

Transcription protocol

IR: Adamantia Giarmeniti

RE: S.K

DATE: 28 March 2013

Time: 12 hours

Setting: Tilburg University

No.	Speaker	Speech
1	IR	Hello, thank you very much for participating in this interview and this project. Ok, let's start. How long have you been in the Netherlands?
2	RE	Thank you for inviting me; it's my pleasure to participate as well. I have been in the Netherlands since the end of August, when my master started.
3	IR	Ok. How did you decide to come here?
4	RE	The obvious reason was the Master. I had applied for several universities not only in the Netherlands, but when I got accepted here I calculated the costs and the combination of high level education with low cost of living was the most serious argument for deciding to come here.
5	IR	How did you experience your staying in another country? Is it the first time that you live abroad?
6	RE	Yes, it's the first time that I'm staying alone and of course it is the first time that I am living abroad. It has been quite an intense year from every aspect because I had to get familiar with the place, with the culture, with the people and of course with the requirements of the Master which was the hardest part because the studying mentality is different from Greece and I had to adopt and this took me a couple of months. But after that I felt confident.
7	IR	Were you confronted with any difficulties with English or with the adaptation here in the beginning?
8	RE	No, not really.
9	IR	Or with the Master?
10	RE	No, it was just that we had to do many things for the Master apart from this the communication with everybody was easy because almost everybody speaks English and this was really easy for me. We had also some problems with the house the first days, the fact that we had to arrange the Internet connection and some contracts were stressful but in the end we made it. It just took me some more time compared to

		other students but in the end it was fine.
11	IR	Can you give me an example with any other difficulties that you've been confronted then?
12	RE	Yes, I cannot say that it is a difficulty but at the beginning you feel stranger, you feel that you are not familiar with the place, so this takes some time to relax and find your position here, the things you want to do, the way you want to spend your time here. Of course , this was more or less defined by the Master because you had most of the time to work for assignments but the adaption took me a couple of months and it wasn't problematic but I needed this period of time to feel it like home.
13	IR	Did you have any difficulties with the procedure in the University?
14	RE	No, this was quite easy. The staff of the University was very, very helpful and I didn't experience any difficulty. Other students had problems with documents for example, but in my case everything was settled from the beginning and I had the support from the University and everything I asked they were ready to provide help and all in all it was fine.
15	IR	Did you make any new friends here?
16	RE	Many, many friends.
17	IR	How important are these relationships to you and why?
18	RE	Ok, the fact that there are many Greeks in my class and in my Master affected not my willingness but my contact with foreigners, because, especially in the beginning, you find other Greek students so you start talking with them, you start to socialize with them. You can have a company, so you get a bit isolated from the foreigners but after some period we had relations with many foreigners and some of those relationships turned out to be really important friends and I'm happy with that because I met people and I like their company so we had very good time together.
19	IR	Do you have any Dutch friends or they are mainly internationals?
20	RE	Mostly internationals. However, I had worked in assignments with Dutch students and because of this we came closer and with those students we had a very nice relationship. They can consider themselves as my friends. Not close friends but still we have a nice contact. Also, during studying in the library I met some other Dutch students and we also have a nice relationship with them. But just typical relationships.
21	IR	Why do you think that you tend to have more International or Greek friends?
22	RE	I think is reasonable from both sides because I can also imagine that for Dutch students is the same. They speak the same language, so when you have a break you hang out with them or when you will search for somebody to go out you will go with a Dutch student who has been also you fellow

