

## Erasmus experience report

Process Materials and Solar Energy Laboratory (PROMES)  
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My Erasmus exchange program took place in the little town of the French Pyrenees Font Romeu-Odeillo. In this place is located the Process Materials and Solar Energy Laboratory (PROMES), which has the biggest solar furnace worldwide. This exchange is part of the EUREC European Master of Renewable Energy, a program that supports the technical development, the networking and the cooperation of renewables energies.

So far, EUREC master has been an incredible experience, one of the reason for it is my stay in Font Romeu, a super cool place, not only because I had the opportunity to learn much about concentrated solar energy, but also since I had the opportunity to meet many people, visit some incredible natural places, make some outdoors sports and get to know a bit more of French culture.

Since the time I got there, I had an excellent time. The first day I arrived from Perpignan I took the 1 euro bus (Yes!! just one euro and you can travel to every place in the region) and it left me in the Post office of Font Romeu, from where you can get an impressive view of the whole valley in the middle of the Pyrenees. Perfect Welcome!!



During the Stay I met very nice people of the program itself and local people with whom we enjoyed much during the semester. Despite the fact that Font Romeu is not precisely an active night-life city, there is always something to do, additionally, Barcelona is just 2 and a half hours away by train in case you want to have “proper parties”.

The classes were nice and flexible, we had many interesting subjects as solar cooling, CSP solar receivers, Parabolic and Linear Fresnel technologies, solar fuels and additionally, we had some trips to real solar plants as the Solar tower of themis and some interesting laboratories using high tech facilities. As far as the facilities are concerned, the main building is a bit old since it from the 70-80s, but for our teaching and researching purposes is ok. I have to mention that the cafeteria is so good! I was totally delighted

with the excellent food in there which consist of a starter, main dish and a dessert accompanied with much bread and cheese and all of it for just 3 euros.

During the winter season you can take advantage of the many sky centers around there and many of the trekking path which are awesome walk all covered with snow and if you have luck (actually not that much), you can even see deer around there. In summer, the rock climbing season begins and also some mountains are able to be claimed, for instance, the last day of my stay in Font Romeu, I climbed the "Pic Carlit", which is the biggest mountain around there and you can get incredible views from Pyrenees. There are also many hot springs around, where you can take a relaxing bath with beautiful views of Font Romeu. Do not forget to go to Perpignan and all the beaches around, since by the end of the stay, you will be able to enjoy the perfect Mediterranean weather.



As a conclusion, it was an excellent experience, I enjoyed so much the time in France, I met many people and I got a high education level that will allow me to get involved deeply in the solar concentrated energy field. Thanks so much to Erasmus for the economic support, this was very helpful for me since the living costs of the place were a higher compared with Germany.