18.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip?

Andre: 8, 15-20.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Andre: 8, 15.

A5: Me: So still thinking about these people, try to answer to my questions with all, most, half of them, a few or none.

A5a: Me: How many people you think they don't understand you? They can be your friends but sometimes they just don't understand you.

Andre: Most of them.

A5b: Me: For how many it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Andre: All of them.

A5c: How many of these people know one another?

Andre: A few.

A6: Me: Now about changing your network. Would you like there to be more people in it?

Andre: I am always willing to meet new people, but more people you know, less close you get to everyone else. Here I socialize with everybody, but back home I stay closer to my good friends.

So I once heard that if you have more than 5 friends, you haven't got any friends at all. So I want to meet new people, but to go out with a big group every time and you don't really know anyone. So I would say yes and no.

Me: What about here? Would you like to have more people or not?

Andre: Here I want to meet as much people as it is possible.

Me: Did you think before, that your circle will be bigger, what kind of expectations you had?

Andre: I thought I will have less friends from Erasmus and that I will meet more Catalan people. So here I wish my network would be bigger.

A7: me: What is the biggest thing that you miss here? It can be a person or a thing that you can miss. Some activity or something...

Andre: I really miss my brothers, because of conversations and we talk about everything, like things that we have done in our youth, girls we went out with, things you have done behind your parents back and stuff like that. I miss not having a car, because you can't go whenever you want and I would like to go skiing, but to rent a car it is expensive. At home you can go to a school bar, where everybody hangs out all the time, and here you don't have that. You can just sit outside of course.

A8: What were your expectations about meeting people here? What were your expectations, that they will be more open or not?

Andre: I thought people will be open, because we are all in the same situation, but I also thought that there will be more groups, there are small groups, but at the end everyone meets up and everybody hangs out with everybody, so I like it how it is. One thing that I didn't expect was that there will be so many Belgium people. I didn't know that, maybe too much Belgians. I wanted to meet other people not just from my country. It would be more fun to meet more people from here, different habits and all that. I thought I will have to speak more Spanish, but

Spanish I speak very little here I think. When I don't know something in Catalan, I ask flat mates. So my Catalan it is better than Spanish.

A10: Me: Now let's talk about individuals in your network.

	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	2		1	3	2
2	1	1	3		1	3	2
3	1	1	5		2	3	3
4	1	2	6		2	3	3
5	1	1	5		1	3	3
6	1	1	5		2	3	3
7	1	1	7		2	2	3
8	2	1	7	2,3	2	2	1
9	2	2	7		2	2	3
10	2	1	7		2	2	3
11	2	1	7		2	2	3
12	2	1	7		2	2	3
13	2	2	6		2	3	3
14	2	2	6		2	3	3
15	3	1	9	1,2		3	1
16	3	1	9	1,2		1	1
17	3	2	9	2		3	2
18	3	1	9	1,2		3	1
19	3	2	9	2		3	2
20	3	2	9	2		3	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: So if you think about your first month here, was your group of people who you consider as friends different than now or it is the same?

Andre: It has changed. First I only knew one person and after few days I got to know Erasmus students and then other people, once you hang out with more people, someone you like more and people from home you see less and less and close group of people starts to shift, but people who are really close to you don't change, cause we are here for only a short period of time. So outside circle has changed and inner stayed the same.

A18: Me: did you have a relationship before you came here?

Andre: I didn't have.

ID number of a student: 08 (Marina)

Date of interview: 17.5.2009

Length of interview: 53:45 h

Student's country: Romania

Before I begin, I would like to tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it/them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Marina: My date of arrival to Girona is 8th of February 2009.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Marina: I am not sure yet, I may go either the 15th of June or the end of June. It depends.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Marina: I study at the Faculty of tourism, but I have classes in Advertising and public relations.

Me: What is the year of your studies?

4. Marina: The third one, the last one in my country.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Marina: There are many reasons for which I choose to come to Erasmus, I wanted to see how it is an academic experience in another country, I also came because I know one of the official languages here in Catalunya, Spanish and I knew it's going to be kind of easy for me to communicate with people, I also wanted to learn a bit of this language, Catalan, I wanted to see how it is to live by yourself for a few months, even though my parents still send me the money to support myself, why not making friends here, I would also like to find in two years time masters somewhere in another country, probably in northern country and I see this Erasmus as preparing period of time, I would like to see as much as I can, a bit of everything.

Me: And also to see a different way of life?

Marina: Also I could say that I live in Bucharest with my parents, so in my city I don't need to worry about things, normally things like cooking, going to the supermarket and this kind of things, but here I have to do everything, I know it sounds a bit strange but...

Me: And here you also need to give money for rent and this kind of things right?

Marina: Yes in my country I don't need to pay the bill for I don't know what, here, even though I receive money from my university and from my parents, I think twice before going to a shop and buying something, like some clothes or something that I would like. So yes, also from this point of view I try to be more rational and I hope it will be better in the future, because I am not the kind of person that can save the money.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experiences that you had when you came here, for example for your first week or first two weeks, or maybe even during this time that you stayed here:

Marina: First thing that I liked here was that I had two important experiences. Last summer I went to a summer school where I had a chance to meet different people from different countries and it was really nice and here I also met people from other countries and like

because they are from different countries than the ones I have already knew in the summer. For example, to be more specific I didn't know anybody from Slovenia, so it was nice to meet and also from Lithuania.

Me: So from the countries that before, you didn't even think about.

Marina: Yes I know that countries exist in Europe, but I didn't see people face to face. So this is what I like.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Marina: In the first two weeks I didn't like the Erasmus period, because I was kind of scared I didn't know, I was discovering city, the new world and environment. So now this period for me is really busy at school and I am kind of a bit sad because I know that in a few weeks it's going to end. I knew that it will and I am sure that I will keep in contact with some people, but it is still hard for me to say goodbye. I know life is like this. You go, you see people, you enjoy their company but it has to finish at some point. So in a few words, that would be what I liked here.

Me: What about some other bad experiences that might have stayed in your mind?

Marina: Hm...Bad experiences...

Me: It can be related to anything, people, university, anything...

Marina: I don't know if it was a bad experience, maybe it was good for me because I realized, in my personal life there were some changes. I was also surprised over the academic system here, at the beginning it was a bit difficult for me to get used to it, because in Romania we have final exams in June and in January and for each subject we have to hand in some assignments. Here every 3 days you have to hand in a small assignment and it was a bit stressful, because I was thinking "oh I have to come home and write that and that". And there is no other bad experience, because I try to see every experience as positive one, to learn something from it. Maybe after a few weeks I realized that if I would have worked a bit more in Romania I would save more money for this period here. It is not a problem, but it can always be better.

Me: But if you have parents, who at least give you some money it is OK.

Marina: Yes for a few months, but if I would stay for one year they would kill me. Spain is much more expensive than Bucharest. It is also a problem because here you are so close to some big cities and you can't say to yourself I am not going there, you just have to choose a places to visit, you can't see them all. It is all about making choices.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Marina: I miss my family and especially I miss my mother, because she is a bit sensitive, we don't have like really close relationship, we are more like the mouse and the cat, we have these small fights when I am at home, but every time we are in a small fight we get back together. And she told me that she will be the one I will miss the most from this family and it is true. I miss her because I know she misses me. I know when I will be back home after three days we will have our small usual fight. And of course my friends. Not so much, but some of them. Like for example if I see something here and I know certain person would laugh a lot about that, or when I see something I remember oh this would my friend like. But I don't miss them so much, because I know I will be back so I try to enjoy here as much as I can.

Me: So before you got here you thought you will miss more people from home? I didn't think much about how it is going to be here, because generally I am afraid to be disappointed and I didn't think much how it will be and how will work out. So I prefer to be without expectations. I am also a bit superstitious, I don't like to talk about projects that I have, if they don't turn out to go well I don't like to hear from my friends, "hey what happened with that?...oh so it didn't work out, I am sorry for you". So I don't like this kind of situations.

Me. So now you will try to draw your personal network. You will include people who are important to you in your life right now. So you include people from home and also people who you met here on Erasmus exchange, so people with who you think that you are most connected and that they offer you any kind of support.

So here in the middle is you, in the inner circle are the people without who you almost can't imagine life, here are the people who are very important to you, but not as much as these, and here are people who are also important to you, but less than these.

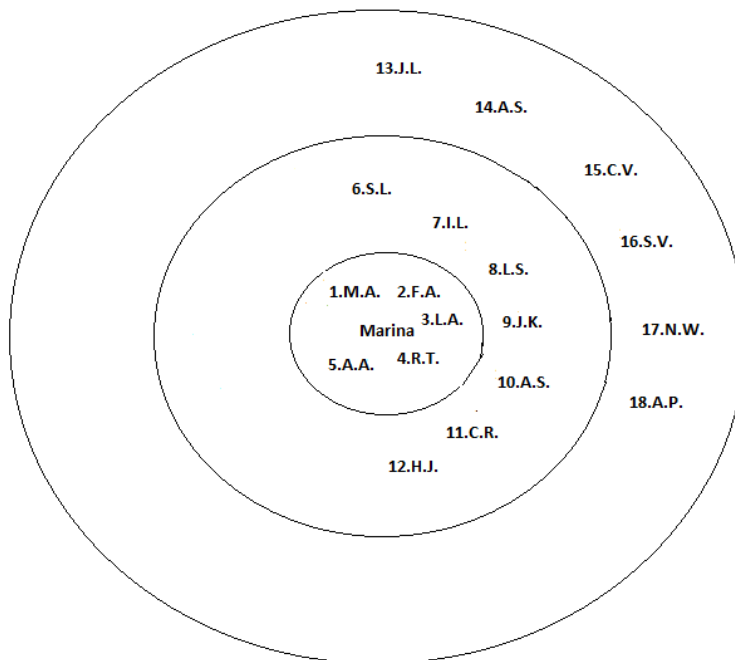
Circles can also be empty, let's say you don't consider anyone without who you couldn't live, so as you wish. You start with one and try not to write more than 20 people.