		student in your Bachelor. You speak the same language; you can communicate in a deeper way. So, it makes sense for both them and also for us to have closer relationships with Greek people.
23	IR	What is your opinion in general about the Netherlands and the people here?
24	RE	I appreciate the opportunity that this country gave me and the fact that you can study paying not a high amount of money and studying in a very good University. But we are obviously different. We have different culture, different mentality and there are moments that I feel strange, not annoyed but there are moments that I really miss my country.
25	IR	Can you give me an example?
26	RE	Let's say about the way that they go out at night. I think that the entertainment is completely different and we have different views on this. So, I'm not crazy about going out in Tilburg at night. Of course I do and I enjoy it but there are also moments that I miss Athens for example for this reason. But, at the same moment there are other things that make me really happy for being in the Netherlands. The quality of life, the fact that I live in a very slow pace city that it is completely different from Athens, which is a crazy city, makes me feel relaxed and appreciate this. As for the people, I never faced any problem and I was always welcomed. Of course it has been kind of annoying the fact that, due to the crisis I think their opinion about Greece has changed and because of this I have faced two completely different reactions. There are people who say that they are very enthusiasts about hearing Greek people coming here or they say how much they liked to be in Greece having nice vacations and there are also people who say that they are paying for Greece. So there are two completely different groups.
27	IR	Do you feel that the financial crisis has affected your daily routine here and in which aspects?
28	RE	My personal daily routine has been affected but it hasn't that to do with the Netherlands. It is because this period in Greece has been hard and I am studying here so I'm been funded from my parents who are facing a hard time. In that sense yes, I have to spend less money than some years ago. But my daily routine here is not really affected. The only way that I could say that it is affected is with my relationships with people, especially Dutch and German people because these two countries pay and of course it has been all this propaganda by the media. So, it makes sense for them to be suspicious when they hear that you are from Greece. But this has never affected deeply any contact that I had with Dutch students.
29	IR	Did you decision to come in the Netherlands was influenced

		by this situation?
30	RE	In my case no, because studying abroad was always a dream of mine. So, it is not that I was forced to study abroad and then try to find a job abroad. From the beginning I wanted to study abroad, to have this experience and after searching a lot, the combination that the Dutch universities had to offer was the ideal for me and this is how I chose Tilburg University.
31	IR	Have you experienced any discrimination because of the economic problems in Greece?
32	RE	Discrimination is a really hard word to say. No, I never felt discriminated. I have experienced some really awkward and yes annoying moments in the University but discriminated no. We have the appreciation of the professors, the Greek students are doing really fine, and we have great grades, really good overall performance. So, if we are discriminated, we are discriminated in a good manner because they appreciate good students and Greek students have appeared to be really competent. But at the same time I cannot forget that we had many, many classes where the classic example was Greece and Greek people who don't work a lot and stuff like these but ok, these were annoying to hear but we have also our opinion and the truth is somewhere in between.
33	IR	Have this annoying moments and this situation affected you, or make you develop negative feelings about other nations?
34	RE	No, I told you that I have a Dutch friend who is a really good friend and I have good rapport with Dutch students but at that moment that I hear disrespectful things about my country I just raise my hand and I give my opinion to the professors, I contact them in person during the break to say that they said some inappropriate things and it's disrespectful as you have some Greek students in the audience and apart from this, you said some things that they are not true or they are half of the truth so you can rephrase.
35	IR	So it affects you and it may influence you to develop negative emotions.
36	RE	It could be. You have to be open-minded and not to focus on some comments, but I always want to express myself. I cannot stand and not express my opinion when I feel that something that it is been said, is inappropriate. So, even with the professors I try to put things right and I am happy that at least they apologized if they have offended Greek students and they have never ignored any comments that we made. Even if they haven't really changed their opinion or their mind and I don't believe that they change their opinions. But this is something to appreciate and not something to criticize.
37	IR	So, at the end of the day you feel as an integral part of students' community? Or the economic and political situation of you country has affected your adaptation?

38	RE	It has been always a subject to discuss but I don't think that it has really affected me. The "Greek lobby", as we call it, has proved to be really friendly, so we never had serious problems with other students. We just participate in discussions and they say their opinion, we listen and that's it. No further affection, deeper affection.
39	IR	We are speaking only for the University. Apart from this?
40	RE	Yes, apart from this I have Dutch neighbors, for example, and when we met they asked where are we from and me and my housemate who is Italian we received comments like "Dutch people pay for you countries" and "How are the conditions right now in your countries?". Of course we said that Netherlands pays but it gets profit out of this. So, as I said the truth is somewhere in between. I can understand that they get really affected by the media because I know the situation in Greece and it is the same. Also Greek people, after a certain point and after all this propaganda, started to have some bad feelings but these are not really deep, it's just a sentiment that it is artificially created by the media. Of course we always welcome foreigners in Greece and we feel welcomed here, so it's not deep in that sense. It's a subject to discuss and to have some superficial conflicts to discuss about.
41	IR	So, in general do you believe that personal relations are controlled by the economic situation or human factor is always superior?
42	RE	It can be affected, if things get worse. Now it is already bad but if things get more extreme, this could raise deeper feelings. But I think personal relationships are definitely controlled by the human factor. After the initial discussion, you start to discuss about personal things, about your experience here, about the Master and you leave this aside and you move to more personal things and at that point what matters is the personality of the person you have in front of you. In that sense I'm not affected. I judge a person from what he has to tell me, how he/she behaves and not from just a comment that he says which is not serious. Of course, if I understand that he has strong feelings against me or my country, this will not create the conditions to have a closer contact.
43	IR	Ok. Thank you very much for the discussion and your participation.
44	RE	Thank you very much for inviting me. It's been a pleasure.

