

## YUFE BIP Report by Kübra Yesilova

Nowadays, Erasmus does not only offer students the opportunity to spend a semester or a year abroad, but also provides the chance to gain international experience through short programmes. One of these innovative formats is the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP). This year, I had the chance to participate in two different BIPs, and both were unforgettable experiences for me.

My name is Kübra. I have just finished my 4th semester in the Biology Bachelor programme at the University of Bremen. I really enjoy taking part in Erasmus projects abroad, meeting people from many different countries, and learning foreign languages and cultures.

My first BIP experience took place in Trento, Italy, from 27.03.2025 to 02.05.2025, under the title "*Back to the Future – Microalgae*". When I first saw the project, I was very excited about the topic. Since I had no prior experience or knowledge about microalgae, I really wanted to join. The programme not only allowed me to gain scientific insights into microalgae, but also offered me the chance to work with students from different countries and experience intercultural exchange. We also learned about the current applications of microalgae and future-oriented research in this field.

The reason why it is called a blended intensive course is that a programme which would normally be taught over a longer period is instead offered in a highly intensive format within one or two weeks. Both of my BIPs had a five-day mobility part. After the course in Trento, we also had several follow-up online meetings. Compared to the BIP in Bremen, this one was a bit less intense, so we had plenty of time to explore the city. During the programme, we worked in mixed groups formed by the course providers, and in the final online meeting we had the opportunity to present the product we developed. Although there was no major prize at the end, there was still a light competition spirit, which made it even more fun :) In fact, the group I was part of won first place. Since we worked on product development, we also met online 4–5 more times after the mobility week, exchanging ideas and asking questions with the support of the experienced organizers.

Beyond the academic part, the city itself made the experience very special. Trento is incredibly impressive, located in the mountains of northern Italy. With the fellow participants, we went hiking many times, guided by our course organizers, who even joined us for a long hike themselves. We really immersed ourselves in nature, forests, mountains, and fresh air. Also, eating pizza every day was amazing :)

My second BIP experience was in Bremen, from 04.08.2025 to 08.08.2025, titled "*Scientific Communication*". This BIP was organized by the University of Rijeka, Nicolaus Copernicus University, and the University of Bremen within the YUFE network. Since I am also an active member of the YUFE Student Forum, it was a pleasure for me not only to participate but also to gain insights into the organizational part of the course. My own professor, Dr. Ute Meyer, and Prof. Nick Bradshaw from the University of Rijeka led the course very well. We spent five days full of fun and valuable knowledge. Since all participants were non-native English speakers, the main focus was on presenting and sharing scientific knowledge effectively in English. This programme contributed a lot to me academically and also played an important role in improving my communication skills.

If I were to give one piece of advice to students interested in such programmes, it would be this: if you want to take part in a BIP, please make sure to choose a course that you are genuinely interested in. Motivation is very important, both for yourself and for others, to make the programme truly valuable. Also, don't forget to ask your university's International Office whether there is an Erasmus grant

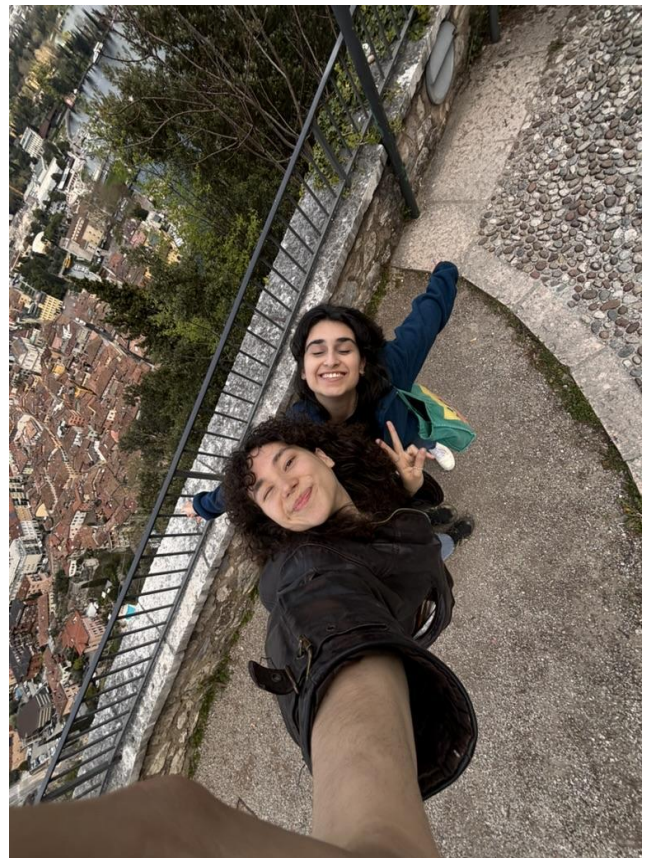
available. Unfortunately, my BIP in Italy was not funded, but the one in Bremen was (even though, since I already live in Bremen, I didn't personally need the grant).

Both BIPs provided me with significant academic and personal benefits. Meeting students from different disciplines, getting to know new cultures, and building an international network were all very valuable experiences for me. Despite being short in duration, the programmes were very intense and added a whole new dimension to my Erasmus journey. I truly enjoyed both BIPs and can highly recommend them to everyone.

Photos:



Beautiful Trento streets



A day trip to the Garda lake





Our group presentation at the last day



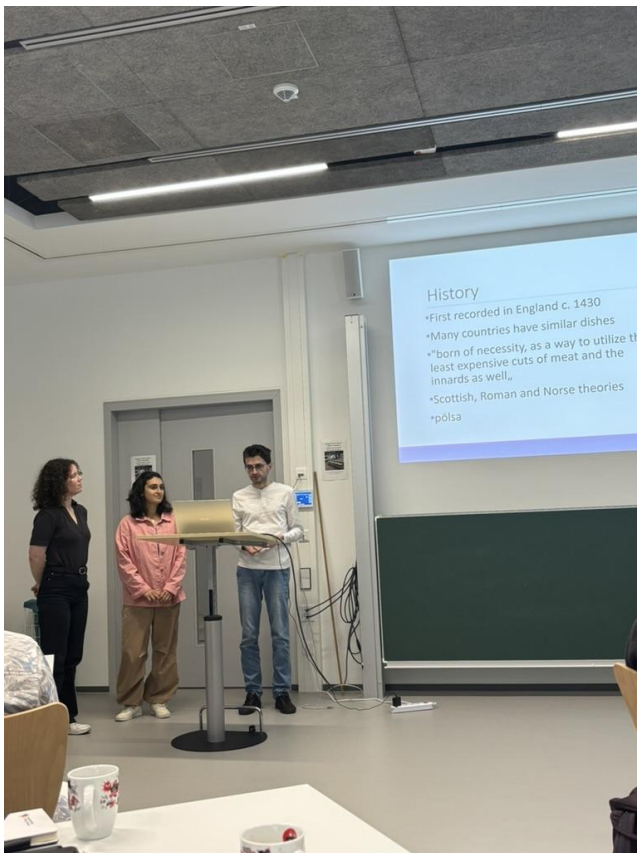
Eating pizza every day <3



Morning hikes before the classes in Trento



The first day at the BIP in Bremen (our Professor Nick Bradshaw on the stage)



Our group presentation



Touristing in Bremen