Marina: In each circle?

Me: No everything together.

Marina: Oh that's ok because I didn't want to write so many people.

Me: And you have to write everyone separately...Mother, father...



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Marina: 18.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Marina: 5.

A3b2: Me: And in the second?

Marina: 7.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Marina: Six.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: If you think about this people, for whom of them would you say that they are ones for who you can confide in for something that it is important to you? For example, something important happens to you and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers, who are this people.

There can be many of them; there can be just two, as you wish.

Marina: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Marina: 3, 4, 5.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Marina: 3.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken cared of if you would have been ill?

Marina: 16, 7.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Marina: 7, 12, 16, 15.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time.

Marina: 12, 16, 13, 14.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Marina: Do you mean people from here or from home?

Me: Well it can be both.

Marina: 1, 2, 3, 7, 12.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Marina: A few of them.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Marina: A few.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Marina: Half of them.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Marina: I think that there are a lot of people, but I selected just some of them. I would like to meet more people, because it is possible that you meet people who match with your personality. So in general I am satisfied, but I would like to meet others as well.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here, people with who would you be able to talk to or to go somewhere...

Marina: I think I miss talks with my brother, because I can talk with him about funny stuff and also when I want to talk something serious I go to him. He is 8 years older than me, so I don't talk about my personal things with other people; I think he is the only one I talk to on an open way. I don't need so much those talks, because I know I will be home soon, but it would be nice to have lunch together or something like that.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Marina: I would say that it is better than OK, because we are so different from each other, I like differences, eventhough they can create troubles sometimes, but I think it is OK, there are lots of people from different parts of the world so it is OK. At least from my point of view people like to socialize, I have met just a few of them who didn't show much interest about that. I didn't meet people who would just say that they came here just to study and see new places and they would like to do it on their own. So I think we are lucky. We have a beautiful Erasmus.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Marina: I have enough people that I can count on them, but I think I should have been more patient on certain moments. I think because of one or two moments could stop being so close to you, he/she is still close to you, but not the way she/he use to be. So I think that this is the only thing I regret, that I wasn't so patient.

Me: Do you think it is your fault or also from the other person?

Marina: I think it is more my fault, because I should understand that people are different (I am talking about a trip) and I should behave more properly. But I feel like I have friends here, they are next to me, but the real friends are at home. I am sure that when we will get to our own countries, we will stay in contact but we will stop being so close. It is impossible, I say I have friends here, but I don't say like she or he is my best friend.

Me: Of course in this short period of time, you can meet friends, but these people don't know you from before, so it is completely different relationship than with your friends at home.

Marina: I am sure you and your flat mates you have a great relationship, even though you do a lot of things together, you have to see a person in different situations.

Me: So about this trip that you are talking about, I am sure if you would have an argument with a person who knows your good and bad side, would be able to forgive you.

Marina: Nothing bad happened, but I am a kind of person who likes to go to the airport early, like 1,5 hour earlier, I know you can't understand me, nobody can, but my friends wanted to be there just on time. So we had a little discussion about that. So it was nothing but actually become something. So I have to avoid them. Especially I dislike this kind of situations where there is not a big reason. Everything is OK, but I would prefer that I would avoid this.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	2	/	1	3	2
2	1	1	3	/	1	3	2
3	1	1	5	/	3	3	2
4	1	2	7	2		2	3
5	1	2	7	/	2	2	3
6	2	1	7	/	2	3	3
7	2	1	9	1		3	1
8	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
9	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
10	2	2	7	/	3	2	3
11	2	2	7	/	2	2	3
12	2	2	8	2,4		2	2
13	3	1	8	2,4		2	2
14	3	1	9	2		2	2
15	3	2	9	1		1	1
16	3	2	8	1		2	1
17	3	2	8	1		2	1
18	3	2	7	/	2	1	3

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your fist month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Marina: Yes it has changed a lot. At the beginning number 16 and 17, I spend a lot of time with them. People from home stayed almost the same.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Marina: Yes I had.

A19: Me: How your living here affected this relationship?

Marina: My living here didn't affect relationship but it made me realize that things at home didn't work the way they should be, so it would end anyway in the future. So this has just helped me to open my eyes. Because I don't know myself very well as I can see now, and before coming here I had pure things in my mind, but coming here got me realize that I have to spend more time with myself and get to know myself better. Because I saw that there are also other types of situations in life. Now I am becoming a little bit philosophical.

Me: Do you think that you would be able to keep a relationship with a person who would be back home if you would think that you have a future together? Despite being apart for 6 months?

Marina: It possible, but in my case it was almost 3 years relationship, it is a *cliché*, but I think that passion disappeared, it was comfortable, I knew that somebody was taking care of me. Here you can see many cases that people have girlfriend and boyfriend at home.

A20: Me: What do you think about relationships that are happening here? You don't need to talk about yourself, just in general.

Marina: Most of them are for a short period of time, most of the people don't think about the future, but they would like that their relationship would last longer, but I think that everybody know that it is really difficult but not impossible. I also think that Erasmus students are people, who don't know yet what they want to do in life. Most of us will have some more academics experiences abroad sometime in the future. I don't like to think too much how it will be in my case, because I know it is kind of impossible. I don't really know about this question. I also believe that people here get more close to each other, because they miss somebody and you need somebody to protect you. Especially girls, I don't know about boys.

Me: So you also think that profile of Erasmus person is somebody who is a bit lost?

Marina: Not lost but wants to know more than majority of other people. I am sure you will also experience some other. I don't know you very well, but as I have seen you would like to see many things.

Marina: Yes and here if you are not willing to socialize, you can just stay alone. So here everybody wants to know everything about everyone. And I hope one day when we make a successful career and we have a lot of money we can just visit each other around Europe. It is my dream that when I will be 40 I will say to my kids that they can go to visit a friend in Spain or in Slovenia, Belgium. But it is kind of difficult to keep in contact.

Me: but with all this global connections you are able to keep in touch. Like Facebook. You always know what is happening to people.

Marina: Yes in my opinion Facebook is good because you can keep in contact with people, sometimes it is like a virus, you are losing your time on it.

ID number of a student: 09 (Anna)

Date of interview: 19.5.2009

Length of interview: 1:02 h

Student's country: Slovakia

Before I begin, I would like tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it/them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Anna: 25th of January 2009, before the week we started the course.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Anna: Till 11th of June.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Anna: Faculty of Economics.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Anna: Third.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Anna: In generally I wanted to have an experience to meet other people, to live in another country to learn more things, to meet many people from many other countries, to improve

language. It is always good if you go to study something in another country, because you can gain a new point of view about a same thing. And you learn to be more opened and not just by studying but by observing the people and their culture. So that is why. And why Girona?

I had more choices and I always wanted to go somewhere to Spain. Cataluña is also not a problem for me, I knew before how it would be, because I have a friend here it was quite interesting.

Me: So you are satisfied with your choice?

Anna: Yes I am.

Me: So you weren't surprised about a Catalan language?

Anna: No, I knew it before. They have also told me this from my university that they want to make sure if I still want to go, even though people speak Catalan and also courses are in Catalan. So I just laughed, because in that time I was studying in Arabic (Jordan) where language is much more difficult to understand than Catalan language. And it wasn't so hard to understand.

Me: Were you speaking Spanish before?

Anna: No I haven't, I had some passive knowledge, and that is it. But I can speak French, so that was an advantage to easily learn Catalan.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experiences that you had when you came here, for example for your first or two weeks, or maybe even during this time that you stayed here?

Anna: There were many. One of the nicest things for me was that I managed to get into the group of Catalan people and one time we had a really nice dinner with my schoolmates, so most of the nice experiences were this cultural exchanging. I was also invited to a dinner of my flat mates, so it was really important for me to have more interactions with local people and not so much with Erasmus. This was what I wanted when I came here.

Me: But it is quite difficult to get to Catalan groups, so you had to be lucky.

Anna: Yes I was quite lucky, because schoolmates were really nice and they were inviting for dinners and I also had some friends from Cataluña before I got here. And two days ago we had really nice »pica pica« here at my flat, there were really nice people, we were laughing and it was so beautiful. And there were also many trips that I really enjoyed. And the thing with Catalan people is that they have their friends since young age and even here they don't have good friends at university and they don't go out much during week, they go out for a weekend when they go home. So they don't make any new interactions with people. There was also one really nice trip that we went with one guy that we have class together, so he took me and some other people to Cadaques and it was really fun.