Transcription protocol

IR: Matina Peppa

RE: G. D

DATE: 21 March 2013

Time: 17 hours

Setting: Tilburg University

No.	Speaker	Speech	Code
1	IR	Hello! Thank you for participating in this interview.	
2	RE	It's my pleasure.	
3	IR	Ok. Let's start with some background questions. How long have you been in the Netherlands?	
4	RE	I am here since thirteen of August.	
5	IR	And how did you decide to come here? Firstly you came here for studying or for another reason?	
6	RE	Yes, yes! Sure for studying. eh.... If you want to discuss about my past, I was working for one year in Athens, to earn some money, and it was my target to come here for post graduated studies.	
7	IR	And how did you decide to come here?	
8	RE	In the Netherlands you mean or in Tilburg?	
9	IR	In the Netherlands generally and then to Tilburg.	
10	RE	My first motivation was actually economic. I didn't have so much money to afford a master science program in U.K. So.... If you combine the good level of education, plus the reputation that my program is characterized from... with the low amount of money concerning the tuition fees and the cost of life... these were the main characteristics that influenced my choice..	
11	IR	So, the Netherlands was you second choice after U.K..	
12	RE	Yes...sure.	
13	IR	How did you experience your stay in another country? Is it the first time that you live away from your country?	
14	RE	No, no!! It's not the first time. eh... The first time was in 2008, four years ago. It was during an exchange program in Belgium. So, this is my second time. Before I left Greece I had the same doubts as far as the living is concerned.. But of course this time I was more experienced and I knew more about the things that I was going to face. Both in personal and academic level.	
15	IR	Were you confronted with any difficulties in the beginning?	
16	RE	In the beginning I faced personal difficulties, in a personal level.	

17	IR	Like?	
18	RE	I had some emotional problems because I had just broken up with my girlfriend. Apart from that, I didn't have any difficulties in adapting in this new environment. Maybe the fact that also many Greeks are here and next to that I am also very social. So... I didn't face any problems concerning my social life.	
19	IR	Any difficulties concerning your daily routine?	
20	RE	My daily routine? Ok... It's a good question. I have to think about it.. No!! No!!No difficulties at all. Ok. In the beginning for example it was ... the first movements. you want to go to the supermarket, but you don't know where the market is... where you can find each product ... but apart from that simple things that I think it is logical for every person.. I didn't face something really special and remarkable in order to mention it here.	
21	IR	Did you make new friends here? And how important are these new relationships to you and why?	
22	RE	Of course I made new friends. For me, generally friendship is a very important part of my life. You want, need someone to share your experiences and without friends life is miserable. In my opinion. So... My first target when I came here was to become more social and open my horizons.. To meet new kinds of persons. I appreciate this international spirit that exists here, that the university offers. But.... to be honest, I didn't try to avoid mixing with Greeks.	
23	IR	So, the majority of your friends are Greeks, Dutch or international?	
24	RE	Yes... yes.. They are Greeks.	
25	IR	Why do you believe that you tend to have more Greeks friends and not international or Dutch?	
26	RE	I think it just happens. And if I take into account my previous experience in Erasmus... I believe that indeed you can have a great relation with international people.. But I don't know.. Maybe because this time, when I came here my main reason was to focus on my master and on my exams.. and you know, when you are talking about courses and educational staff, for me at least it is more convenient to talk with someone that speaks the same language. So, I think this is the main reason.	
27	IR	So it is a matter of better communication, not different culture, mentality or something like that.	
28	RE	Yes, exactly. not at all. Better communication!! Exactly right!	
29	IR	What is your opinion about the country that you are right now, and also about the people here?	
30	RE	For me, the Netherlands is not something special as a country. It doesn't offer... you know... not something remarkable.. Neutral.. Neutral.. I don't think that	

