



Participant: **Ineta Kristovska**

Sending Institution: Luther Academy

Host Country: Greece

Host Institution: **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**, Faculty of Theology , Egnatia Str.156., Thessaloniki

Mobility Duration: 05/05/2026- 09/05/2026

1. Motivation to Participate in Erasmus+ Study Mobility

Participation in the Erasmus+ staff mobility programme at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki was motivated by the desire to strengthen academic cooperation between the Faculty of Theology of Aristotle University and Luther Academy and prospective Erasmus + agreement between HEIs. The mobility provided an excellent opportunity to deepen international collaboration in theological education and research, as well as to exchange experience in teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and academic networking.

Another important motivation was the opportunity to engage with scholars and students in an international academic environment, to broaden perspectives on contemporary theological challenges, and to foster intercultural dialogue within the European higher education framework. The Erasmus+ programme creates meaningful opportunities for academic mobility that support both institutional development and personal professional growth.

2. Cooperation with the Sending and Receiving Institutions

The cooperation between Luther Academy and the Faculty of Theology at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki proved to be highly productive and academically enriching. Meetings with faculty members and administrative staff focused on future collaboration in research projects, possibilities for joint academic events, and the expansion of lecturer and student exchange opportunities.

Particular attention was devoted to strengthening cooperation in theological research, especially in areas related to church history, ethics, ecumenical dialogue, and contemporary challenges for Christian theology in Europe. Discussions also addressed opportunities for collaborative publications and participation in international conferences.

The mobility further contributed to developing sustainable partnerships that may encourage future Erasmus+ exchanges for both academic staff and students. The welcoming and professional support provided by the receiving institution significantly contributed to the success of the mobility period.

3. Academic and Personal Achievements

During the mobility period, valuable academic contacts were established with researchers and lecturers from the Faculty of Theology. Participation in lectures, seminars, and discussions allowed for a deeper understanding of theological education in Greece and provided insight into different academic traditions within Europe.

One of the significant achievements was the strengthening of institutional ties between the two theological institutions. The exchange of academic experiences opened perspectives for future cooperation in teaching, joint research activities, and mobility initiatives.

On a personal level, the experience enhanced intercultural communication skills, broadened professional perspectives, and encouraged further international engagement. Mobility also contributed to professional inspiration and renewed motivation for academic work.

4. Most Memorable Impressions

One of the most memorable impressions was the openness and hospitality of the academic community at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The intellectual atmosphere of the Faculty of Theology fostered meaningful discussions and exchange of ideas.

Equally memorable was the opportunity to experience the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Thessaloniki, a city with profound historical significance for Christianity and European culture. Visits to churches, historical sites, and academic facilities provided a deeper appreciation of the connection between theology, history, and cultural identity.

The interaction with students and faculty members demonstrated the importance of international academic cooperation in promoting mutual understanding and shared European values.

5. Practical Advice for Future Erasmus+ Participants

Future Erasmus+ participants are encouraged to prepare their mobility activities carefully in advance, including clear academic objectives and planned meetings with colleagues at the host institution. Open communication with both the sending and receiving institutions greatly facilitates successful mobility implementation.

It is advisable to actively participate in academic and cultural activities offered by the host institution, as informal conversations and networking often become as valuable as formal meetings. Participants should also remain flexible and open to intercultural experiences, which are an essential part of Erasmus+ mobility.

Good preparation regarding travel arrangements, accommodation, and local cultural practices can significantly improve the overall experience.

6. Additional Reflections

The Erasmus+ staff mobility at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki confirmed the importance of international cooperation in higher theological education. Academic exchange strengthens institutional capacities, promotes innovation in teaching and research, and supports the development of a united European academic space.

The cooperation between Luther Academy and the Faculty of Theology of Aristotle University has strong potential for future development through joint research initiatives, guest lectures, academic conferences, and student and lecturer exchanges.

Overall, the mobility experience was academically valuable, professionally inspiring, and personally enriching, contributing positively to both institutions and reinforcing the goals and values of the Erasmus+ programme.