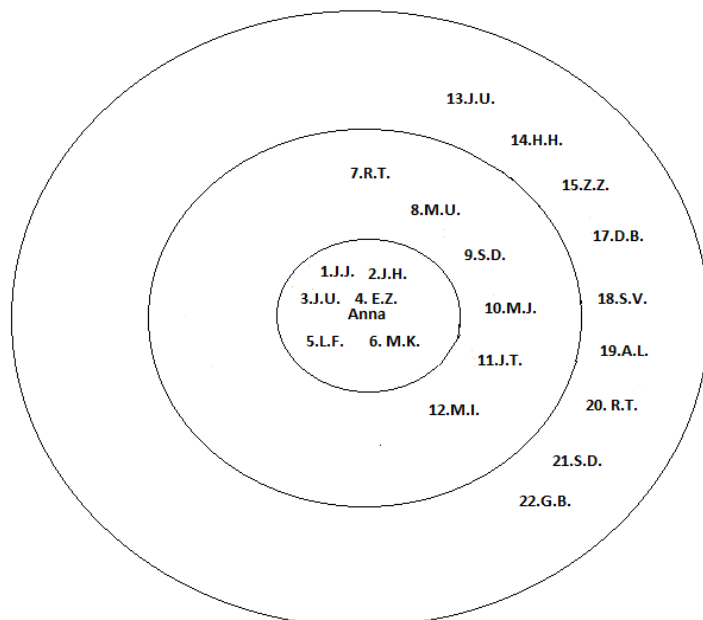
7. Me: What about bad experience that you can remember?

Anna: Hehe, when I got drunk. I usually don't drink so that night was a bit crazy, you remember. But the party before that was really nice. And at the beginning I was a bit sad because I was not interacting with local people, even if I have been more than other Erasmus students. In fact much more, but I wanted even more. It was also interesting to be with Erasmus students, but my goals were different, I wanted to be with the locals. This was a disappointment, but not really bad thing. And the communication in our flat was a bit hard, I was speaking English and they were speaking Spanish, but now we can communicate.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Anna: Family and friends. I don't have very badly homesick; like that I would be crying that I want to go home. I am use to it of traveling. So I have this normal feeling that I miss my parents and my grandparents, I would like to see them; I miss them more than the other people maybe. Because when I will go home, I will see my parents for one week and then I won't see them for one year or maybe one year and a half. I won't see my parents at all. Now I am traveling home and then a week in Slovakia and then France and then I am one year in Hong Kong. And the next year I should do a traineeship abroad. So again half of year.

So now try to write people from your social networks, who offer you any kind of support. In the middle it is you and around you are people who are very important to you, that you cannot imagine life without in the second circle are people who are important to you but not so much and in the third one there are also people who are important to you, but less than others.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Anna: 22.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Anna: 6.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Anna: 6.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Anna: 10.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: Who are those you can confide in to them about something important? For example, something important happens to you and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers, who are these people.

There can be many of them, there can be just two, as you wish.

Anna: 1–6, 9, 10, 11, 12 it also depends which things.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Anna: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Anna: 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 16.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken care of if you would have been ill?

Anna: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. My parents would react first, but anyone else from the first circle would do it.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Anna: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 20.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time.

Anna: 5, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Anna: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 17, 18.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Anna: Half of them.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Anna: A few.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Anna: A few.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Anna: Not really, I am totally satisfied. Maybe I wish that I would have deeper relationship with people from the first circle, I am also open for new people, but there is no need.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here, people with who would you would be able to talk to or to go somewhere...

Anna: Specific people who are important to me. Usually when I am traveling I don't make very deep friendships. I miss hauski (typical food). I miss also deep relationships. I am able to make lots of relationships, but not so deep in such sort time. So I miss feelings which I have towards this people. I miss my grandmother that I have really great relationship with. I also miss my friend and I am talking to them on the phone.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Anna: I knew that when you are on Erasmus, you know every nation very well, except the nation where you are. I didn't have huge expectations. From Erasmus students I expected to

be like this, I am a bit sorry I didn't have more interactions with them. So I am thinking that I could have more relationship with Erasmus, but it is my fault because I was too lazy.

Me: But you think that there are enough chances to meet Erasmus people?

Anna: Yes of course. There is a need to socialize among Erasmus, because everyone comes from different country and many of them were away from home for the first time, so all the people have needs to socialize with others.

But for locals I am a bit disappointed, I thought I will meet more people. Here in Girona you have to make a lot of effort to enter into a group of people. I was invited a few times, but it is different than it is to be inside the group.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Anna: Do you mean here?

Me: Yes people here in this time.

Anna: Lately I started to have a problem by creating deeper relationships, I don't know maybe because I am too sensitive and I am moving all the time, leaving all the time, so I think to myself, I will leave anyway so I don't get attached to people too much. Cause from previous experience looks like I have created some defense mechanism, because I am afraid to miss people too much when we split. At first I was so interested in every single person that has entered my life, but then you just stop doing that.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	2		1	3	2
2	1	1	3		1	3	2
3	1	1	6		2	3	2
4	1	2	6		2	3	2
5	1	2	7		3	2	4
6	1	2	6		2	3	4
7	2	1	6		2	1	4
8	2	1	6		2	3	4
9	2	2	7		7	2	4
10	2	2	7		3	2	4
11	2	2	7		3	2	4
12	2	2	7		3	2	4
13	3	1	7		2	2	4
14	3	1	7		2	2	4
15	3	2	7		2	2	4
16	3	1	8	2,4		2	2
17	3	2	8	2,3,4		2	2
18	3	2	8	2		2	2
19	3	1	9	2,3		2	2
20	3	1	9	1		2	1
21	3	2	9	1		2	1
22	3	1	9	1		2	1

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your first month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Anna: First circle was the same, but third one was different. I didn't know 2 people. And there were some people that I wasn't socializing with.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Anna: I didn't have a boyfriend.

What about here, what do you think that happens with relationship that happen here?

I am very romantic, so I believe in love. But in 99% I think it is stupid. I am the last to talk, because I had something here. But some people may continue. I have a friend who had met some German guy and they are still together. So most of the time it is no future relationship. And I am against this because I have some value.

But there are some people who know that they will have to separate and they just take advantage of the time that they spend together, and there are some people who they really fall in love.

What about if you have somebody at home?

It depends on the character and how mature you are in your relationship. If I would have a boyfriend I wouldn't have a problem. So depends on many factors.

ID number of a student: 10 (Clara)

Date of interview: 20.5.2009

Length of interview: 52:20 h

Student's country: Belgium

Before I begin, I would like to tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it/them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Clara: My date of arrival to Girona is 21st of January.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Clara: Until the 19th of June.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Clara: Economics, marketing.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Clara: It is my 4th year at the University.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Clara: Because I wanted to have experience, live somewhere else, to know people from all around the world, to practice languages, especially Castellano, but here don't speak Castellano. And also to improve my skills to live on my own. And also to prove a little bit to my parents, that I can live alone. Also because in Belgium, I don't live in a student house, I go home every day, so I wanted to experience student life as well.

Why Girona? I didn't decide for Girona. I wanted to go to Valencia, but we had some problems with the man who is responsible for international office. So he wanted me to go in some place

called Acoy, where is very boring so I didn't want to go there. There were very poor train and bus connections. So after that I found out that Ryanair will cancel flights from Belgium to Valencia so I wanted to go to Madrid, but he said that Madrid is too big and everything and he suggested some places and then I decided to go to Girona. So that is why it was Girona.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experiences that you had when you came here, for example for your first week or two weeks, or maybe even during this time that you stayed here?

Clara: At home I am always very strict, I always need some stress to finish my work and here I am so relaxed and seems like I am here for my retirement. Like I have been working a lot for my whole life and now I am here to rest a bit. Also before I came here I couldn't imagine being without him, but now time just passes, when he is here I am happy to see him we call sometimes and we send some messages, but here I live my own life. At home we always go out with a certain group of people, with couples and sometimes I wish I could go somewhere else, he does, I do, but here I don't ask anyone I just go and I can't talk to anyone and now for him is more difficult than for me. Because at first I thought that I will call him from here, crying every night, but now it is almost the opposite. Also people, who thought that I am dependent, are surprised how I am persistent here. For parents I am only a child. So I suggested that maybe we could stay here and I could search for work here, because she (mum) couldn't manage at home, if I would stay here. And my parents told me if I want to live in Spain, they will too. Also with my girlfriends, at first we thought how we are going to miss each other, but now we send some messages sometimes, but that is about it.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Clara: I am not bad thinking here. Maybe at the beginning it was difficult to find an apartment. And now we moved to Fornells and it is far if we want to go out, but it is not that I would like to go out every day, I don't need that. Now I am glad that we have a swimming pool so we can use it, but if I would do it again I would rather live in the center. And also Emma wanted us to be together. She decided for Erasmus very fast, she never talked about it before, so I was thinking that it will be too much for us to be together all the time, that I prefer to be separate, but I have to say that it is really great between us. I was afraid how it will be, but it is OK. And I would never go to Fornells alone, but when we are two, it is OK.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Clara: I miss my boyfriend. He was here last week, and he came here quite a lot in fact, the other time when he left here I wasn't even crying, because normally I am very sensitive when he leaves. In two weeks he will come again, because we are going somewhere with car. I also miss my parents and a few friends as well. So before I came here I thought it will be harder, but I seriously thought it will be worse.