		Netherlands is characterized by a certain characteristic for example. I don't really like the country. I don't; find something attractive here. For example, if we take into account the capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam, it is proud of prostitutes and drugs.. I mean this is not what I am looking for.	
31	IR	And what about the people here?	
32	RE	I think that they are unsocial, close-minded, not very willing to meet you.. The majority of them because of course there are exceptions, the majority of them maybe... actually they are not so interested in meeting you and learning for you.	
33	IR	Do you have any personal experience that you are based on?	
34	RE	Yes. The first time when I went to the introduction of my program. You know there was a meeting for the accounting students... Ok. First of all my program is mainly addressed to Dutch students so they are not many international students. So.. As a result I went there.. I was trying to be more social and to open some conversations.. So I sat next to a Dutch girl, I asked here which track are you going to follow, because we have three tracks in my program and she told me professional track but the way she talked to me it was like... like I am a dog... not socially at all.. not friendly.. and then she didn't try opening any conversation.	
35	IR	Let's pass to another, I think interesting topic, about the financial crisis in Greece right now. Do you feel that the financial crisis has affected your daily routine and if yes, which aspects?	
36	RE	Of course. Nobody can be unaffected from the financial crisis, as a result I am also affected in a sense that more or less before the financial crisis I made some expenses that were not really required and now I have cut down these expenses. For example I will go to eat outside only when it is necessary, or in a special occasion when I really want to go out. Ha affected my budget more or less.	
37	IR	And how your decision to come in the Netherlands was influenced by this situation? Is there any link?	
38	RE	Of course as I explained in the beginning. For me the Netherlands, from the beginning had a very big disadvantage because when I left Greece, my main reason... my main target was to stay outside of Greece. So, if you take this into account I think that the Netherlands offers a great disadvantage in the sense that you have to speak Dutch in order to find a job. So, my main intense was to go to UK because I speak the language but I was unable because I couldn't afford a master science in England. So, of course it affected my decision.	
39	IR	So, one of the reason that prompted you to study abroad was the more opportunities for a future career..	
40	RE	Firstly I wanted to study abroad to open my horizons and to have a degree that is internationally credited and certified.	

		You know. And then, in order afterwards to be able to go to another country, not only in the Netherlands. But apart from that, it was a big movement for me also in a personal level because now I live alone, I can hand better myself, so if I want now to go to another country, it will be much easier than staying in Greece.	
41	IR	Have you experienced any discrimination because of this fact? Because of the crisis?	
42	RE	Mmm... Yeah. yeah... I wasn't really offended by that but I can name you two or three incidents that I felt something like discrimination. For instance.... I don't know... Maybe it was just humor.. but.... For example, I was in a queue waiting for entering to a party, so there was a big queue, and I was standing with a Dutch girl, I just met her that night, and there was a euro down in the ground, and she told me A! Look!! There is a euro there!! ok.. I didn't make any notice and the she told me why don't you take it? I don't need it I said to her. and she replied Yeah!! But you are Greek! So? I told her, So we support Greece! And then I told her we don't need your support, something like that it was the first incident. Apart from that, one guy has called me "money spender" after learning my origin. You now, Greeks are money spenders!! A Dutch guy. And the first night that I came here actually, I was in a bar and when I made the others award for my origin, they started a conversation about Greece and the financial conditions and we talked also about the economic consequences of the crisis but finally we ended with the conclusion that it is not about people but the economic benefits which create this problem... it's about capitalism and not about the way that people behave.	
43	IR	Do you think that reactions like that, that you described before, may also prompt you to develop negative feelings about other nations? To be biased against them?	
44	RE	No, no! I can understand this behavior. I can understand this because you know, people in these modern societies are usually affected by media, what media say, and when you are bombard by media that present Greece as the money spender that only spend your money, and you as the tax payer that you have to pay Greeks because they don't produce anything and all of these staffs,, then of course you are biased... So, I can understand them, maybe I would have the same feeling but in these cases you have to open your mind, to think better about what you hear. But of course I can justify them.	
45	IR	So, finally do you feel as an integral part of the student's community here? Or you adaptation has been influenced by this situation?	
46	RE	No!! I feel an integral part. Yeah!	
47	IR	In general, do you believe that human relationships can be	

