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STUDENT EXCHANGE REPORT

GERMANY

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Since my arrival in Münster-Germany, I've spent most of my time getting to know the city and its social life. I've also been in Boon Köln but just for a weekend. I'll also share about some experiences at my German language class for beginners.

Globally, it has been a very good experience. Between the parties, games, barbecues etc... and of course discussing and Beer drinking times in bars, I could notice the different ways of life, even though I haven't yet made many German friends. I was very observant every day!

The two first weeks was interesting as I've got to meet many Weitblick members and we did many things together. During the third one I felt very bad because of the foods here but later I found some African foods and was able to cook myself. Till now, I'm not accustomed to the foods.

Let me share with you some of my first impressions and experiences here in Munster.

Everyday's life

Here in Munster, I've been wowed by the place of bicycles in the daily-life traffic -*in Benin, bicycles are basically used by kids-*, the way the paths are well organized as well as the respect of the traffic lights. I was surprised when coming home one day around 23h30' and there was no traffic at all...but still there was a pedestrian waiting for the light to turn green before he cross the road!!! I think it's good for the traffic. I also like the waste management, how everything is type of garbage is separated from others and recyclable.

But I think that rules like "you must not download movies over internet" are too aggressive. Then people have to buy movies so that the money stay in the economy! But I've noticed for instance that in the Book Shop Thalia.de most of the movies they sell are originally from the USA, not from Germany!

People living here are also very very very well organized according to their time, whether they are German or not. People can have detailed plans for many weeks or months ahead! Most of the times I've asked friends to do something together in weekends they already had another plans. So I began to plan as well.

All that tell obviously something about the Germans' mentality...like "Everything has to be under control" or "Every detail has to be considered". I personally think it can become very stressing living that way.

The ambiance here is totally different from in Benin. Everywhere is quiet. No much humour. It's like I don't feel people! Where I come from, everybody knows everybody. I can go to any house in my street when I want because I'm sure to find somebody to talk with and to spend time with, and without appointment! We live in such community! And home is like a comfort place where you can relax with your family or your mates, talk and say jokes, watch T.V. together, eat the same food together...Here in Germany, if somebody says he want to relax, it's sure enough he's going to drink beer in a bar or going to a party or dancing club☺

And I can remember we went to Haverkamp a night and went through all the clubs...At a place a guy asked me this: "Do you want to come with me and make me feel goood?!!", while trying to stroke my shoulder. I recognize it was a gay. I was in a second very irritated. I looked at him, calmed myself down and just said: "Oh no". I was happy he didn't insist. And we've even done a *fist bump* before he left. We even went to a special club for gays. In my country, being gay is considered as a perversion and against our moral and society stability.

I didn't like the TECHNO music. Many Germans told me they don't like it as well!

Another aspect of my stay is that I've been using the map with my smartphone everyday to find places. I've not really used it like that before. I appreciate the way technology is

present in daily life and that you can see the arrival and departure of a train right on your phone, take your coffee or drink at the machine without protocol...



In Haribo shop, Münsterplatz-Bonn

My language class & Meeting another students

In five single weeks I've had three different teachers and I was surprised they all use to ask us (students) to feel free to call them by their first name; and one of them has even demanded us to do so. I was every time embarrassed when I do that because I'm normally accustomed to call my teachers in a formal way.

The teachers are always on time to start their teaching sessions and I appreciated that. In my country, even professors at university don't respect any rule. Most of them do what they want and like when students fear them. At my language courses, I didn't really found a different between teachers and students.

I also had the privilege to be in the same class with people coming from all over the world, young and old persons.



At my german language class; my classmates made a special cake to wish me a happy birthday

I've also met many exchange students from different country. It was great 😊



With another international students at Burg Hülshoff, Havixbeck



With another students at Haus Rüschaus, Münster

I forgot to say that I like the green environment of Münster 😊