I want to continue by asking you some questions about the people who are important in your life RIGHT NOW. I am going to ask you to help me draw a diagram, which will refer to as your personal network.

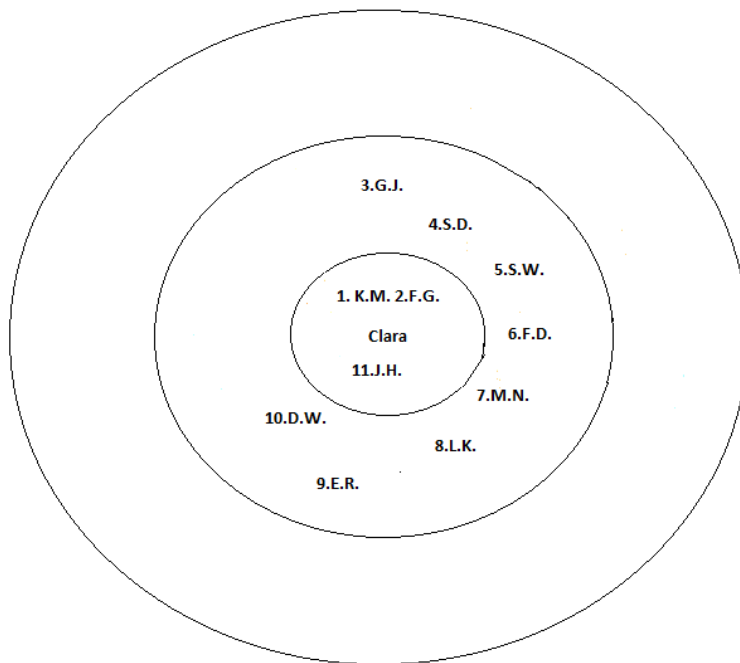
This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now I would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW- focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Clara: 11.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Clara: 3.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

S Clara: 8.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Clara: 0.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: If you think about these people, for whom of them would you say that they are ones for whom you can confide in for something that it is important to you? For example, something important happens to you, and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers, who are these people.

There can be many of them, there can be just two, as you wish.

Clara: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Clara: 2, 8, 11.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Clara: 2, 11.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken care of if you would have been ill?

Clara: 5, 1, 11.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Clara: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time?

Clara: 1, 2, 5, 11.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Clara: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Clara: Half of them.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Clara: A few.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Clara: Most.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Clara: Yes, maybe, because in compare to other people, they go out more, so if we would stay in the center we would also go out more and we would know more people. So yes.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here, people with who would you be able to talk to or to go somewhere...or something like that?

Clara: Nothing. Sometimes I miss good kitchen of my mom and that is it.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Clara: I thought there will be more Erasmus students, but maybe it is better that there are less. Some people I know well from the beginning and they have changed a little bit. Catalan people are mostly friendly when you go out and guys are rapid, sometimes they can also be very closed. And when you want to speak some Catalan, they don't know how to appreciate. Spanish people like in Madrid they are happy if you try. Here you don't see there. Catalans are a little bit cold. Sometimes they are strange, and they have strange hair, they are not very tidy. But my tandem is very great. She is not Catalan mind, she is more opened minded. There's also mind a lot about politics, they always want to talk about politics.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on.

Clara: No. I know a lot of people, but I don't call them friends. Most important for me are just few. And there are enough of them. There are people who want to have many friends, but I am not like that. I take my time for few people. Here I have become a little bit more

spontaneous, because in Belgium I needed more time. Like with Emma, we weren't so good friends, but now we are. I am rather heaving man friends than girls. With girls takes longer. My best friend is a guy and my boyfriend is jealous sometimes.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	7	1		2	1
2	1	1	1		2	2	1
3	1	1,2	7		3	3	3
4	2	2	7		3	3	3
5	2	1	8	2,4		2	3
6	2	1	8	2,4		2	3
7	2	2	8	2,4		2	3
8	2	2	2		1	3	2
9	2	2	7		3	1	4
10	2	1	3		1	3	2
11	2	1	7		3	2	3

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your fist month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Clara: Yes I don't know some people, Emma was not so close to me, also my relationship with my boyfriend Fredrick has improved, and we have more respect towards one another. There are some people that we were hanging out at the beginning and now we are not anymore. But my parents are in my heart so they are always here. My friend had a relationship with a boy and now he doesn't speak to her anymore, so we are not in good relation anymore with him, even though we were together at the beginning all the time.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Clara: Yes.

A19: Me: How your living here affected this relationship?

Clara: Well sometimes you do stupid things. But it is possible to survive. Sometimes my hormones go wild, but when I see him and I hear him again, I am happy. Sometimes when you see each other every day it becomes boring. Two years ago we ended our relationship, because I thought that I can't spend my young life just with him. And then he went to America and there was one guy at my class and there were some feelings between us and when Fredrick came here I admitted that I have feelings toward somebody. So we ended and during this time other guy convinced me about his honesty, because he was kissing another girl. But we were communicating a lot during this time with Fredrick. So we were together again after a while. My parents were mad because I broke up with him, because he is really a good guy.

ID number of a student: 11 (Sandra)

Date of interview: 22.5.2009

Length of interview: 49:02 h

Student's country: Poland

Me: Before I start this, I would like to tell you that this interview is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions that you don't want to answer, or you don't understand, just ask me and I will try my best to explain on another way.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Sandra: it is 25th January.

2. Me: And until when are you planning to stay here?

I plan to stay here till the end of June.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Sandra: Faculty of Economics.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Sandra: It is 5th, the last one.

Me: How is this possible?

Sandra: Because you start Uni when you are 18.

5. Me: Why did you decide to go for Erasmus exchange?

Sandra: At first I didn't want to go to Erasmus, I thought it isn't for me, because of language and so on, and then I was here during holidays and I was working, and then I said OK, it will be my last chance to go somewhere for longer than 2 weeks. Because after this I will start working so it will be impossible to go somewhere longer than two weeks, so I decided to enjoy my last year of studies.

Me: So that is the main reason?

Sandra: The main reason and I really wanted to learn Spanish.

Me: Did you succeed?

Sandra: Not really...I am glad that I am here because I have met many very nice and interesting people, but I haven't learned Spanish here at all. But I improved my English. So it is good. At the beginning I thought I will speak Spanish, so I wasn't prepared for English so much. Now I think that my Spanish is even worse than it was at first, because all the time we are speaking English. In our flat, at the university I even have some classes in English. And when I have a meeting with my tandem partner, we mainly speak English. Only maybe half an hour in Spanish and then English. It is my fault also, because I could watch TV or some movies in Spanish, but...so maybe I will come back here. Because I really like it.

Me: Here, or somewhere else in Spain?

Sandra: I think that somewhere else, where they speak Spanish. Here they speak Catalan, I don't mind, but I don't want to learn Catalan so much.

Me: Did you learn Catalan, are you able to speak?

Sandra: No, I tried once with my tandem. But what you can tell? I look like this, I have a family and nothing more you know...it is basic so it is boring a little bit.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experiences that you can remember from the time, you arrived to Girona? It can be related to anything, finding a flat, people, etc...

Sandra: I have met a lot of nice people, I learned a lot about of history of Cataluña. And the nicest thing is that people here are nicer and they are happier, with less problems and I liked it. They also don't feel the pressure of time. If they have to do something, they will do it, but later, not now. I think in our countries you have your schedule and you have to do it and you feel the pressure all the time. And you are running from one part of the city to another. People are calm. Maybe because of the sun. And I also think they are a little bit lazy. Here I can also travel more than in Poland, I can visit a lot of places, I have great time with all Erasmus students, we are going out, drinking and also my flat mates are really nice, and I am glad that I found them. At first I thought it will be a disaster, you saw it. So we are like a family. I could live like that for at least one year. I regret I didn't come here in September.

Me: But it is a really great experience for you, because at first you were afraid and now you realized that it is not a problem.

Sandra: And I realized that you can do whatever you want. If you want to do something, you should do it. And not to be afraid. I learned English. I would regret if I wouldn't come here.

Me: And you hang out with Belgium people and they can speak English very well.

Sandra. I don't know where they got this possibility. Maybe because they are a small country. But you also don't have problems with English right?

Me: I don't, but I wouldn't brag about my Spanish.

Sandra. It is because we don't meet many people here. I don't know is it our fault or theirs, all the time we are separated away from Spanish people.

Me: But we don't really have a chance to meet people, because university doesn't really organize anything not even for us, Erasmus. We can only socialize in La Boehme.

Sandra: And also La Boehme is separating us from others, we have it on Wednesdays and on Thursdays La Boehme is for students from here. They rather go out with their own friends, so that is why Wednesdays are for us. It is a little bit stupid.

Me: As I said, we don't have a chance to meet locals.

Sandra: Maybe we are also a little bit afraid of them I don't know. I would like to know more people from here. I also have luck with my tandem partner, we spend together about three hours per week, and we just walk around, we have a coffee and we talk. He is really nice, a bit lazy but really nice. I like him.