		controlled by economic and political issues?	
48	RE	Yes, sure. But you know, it depends on from which perspective you observe the topic. Of course everyone is characterized as Greek or as Dutch or as Spain, but everybody carries his own history behind. The first impression maybe is influenced, but afterwards it depends on what you have to present, what you want to show to your partner. So, maybe the first impression yes! But later on it doesn't really affect. For example, I don't think that somebody would not speak to a Greek because he faces, his country faces economic problems, in the beginning it could be but afterward no! Your personal character always matters.	
49	IR	Thank you very much again and as soon as possible you are going to receive the results of our project.	
50	RE	It was my pleasure. Thank you!	

Transcription protocol

IR: Matina Peppa

RE: D.A

DATE: 20 March 2013

Time: 14 hours

Setting: Tilburg University

No.	Speaker	Speech	Code
1	IR	.Hello! First of all I would like to thank you for participating in this interview. Let's start with some background questions. How long have you been in the Netherlands?	
2	RE	Thank you for inviting me for this interview. I have been in the Netherlands for six months, seven months, since last August.	
3	IR	And the reason that you came here was for studying?	
4	RE	Yes, I am doing my master in law	
5	IR	How did you decide to come here, in Tilburg?	
6	RE	Well, it was a last minute decision, because I just wanted to go abroad, to study abroad, and I missed the deadlines for the most of the universities. So Tilburg was the last option I had at the moment I applied.	
7	IR	But all the universities you applied for were in the Netherlands?	
8	RE	Yes, most of them were in the Netherlands, but for most of them the deadline for the application was around March so I missed that deadline, but I am not disappointed from my choice. I like it so far.	
9	IR	And why Netherlands? Why in the Netherlands and not in another country?	
10	RE	Because first of all most of the programs are in English, and it is very convenient when you want to study abroad. Because if you go to Germany or to France you have to speak fluently German or French. So, that was the main factor that prevented me from going to these countries and come to the Netherlands. And also the cost of living is cheaper than other countries like the UK or other English programs that are taught in other countries.	
11	IR	How did you experience your staying in another country? Is it the first time that you live away from your country?	
12	RE	I have travelled a lot in the past, but living for so long... it is the first time. It was an experience that I was always looking forward to, so I really like it, I think I took	

		advantage of it so far, I took the most advantage I could so far.	
13	IR	Were you confronted with any difficulties in the beginning and if yes, can you give me an example?	
14	RE	Difficulties in the beginning....???mmmm... I think that.... just normal things that the most of students when they first go abroad and they are in your own have. For example to think some practical issues. Not something really, really extremely difficult that I have experienced. Yes, I think that it really helped the fact that we had an introduction week in the university, so they helped us to adjust ourselves in the beginning and not feeling that we were totally abandoned or something like that. So, the issue of the house for example was set by the university, so... these matters that usually concern you when you leave your home country were arranged perfectly, so I can say that I didn't have any difficulties.	
15	IR	Ok. Did you make new friends here and how important are these new relationships to you and why?	
16	RE	I made new friends, a lot of friends, internationals, from the same country as my, ah... Dutch friends... Well, most of them are really kind to me and I think the most important bonds were created in the student accommodation I live. Because you are in the same place with sixteen people, different people, but under these circumstances I made really good friends, and they are really important to me because they helped me to overcome the feeling of loneliness in the beginning, and now they are still important because simply these are my friends now, I left my home country and my friends there..... And also from my master program, I have some good friends; I have developed some good relationships there. Yes!! They are important because actually the place that you live it becomes your place. So, these people become your people, your friends, and your family. If you are alone everything is different.	
17	IR	So the majority of your friends are Dutch or you have created mainly international friends?	
18	RE	I think that I have a balance. I have both Dutch and international friends. I cannot say that I have more Dutch or more international. It's the same.	
19	IR	What is your opinion about the country that you are living right now? And also your opinion about the people here?	
20	RE	Well, my opinion is that... in comparison with all the other neighbor countries, the Netherlands is probably the most international, it attracts more international students, and it gives opportunities due to the law, or the tuition fees that they have, they give you opportunities to study here, so.... talking from the educational aspect I think that they are very..... How can I say that...?? The way that they have arranged their educational system and educational programs	

		is really important for people who want to live here, for people that they want to study abroad,. ehm.... What I consider as a negative aspect is the fact that if you need to find a job later, you are required to speak Dutch, and it is not so easy to learn this language quickly, yes... But on the other hand in every country that you go you need to speak the native language in order to work somewhere. So...it is negative but normal.. Yes... it is just negative for us. The international.. But I like this country! I think that it has a lot of things to offer! I don't like the weather!! I cannot get used to that weather. And also the food!... It could be better... Bu these are factors that do not affect your decision when you want to live somewhere. But I like the people. I like them....	
21	IR	How do you characterize them?	
22	RE	I think that... it depends... you cannot put labels on people and say that Dutch are open-minded or they are... they have prejudices, biases towards others. I think it depends on the educational background of these people, for how long they have been living in the Netherlands, if they have travelled around... People that I have met and they have travelled are more open-minded than others... but... I don't consider them have something peculiar different than other nations. Maybe they are just; they look to internationals a little bit cold! or not so approachable but you can always find people that are approachable and you can talk to them. Yes!!	
23	IR	So, You are also Greek like me... so you know that the economic crisis is a major topic in Greece right now. Do you feel that the financial crisis has affected your daily routine? And if yes can you explain me which aspects?	
24	RE	Well, the financial crisis has affected the whole Greece apparently and the Greeks living there. The fact that we can still study abroad, financially I am supported by my parents, it means that it has affected in a way because there are people that cannot study right now, like I can, because of this issue, but as for me, since I can say that my family is affected I am affected too. I don't know if you are referring to my daily life here regarding to the reaction of the people??	
25	IR	Maybe yes, their attitudes, or the amount of money that you have to spend, the cost of your life right now...	
26	RE	Ok! Yes, yes, yes!!! The amount of money it is clearly that has been affected. And this is why I decided to choose Tilburg Because it is not too expensive. Due to this financial situation probably I could not study or stay in another place.	
27	IR	How your decision to come in the Netherlands was influenced by this situation, and I mean the economic situation? Is there any other link?	
28	RE	I don't think so... maybe for example I wanted to follow	

		another master in the Netherlands but it was advanced, it 15.000 euros.. So... In these terms the financial situation influenced my decision because I knew that I could not even apply for this master and I had to apply for a normal one even if I liked the other one most. So, in these terms it affected my decision.	
29	IR	Netherland can offer you more opportunities than Greece regarding to your future? Did you have something like that in your mind when you made your decision?	
30	RE	I think that the most of the Greek people do so.. but I always wanted to study abroad, to work abroad because I think that being in an international environment is better for your future career... it affected in a way because you know that even if you want to stay in Greece now, they are no options but for me it was not the first, the primary factor, it was the international experience that I was looking for, and the Netherlands can offer this experience.	
31	IR	Have you experience any discrimination because of this fact?	
32	RE	Of the crisis? Well.... To be honest not as much as I expected to have. I mean, the people that are around me, in my university, in my place, or in my work now that I am working, I don't; have any incident of discrimination. Just random people that you meet and you don't really know them or they don't know you start talking about Greece and this situation.... how bad it is.. But people that are your friends, people that are in the same environment with you, working or studying with you, usually they don't make any kind of discrimination. So, I cannot say that this phenomenon exists, for me at least.	
33	IR	So you can say that you feel as an integral part of the student community..	
34	RE	Yes! I would say so. I am active, I do the best I can for my studies. I am in the same with all my classmates, Dutch and internationals.	
35	IR	Thank you very much. I really enjoyed our conversation. To conclude with a more general question. Generally, do you believe that personal relationships could be controlled by economic and political situations or do you believe that human factor is always superior?	
36	RE	Well... I like this question! It is a nice one. Maybe it affects only in the beginning, when you get to know somebody. But in the end, it is always the human factor that will prevail in interpersonal relationships. We don't judge anybody based on his financial situation, his, or his country, but from who is he, as a person and what his attitude in life is in general.	
37	IR	Thank you very much again. As I said in the beginning I want to confirm you that your personal information is going to be protected and finally if you want we can send the	

		findings of our project, as you constitute a part of it!	
38	RE	I would be very glad to receive your findings and I wish you good luck with your project.	