7. Me: Let's continue with bad experiences, which you remember from the time that you arrived here. Can you tell me some?

Sandra: Bad experience was my first flat. It was a disaster. Now I think it was really long time ago and it was the worst experience here. We went here and we saw that flat. I thought "Oh my God", we just started to be here and it is so bad. Maybe I also expected that it will be a bit different with Erasmus students. We are separated a bit as you have probably noticed. And I don't have any more bad experiences. I was thinking that I have to tell everyone to go to Erasmus, definitely but for one year, half is just not enough.

First you think, oh will I be able to stay so long without my friends, without my family, and then here you meet a lot of people and I could live like that.

Me: Do you think it was easier for you because you went together with Sandra?

Sandra: At first I was really glad that I went together with Sandra, because I had all the time somebody, a close friend from Poland. There are also disadvantages; like that we have spent a lot of time together. So every time when I am alone somewhere, somebody asks me, what happened, why you are alone, where is Sandra, everyone think about us like two, not as separated people.

Me: And you even have a same phone number.

Sandra: Yes even that. So I think that maybe it would be better if I would come alone, and she should come to some other place or whatever.

Me: At the beginning it is always better to have someone with you to share the burden.

Sandra: Yes it is good to have a friend with you all the time. But after half of year sometimes I am tired and I have to go alone somewhere. And when I do something alone, it is like why you are going alone, take me with you, so it is weird. I am still happy that she is here, but it would be different. I have heard from a lot of people that you should go alone for Erasmus. And it is true.

Me: I am happy that I am alone, but I was also happy that my friend was here for the first 14 days. It was a huge support for me. And then also some friend came and I was happy, but I hope they would come more separately.

Sandra: I had the same situation. They all came to visit me in March. And I was so tired. I thought to myself, go and come back in June.

Me: And you have to take everyone to the same place, they all want to go to Barcelona.

Sandra: Exactly, I have been in Barcelona 6 times. You want to go with them, because they came because of you, but sometimes I didn't go. I said just go without me, I will be here, waiting for you. Money is the biggest problem here. Our scholarships are not enough. Probably because of Girona, here it is a little bit expensive. Maybe in Andalucía would be enough. Thankfully we have a cheap place to live.

8. Me: Who are the people from your home, that you miss the most and why?

Sandra: I miss my sister; I have 3 sisters and one brother. But one of them especially, because she is always very supportive, she gives me advice when I need some, I miss my father, Well I miss my family. It is easier that you don't see them, but when you go home and come back it is hard. So at the moment I miss most my sister and one of my friends. And of course I miss my family very much, but I know I'll see them soon so it is OK.

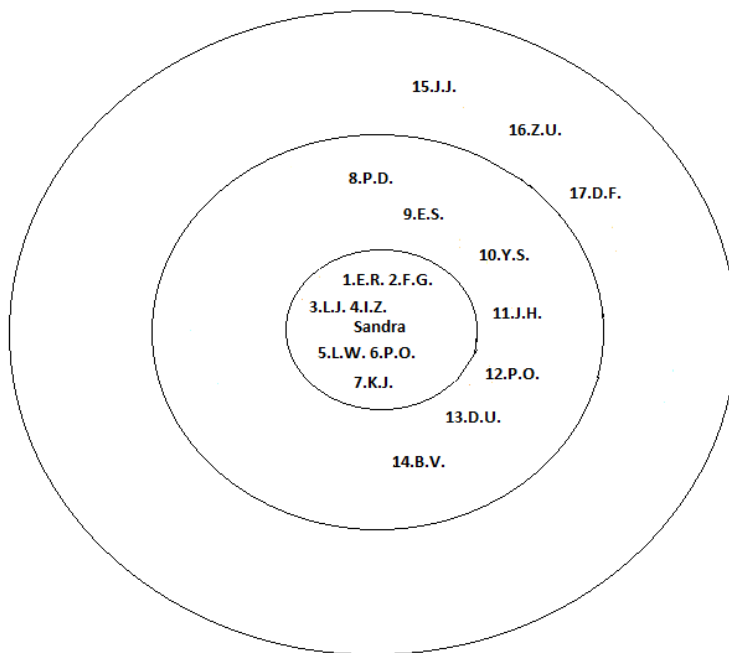
Me: Before you came here you thought you will miss them more or you expected like this?

Sandra: I thought I will miss them more. I think that when you are here and you don't participate so much in their life, so you don't think about their problems so much, so it is different. It is a little bit easier to be here.

Before Erasmus, I thought I couldn't live abroad, but now I know I can. When someone asks me what your plans are for the future, I really don't know. I will go to Poland, write my thesis and then no idea. I think I should go abroad earlier. I still have some plans, maybe I will come back. Maybe I will go for Leonardo DaVinci programme as well. There are more programs like this, so if you want to go, you can find something else as well.

Me: Now I would like you to draw a diagram about people who are important to you in this period of time that you are here. So in the middle of this circle it is you, in the middle circle are people who are important to you so much, that you can't imagine living life without them, in

the second circle are people who are less close to you than these in the middle, and in the third those, who are close to you but less than all the others.



A3b1: Me: Now please tell me, how many people are there in the first circle?

Sandra: 7.

A3b2: Me: In the second?

Sandra: 7.

A3b3: Me: And the number of people in the third circle?

Sandra: 3.

A4: Now I will ask you some questions about people in your network and you will tell me the numbers of people which do a particular thing for you.

A4a. Me: Are there any people you confide in about things that are important to you? Something important happens to you and you tell them about it?

Sandra. There are: 1, 3, 7.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you, when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Sandra: 1, 6, 7.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to, when you are feeling nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Sandra: 1, 5, 7.

A4d: Me: Who would make sure that you were cared for if you were ill?

Sandra: 2, 1, 4, 6.

A4e: Me: People from who you would borrow a certain thing?

Sandra: 1, 2, 4, 6.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip?

Sandra: 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17.

A4g: Me: people from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Sandra: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18.

A5: Me: So still thinking about these people, try to answer to my questions with all, most, half of them, a few or none.

A5a: Me: How many people you think they don't understand you? They can be your friends but sometimes they just don't understand you.

Sandra: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Sandra: Half of them.

A5c: How many of these people know one another?

Sandra: Most of them.

A6: Me: Now about changing your network. Would you like there to be more people in it?

Sandra: Yes I would like.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing that you miss here? It can be a person or a thing that you can miss. Some activity or something...You miss something that you have at home, some sort of support maybe, some conversations or somebody to go out here, to do certain things or something like that, which you don't have here...

Sandra: Sometimes I miss conversations and also support. Do I have to tell you examples? It is like this here, I have some friend here, but it is different than with your friends and family. Sometimes I miss to tell what exactly I feel and about what I am thinking I miss some kind of talks with people who I know for a long time.

A8: Me: What were your expectations about meeting people here? What were your expectations, that they will be more open or not?

Sandra: No. I have expected something that we have here. That everyone would like to meet some people that everyone would like to have some adventure and new friendships. It is like that. Maybe I have expected that we will be more like a group, like a huge group, not smaller groups. But I still think that it is OK.

Me: At least in these small groups you can find real friends.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you could depend on? It means somebody that you could rely on?

Sandra: I don't know how to answer this question. Because I didn't expect that I will meet somebody. I think I have some difficulties to find real friends. It is hard for me to trust people. That is why here, I didn't even expect that I will meet somebody. And it would be great to have more people to depend on. I mean here I have Sandra, but I have known her for a very long time.

A10: Me: now let's talk about individuals in your network.

	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	4		2	2	2
2	1	1	3		1	3	3
3	1	2	4		1	3	1
4	1	2	4		2	3	4

5	1	1	5		3	3	1
6	1	2	2		1	2	3
7	1	2	7		1	2	2
8	2	2	7		2	2	4
9	2	2	7		1	2	2
10	2	2	7		2	2	3
11	2	2	8	1		2	1
12	2	1	8	1		2	1
13	2	1	8	1		2	1
14	2	1	9	2		2	2
15	3	2	7		1	2	4
16	3	2	7		2	2	3
17	3	1	7		2	2	3

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: So if you think about your first month here, was your group of people who you consider as friend different than now or it is the same?

Sandra: A little bit they changed. Everyone stayed the same, except my flat mates.

A18: Me: Before you got here, you had a boyfriend?

Sandra: No, so it was easier.

A19: Me: What do you think about relationships that happen in Erasmus?

Sandra We have different lives here. Sometimes I think it is for a moment only. I think that after you go home, everything will change. Here you don't have problems that you have in your real life. You don't have to go to work and all that things. So it is a little bit different. I hope that there are some couples that will survive, but mostly not. And there is another culture. And it depends if you can find yourself in different country. I would like to have a polish guy, because I know we have the same culture, we think the same way, speak the same language. I need somebody who will speak to me in my own language. For example you can speak the language, but sometimes you cannot express yourself in the way that you would like to do. So I think mostly is for staying here. You really have to be engaged to relationship to survive it.

ID number of a student: 12 (Bianca)

Date of interview: 25.5.2009

Length of interview: 37:35

Students's country: Italy

Me: Before I begin, I would like to tell you that thin interview is completely voluntary. If there will be any questions that you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue.

Firstly I would like to ask you some questions related to your staying here:

1. What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Bianca: First one is 24th of January and the actually one was on the 28th of February and I was in Italy during this time, 'cause I had exams. I was a week here and a week there.

2. How long are you planning to stay here?

Bianca: For studying till the end of June and maybe till the end of July for relay.

3. On which faculty are you studying?

Bianca: Architecture.

4. What is the year of your studies? I am in 4th year.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come for Erasmus exchange?

Bianca: Because I love traveling and to see new places, I already had studying experience abroad and I wanted to do it as a grown up. Probably because I love meeting new people. It is always a surprise what you find, for the people and what you're been doing. And for the studies of course. Because Spain is a lot better than Italy in architecture. I was really sick how they are teaching in Italy and I wanted to see some other countries.

Me: Why did you decide to come here in Girona?

Bianca: At first I decided for Holland, but I couldn't go there, I liked Girona because it is really small, but they told me that it is really active, that I wouldn't get bored. So for Erasmus people here it is true, because Erasmus people always find a way to party, but for people who live here it is boring and a lot different. But I am having fun. I also wanted to go away from my university in Italy. I already have a degree in architecture, but I know I couldn't do a project on my own. So I wanted to look around and find to study someplace else if I want to study further for the second degree.

6. Can you describe me one or more good experience that you remember from the time, that you arrived to Girona? It can be related to finding flat, people, anything...

Bianca: First one that I felt that this is how I wanted to live on Erasmus was the first dinner, when we came back from Barcelona, when we went to the River Cafe and it was so nice, even though we have just met, because everyone was so eager to make friends with the others, it was a fun night. And then the party for Nadia going away, it is something that I will remember forever. Nadia was a friend with who I have spent most of the time with, so it was really intense, because we were real friends.

Me: Anything else? All the time it is something different. We go to La Boheme every week, but every time it is something different. And then going to trips, also when my friend was here to visit me, I felt like at home, because I was showing her around and all.

7. What about some bad experiences?

Bianca: Some days I was feeling kind of lonely, at first you know everybody, but you are not really friends with, so sometimes it is a bit weird feeling. At the beginning I really missed my family and my sisters, so I needed someone to talk to deeply, but there was nobody there to talk or to cry with, or tell something really personal. And some days I wasn't feeling good with my flat mates, because they have a totally different way of living than mine, they are really loud so it is bothering if I need to study and I can't invite friends because they are always there and they are also really dirty, I am always the one that needs to clean. But sometimes it is strange, because it is as much my flat as theirs, because we are all paying for it, so we should all have the same rights. They are not really my friends. Still I would go out with them or invite them to Italy, but they are not my friends. I am going to miss them when I get home, but just for a short period. One more thing that I don't like about them is that they speak Mallorquinian,

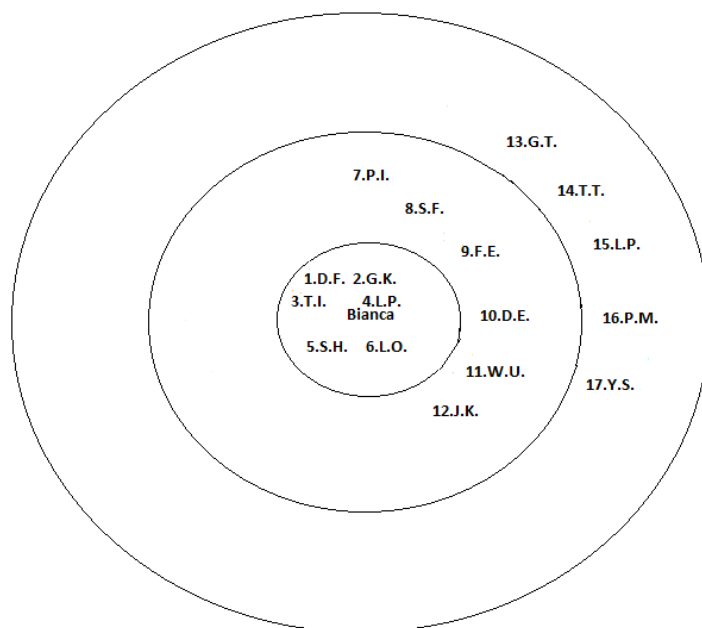
which is worse than Catalan and they know I don't understand it, so sometimes I really feel that I am like the fifth wheel or something. I am not included. They could speak Spanish or Catalan, I could understand it if I would put some effort in it. I don't think it is respectful and polite. Sometimes I really thought that I really want to live with Spanish people, because my friends told me, that that is the only way to learn Spanish and it wouldn't be like that by living with Erasmus students. So now if I could go back, I would choose for some other solution. Because I think that I have missed lots of things living there. I always have to call others and ask what they are doing. That is why I would like to change apartment for July if I stay here. Another thing is also that I don't like to be by myself. I am not used to it of having free time, so I don't know what to do when I am alone. I need someone to talk to or even not just to talk, just to lie on the ground, just to know that a person is there.

8. Me: Who are the people from your home that you miss the most and why?

Bianca: My sister and my cousins, because we do everything together, it is weird to have some new experiences and then to tell them on the messenger, it is just not the same. And my friends, my three best male friends, also my parents. I miss them but I try not to, because I know that I will go home.

Now I won't to continue by asking you some questions about people, who are important in your life right now. I am going to ask you to draw a diagram, which will be your personal network. Concentrate on people from home and also from here. Anyone who offers you any kind of support.

So in the middle it is you and around you there are people that it is hard for you to imagine life without. In the second circle are people who are close to you, but less than ones in the first circle and in the third one, there are people who are important to you, but less than those in the first two circles.



A3b: Count the numbers of people in each circle:

A3b1: Number of people in the first circle: 6

A3b2: Number of people in the second circle: 6

A3b3: Number of people in the third circle: 6

A4: Now I would like to ask you some questions about people in our network.

A4a: Are there people who you confide in about things that are important to you?

Bianca: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17.

A4b: Are there people, who reassure you, when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Bianca: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 17.

A4c: People, who you talk to when you are feeling nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Bianca: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15.

A4d: Who make sure that you were cared for if you were ill?

Bianca: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 15 they would come here.

A4e: From whom you borrow a certain thing?

Bianca: All.

A4f: With who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip?

Bianca: 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18. Some of them are coming or came.

A4g: From who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Bianca: 1, 2, 3,4,5,6

A5: Me: So still thinking about these people, try to answer to my questions with all, most, half of them, a few or none.

A5a: Me: How many people you think they don't understand you?

Bianca: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Bianca: A few.

A5c: How many of these people know one another?

Bianca: Half of them.

A6: Me: Now about changing your network. Would you like there to be more people in it?

Elisa: Yes.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing that you miss here?

I miss my way of life in Italy, some small things like just hanging out on the square in Italy, some stupid things, sometimes I miss it, but it is not like I couldn't live without. But people are the most important thing. So the most I miss people and talks. And deep relationships, like with my sister or with cousin.

A8: Me: What were your expectations about meeting people here? What were your expectations, that they will be more open or not?

Bianca: I am glad of what I have found, but I thought there will be less groups of people. Now groups formed, and people are doing things on their own. I wasn't expecting that. I expected that everybody will want to go out with everybody else. I am happy like this. Also from Catalan people I have expected that they will be more open. I know just 3 people here, Catalan that I hang out with, but other classmates, they still don't say hi, after 3 months it is stupid and childish. I really don't like it. Their culture is always under defense, they are always protecting their ideas, their culture, and traditions. So subconsciously they are afraid of strangers.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you could depend on? Not really I don't really like to depend on people.

A10: Me: Now let's talk about individuals in your network.

	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	4		1	3	1
2	1	2	6		1	2	2
3	1	2	2		1	3	1
4	1	1	3		1	3	2
5	1	2	6		2	3	3
6	1	2	6		2	2	3
7	2	1	7		2	2	3
8	2	1	7		2	2	3
9	2	2	7		2	3	2
10	2	2	7		2	2	3
11	2	2			2	2	3
12	2	1			2	3	3
13	3	2			2	3	2
14	3	1		2		3	1
15	3	2		2		3	2
16	3	1			2	2	2
17	3	2			3	3	2

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: So if you think about your first month here, was your group of people who you consider as friend different than now or it is the same?

Bianca: It is changed. Everybody was meeting each other and then some groups formed.

A18: Me: Before you got here, you have a relationship?

Bianca: I splitted with my boyfriend in December, but it would happen anyway.

A19: Me: What do you think about relationships that happen in Erasmus?

Bianca: I think it is possible to have a relationship here. I had some fun relationship, but now I am starting a bit more serious with somebody, and we are getting to know one another and it is really OK.

ID number of a student: 13 (Emma)

Date of interview: 28.5.2009

Length of interview: 45:59 h

Student's county: Belgium

Before I begin, I would like tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it/them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Emma: 21st of January.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Emma: Till the 21st of June.

Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

3. Kim: Economics.

Me: What is the year of your studies?

4. Emma: Before this I did three years and now one, so forth.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Emma: For the experience, to know some other cultures, some other people, to have the experience and I think I will never forget. Girona, well before I chose Valencia, because it is really Spain, but then they wanted to send us to some other country that was not so good and we had to choose between Girona and some others. But I don't like so much Catalan here, I would prefer Spanish.

Me: But you still like it here?

Emma: Of course I would rather be in a city where they speak Spanish, so that I would improve my Spanish, because I don't like Catalan classes and everything, that is very stupid.

6. Me: Can you describe me one or more good experiences that you had when you came here, for example for your first or two weeks, or maybe even during this time that you stayed here?

Emma: First, accommodation, I lived at first at Ramblas, I moved three times. Apartment where we now live was not prepared yet, after that we went to an apartment with one couple, where we had to share a room and bed, Clara and I, so in this 5 months, I really lived close with Stefanie and I think that relationship between us is very strong, stronger than when I came here, we were friends before, we were schoolmates in the secondary and also in high school. The good experiences I have are also about going out. It was funny, visiting Costa Brava, all those nice places that you have to visit if you are here. The tandem that we met only once. I don't like that because I couldn't improve the language. She never has time.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Emma: At school, they don't try to explain things, always when we ask something in Spanish, they answer in Catalan, also at the beginning we had to search everything about credits. So the organization of the university here and also in Belgium is very bad. I called them in February and they didn't answer. I was asking about the classes that I am attending if they are OK and no answer at all. Clara's mom also called the director and he didn't call back. And they were also complaining from our Uni, why we went for Erasmus that we can't do that again. And we were searching a lot for accommodation, people didn't answer and this kind of things. Even though we arranged our flat before we got here, when we came, it wasn't ready because of the crisis, so we had to find something else. It was good that we were together with Clara. So as we don't live near the center of Girona every time we go out we have to take the last bus, so it's very stupid. That's why we don't go out often, because we always have to take the bus at 4 in the morning. At the beginning we were always at La Boehme, but now we aren't.

Me: Why didn't you find some other flat?

Emma: Because it was already arranged by Clara and I didn't look for it because I had exams. And I didn't want to leave Clara alone there as she looked for it. But there are good sides; we have a pool and calm environment. So it is fine.

Me: Something else?

Emma: Hm, also man all the time are saying »guapa, guapa«, it's annoying sometimes.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Emma: I think most my friends. There is a friend of mine, a girl with which I was friend since I was little and we normally go out every weekend, but now we can't. So I miss my friends. Less my family. My parents also visited me, one week ago. My mother visited me and I went home, so... and now I have a feeling that I want to move out from them, but first I have to find a boyfriend who has a lot of money, because it's too expensive to live on your own.

I want to continue by asking you some questions about the people who are important in your life RIGHT NOW. To get it straight, I am going to ask you to help me draw a diagram, which will refer to as your personal network.

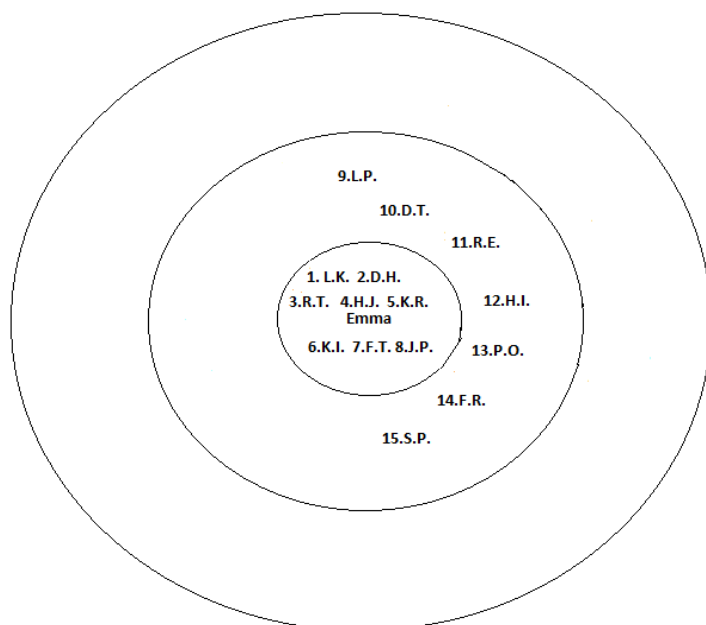
This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now I would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW- focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Emma: 15.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Emma: 8.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Emma: 7.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: To who of these people you can confide in about something that is important to you?

Emma: I go to 1, 2, 3 and 4.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Emma: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 (Depends on situation).

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Emma: 1, 2, 3.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken care of if you would have been ill?

Emma: 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 all the Erasmus students I guess...

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Emma: 2, 10, 14, 13.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time?

Emma: 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Emma: 2, 5, 6.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Emma: A few.

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Emma: A few.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Emma: Half of them.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Emma: I think it is quite good, but there can always be more.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here, let's say people with who would you be able to talk to or to go somewhere...

Emma: Sometimes just during weekend I want to go to one bar where I always go in Belgium, to talk with my friends, my best friends. And my best friend, I don't hear her very much and she works all the time, she is not on computer much. Maybe it is better to hear them less; at least you don't feel homesick. When I was at home for Ester and I got back here I was counting

days to go back. Because here I am not doing anything and I would like to work again, in Belgium I have many things to do. Here you become lazy.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Emma: I think they are open, but we have to go to La Boehme, or organize something on our own. School should organize more things.

Me: Did you think you will meet some local people?

Emma: When we go out we meet some and when we are in classes with them. We have contacts only in classes or when we go out they come to us and they say "hello". Some girls also invited us for a trip with them, but I can't go. So we just see each other sometimes, but we are not friends.

A9: Me: would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Kim: Not really it is OK.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	2	7		2	2	1
2	1	2	7		2	2	1
3	1	2	7		2	3	3
4	1	2	6		2	1	3
5	1	1	3		1	3	2
6	1	2	2		1	3	2
7	1	1	5		2	3	4
8	1	2	6		2	3	4
9	2	1	7		2	2	3
10	2	2	8	2,4		2	3
11	2	1	8	2,4		2	3
12	2	1	8	2,4		2	3
13	2	2	8	2,4		2	3
14	2	2	8	2,4		2	3
15	2	2	8	2,4		2	3

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your fist month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Emma: Yes, the first month was different. You meet other Erasmus students all the time. And I had a boyfriend here, but we split up.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Emma: No.

A20: Me: What do you think about relationships that are happening here?

Emma: Bad. You can't be alone if there are two people. You have to be social, so no more Erasmus relationships.

ID number of a student: 14 (Jarek)

Date of interview: 30.5.2009

Length of interview: 53:45 h

Student's country: Poland

Before I begin, I would like to tell you that this questionnaire is completely voluntary, so if there are any questions you don't want to answer, just let me know and we will continue or if you don't understand some questions just ask me and I will try my best to explain it/them to you.

1. Me: What is the date of your arrival to Girona?

Jarek: 25th of January.

2. Me: How long are you planning to stay here?

Jarek: In Girona or in Catalunya?

Me: Both.

Jarek: In Girona I am planning to stay till the end of June, not longer, because my flat contract ends in that time and probably if everything goes OK, I will stay in Catalunya till the end of September.

Me: Really, what are you going to do?

Jarek: Work. So if I find a job, there is a slight possibility that I will, I will stay.

Me: What kind of job are you looking for?

Jarek: Either in a hotel as a receptionist, or in a camp as a contact person for foreigners, or as a waiter.

Me: Did you find something already?

Jarek: Let's say I have found something potential, but I don't want to say it is sure, because nothing is for sure.

3. Me: On which faculty are you studying here?

Jarek: Faculty of Economics.

4. Me: What is the year of your studies?

Jarek: Fourth.

5. Me: Why did you decide to come to Girona for Erasmus exchange?

Jarek: I had no choice; my parents would kill me if I wouldn't go. I was always keen on traveling and there was a good opportunity to go at my university, so my parents just pushed me to go, I am kind of surprised that I have decided so late. The main reason is though that I really like traveling. So I had an opportunity to be an exchange student in London and in Germany. But it was on high school and it was very short period of time. But I really liked it. It was in high school. So I thought Erasmus is even better.

Me: Are you satisfied that you went for Erasmus?

Jarek: Satisfied that I went for Erasmus yes, but satisfied to be in Girona yes, but with less enthusiasm.

Me: So if you would have a chance to choose again, would you choose the same or you would change your mind?

Jarek: I didn't have much of a choice. Because my marks weren't very good. I went for Erasmus because I was working in a student organization. Because of that my University honored it, but they didn't leave me any choice. I only said that I want to go to Spain. So Girona it is, they said take it or leave it. If I would have a choice I would choose Granada or Valencia, more south. But if you don't have a choice, you take what you have.

Me: So have you seen those other places of Spain?

Jarek: No I will travel with my brother when he comes here at the end of June, until now I have only traveled to Valencia to Las Fallas. And if I get that job I will travel after I finish working there. I have just visited Pyrenees; I was in the valley of river Nuria.

6. Can you describe me one or more good experience that you had when you first arrived to Girona and during this time. It can be related to anything.

Jarek: I am not sure if it is correct, but for me the best experience was going to Las Fallas in Valencia. I actually came here to see such things and this was one of the biggest fests that I have seen here. Very characteristic. And we went there with a very old car and it was really adventurous and exciting.

Me: What about something related to people, let's say to Erasmus students or people here in general?

Jarek: Well it is like that, that I like some Catalonian people even more than some Erasmus students actually, for instance good moment was when I moved to new flat, I got to know my flat mates and got along with them really well, we have seen several events together and I was surprised in a good way that living with Catalonians is so nice.

Me: So you have learned Catalan?

Jarek: Normally we speak Spanish so I didn't have an opportunity to speak Catalan, but three days before the exam I was forced to speak Catalan.

7. Me: What about bad experience?

Jarek: One thing that I don't like here is that we are being treated as Catalan students. We have to be at the same level. In Poland are Erasmus student treated as they are on holiday. Everyone knows that they are here for social networking. But we are being treated equal as Catalonians.

Another bad experience was searching a flat and some situations related to it. I think it is life. There were some arguments with a group that we were searching for a flat. I don't like such a things, but I think it is normal that this things happen, because everyone wanted to find a flat, people were tired, but during the time that we were searching for it some things happened that weren't very nice.

Me: But if you think now, it was probably for the best like that.

Jarek: Well yes I decided not to take a flat, and I am glad because I have fantastic flat and flat mates, the only bad thing is, that I have to leave it at the beginning of July. I could stay there even longer. So it was mainly this and a few less dramatically. Like matricular things here at the University, there was such a mess here, I can't understand why information page for foreign students is in Catalan. I took it as an adventuring experience, but it was irritating.

It took me more than one month to subscribe here at this university. But I don't want to complain I am happy here. So this is it. My advice is if you are searching for a good flat; find it

on your own, works the best. Even with two people it is more difficult, because everyone has its own problem.

8. Me: What about if you think about people from home. Who would you say that you miss the most and why?

Jarek: Of course my parents, my brother etc. But I think also, because I went to Poland once during Semana Santa, I also met with friends from high school and we are like one big family, so for a moment I was sad that I have to go back to Spain. So I miss them and two of my very good friends supposed to come here, but they couldn't. One has to work, and the other has exams during that time, so only my brother comes. So I miss my friends from high school and I miss that times that I could go every Friday to drink cheap wine behind the supermarket. Doesn't mean that I am an alcoholic, but this entire high school atmosphere comes back, so we do it. We could easily go to the pub, but we rather go like that.

I want to continue by asking you some questions about the people who are important in your life RIGHT NOW. To get it straight, I am going to ask you to help me draw a diagram, which will refer to as your personal network.

This is you in the middle. The first circle will include only the person or people that you feel so close, that it is hard for you to imagine life without them.

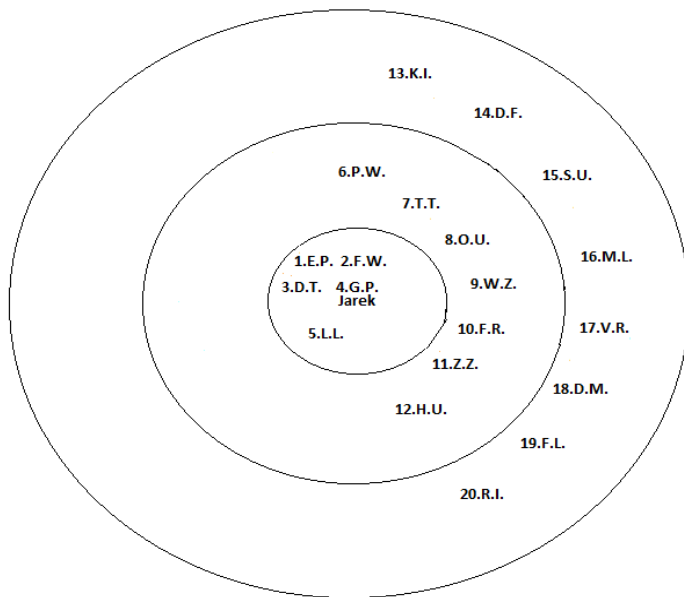
In the second circle, there will be people, who you don't feel quite that close to, but who are still important to you.

People, to whom you feel less close, but who are still important to you, would go to the third circle.

Circles can be empty, full, or anywhere in between.

Now i would like you to think about the people in your life RIGHT NOW - focus on the people who are over 18 and who are important to you.

Jarek: Very difficult, there are many people. What should I do if there are many people that I can't live without? I can't imagine life without them...



A3b: Me: How many people are there in your network?

Jarek: 20.

A3b1: Me: So how many people are there in your first circle?

Jarek: 5.

A3b2: Me: And the second?

Jarek: 7.

A3b3: Me: And third?

Jarek: 8.

There are many true friends, friend in need is friend indeed and these are my friends.

A4: Me: Now I would like to ask you some questions related to these people:

A4a: If you think about this people, for whom of them would you say that they are ones for who you can confide in for something that it is important to you? For example, something important happens to you and you go and talk to this person about it. So just tell me numbers, who are this people.

Jarek: 13, 14, 15.

A4b: Me: Are there people, who reassure you when you are feeling uncertain about something?

Jarek: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8.

A4c: Me: People, who you talk to when you are nervous, depressed or upset about a certain thing?

Jarek: 5, 7.

A4d: Me: People, who would make sure you would be taken care of if you would have been ill?

Jarek: 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15.

A4e: Me: People, from who would you borrow a certain thing?

Jarek: All of them.

A4f: Me: People with who you socialize, for example you go out in the evening or on a trip, during this time?

Jarek: 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.

A4g: Me: People from who you would be able to borrow a certain amount of money (200€)?

Jarek: 11, 13, 14, 15.

A5: Still thinking about your network. You answer to the question with all, most, half of them, a few and none.

A5a: Me: For how many people from this network would you say that they don't understand you?

Jarek: All (I am a difficult person, so I don't understand them sometimes).

A5b: Me: For how many of them it is possible that they would get on your nerves?

Jarek: Most- all from the first circle.

A5c: Me: How many of these people know one another?

Jarek Radek: Half of them.

A6: Me: If you would change this network, would you like to be more people in it?

Jarek: Here I would like to have more, in Poland I am OK.

A7: Me: What is the biggest thing which you miss here?

Jarek: Drinking wine behind the supermarket, spontaneous things... there are not many people that would do spontaneous things. I don't know. I miss Polish language. And I miss books, because I would like to be a writer and I miss just buying a book in a supermarket in Polish. And also I miss Poland, even though I am being irritated by my country many times, I still miss it. I am not here such a long time to miss things.

A8: Me: What would you say about your expectations about meeting people here? Did you expect to meet more people or less? Did you think people would be more open to make friendships or you think that it is OK?

Jarek: I expected more I am a little bit disappointed. So the main obstacle is that there aren't many Erasmus students. Only at my Uni there are more Erasmus than in whole Girona. I was also hoping that I would have more contacts with Catalonians. It is very difficult I have noticed that almost no Erasmus student has contact with Catalonians. I have a little bit better situation because I live with them. But If I wouldn't be like that I wouldn't know anyone. It is not easy. The fault is from the system. It should stimulate the interaction between Erasmus and other people. Here there is not enough Erasmus. It is a sad situation. Because after a while you get bored to be just with this group of people, so we should have an opportunity to meet other students. We are just 50 Erasmus, so there is no point to it. University has just started this programme, so this is the reason. They could also just make some fiesta and invite Catalan people as well.

A9: Me: Would you like to have more people that you would be able to depend on?

Jarek: It is always good to have more people to depend on. But here in Girona my social network is not very big like in Poland, so yes. There are not many people at all, so it is hard to have big network.

A10: Me: Now I would like to know something about these individuals in your network.

Person	A10a: circle	A11: gender	A12: relationship	A13: Erasmus	A14: home	A15: age	A16: Stay in touch
1	1	1	5		2	1	2
2	1	1	3		2	3	2
3	1	2	2		2	3	2
4	1	1	6		1	3	3
5	1	1,2	7		2	2	3
6	2	2	7		2	2	3,4
7	2	2	7		2	2	3,4
8	2	2	7		2	2	3,4
9	2	2	7		2	2	3,4
10	2	2	7		2	2	3,4
11	2	1	9	2		3	1
12	2	1	7		2	2	3
13	3	1	9	1		3	1
14	3	1	9	1		3	1
15	3	1	9	1		3	1
16	3	2	8	2		2	1
17	3	2	8	2		2	1
18	3	2	8	2		2	1
19	3	1	8	2		2	1
20	3	1	8	2		2	1

KODS: 1. Boyfriend, girlfriend, 2. Mother, 3. Father, 4. Sister, 5. Brother, 6. other relative, 7. Friend from home, 8. Friend from Erasmus, 9. other friend that you met in Girona.

A17: Me: Now if you think of your first month here in Girona. Did your group of people who you are close to changed or not?

Jarek: It has changed. As always first people you meet you treat them as friends, but then you change your mind when you get to know them.

A18: Me: Before you came here. Did you have a relationship?

Jarek: We broke up, mainly because of this.

A19: Me: How your living here affected this relationship?

Jarek: We broke up, but there are some people here that are in a relationship and it works so it is possible.