Transcription protocol

IR: Adamantia Giarmeniti

RE: G.K

DATE: 29 March 2013

Time: 13 hours

Setting: Tilburg University

No.	Speaker	Speech
1	IR	Hello, thank you very much for participating in this interview and this project. Ok, let's start. How long have you been in the Netherlands?
2	RE	I'm here from August, so let's say about seven months.
3	IR	Ok. How did you decide to come here?
4	RE	Well, first I was mostly motivated by my professors to try some of the countries that are not usually chosen for a Master.
5	IR	How did you experience your staying in another country?
6	RE	It's quite difficult to get used to the country, to the customs and the way everyone lives but I guess it wasn't as bad as I expected. But you get to miss a lot of things that you were able to do in your country.
7	IR	Was it the first time that you stay abroad, alone?
8	RE	Yes.
9	IR	Did you have any difficulties in the beginning with the University or the people here and in general with your adaptation?
10	RE	I think the most difficult thing was getting used to hear another language, a language that you cannot understand rather than try to make yourself one with the place.
11	IR	Did you have any difficulties with the procedure in the University or with any other thing?
12	RE	Well, my problem was the shops. They are kind of different from what I'm used to. So, I needed something like an adaptation on how you search everything. Like in the supermarket and how you are going to search something. When you are doing something, you have to consider different things.
13	IR	Did you make new friends here? How important these relations are to you?
14	RE	I definitely did some friends here. A lot of them are International students. I do think that some of them are going

		to last even if I leave the Netherlands or they leave and I think, especially when you spend a lot of time with people you tend to develop good relations afterwards.
15	IR	You told me that your new friends are mostly Internationals. Do you have any Dutch or Greek friends?
16	RE	I have to say that we have something like a Greek community here, because we are a lot of Greeks this here, so I do have a lot of Greek friends. As for the Dutch, I think that is logical to be more close to the people they already know. So you don't get to know so many Dutch people. But I do know some Dutch people from the classes and assignments that we had to work together.
17	IR	Why do you think that Dutch students tend to be closer with other Dutch people?
18	RE	Because they know each other from their Bachelor and they can talk easier in their language. It's easier to communicate with someone, because you are in your country.
19	IR	What is your opinion in general about the Netherlands and the people here?
20	RE	I think it is a more automatic country. Everything is made to makes your life easier. You can do everything via computers. You have to search more things from your own, so there is a different mentality, let's say. Concerning the Dutch people I think generally they are friendly, they smile. They usually help you.
21	IR	Do you feel that the financial crisis has affected you daily routine?
22	RE	In a point yes, because you get to think more about the money you waste and money that you spend but you can find a way to do these things in an easier way.
23	IR	Like what?
24	RE	Probably food or entertainment. Things like that.
25	IR	Did your decision to come in the Netherlands has been affected by this situation (economic crisis)?
26	RE	Well, my decision to go abroad was affected by the situation. My decision to come in the Netherlands was mostly affected by the tuition fees which were low. So it was a motivation to choose the Netherlands.
27	IR	What do you mean when you say that your decision to go abroad was influenced by this situation?
28	RE	You actually don't know what your future has for you in a place with a lot of uncertainties. So you don't want to have in your mind bad expectations about your future life or career. Here there are more opportunities, more offers, more appreciation on your skills and mostly in everything.
29	IR	Have you experienced any discrimination because of the economic situation in Greece?
30	RE	I don't think so. Usually when you say that you are from Greece they will tell you in which places they have been for

		vacation. Few people put their minds in the financial crisis I guess.
31	IR	So you haven't developed any negative feelings about other countries because of that?
32	RE	The only think you can say is, for example in classes because I'm studying Finance, so we tend to talk about Greece a lot and at the beginning Dutch students were kind of weird when they were hearing about Greece, they were laughing a lot but I guess they got used to the fact that there are many Greeks in the class, so they have to be more respectful and careful on how they react. Probably they did understand that they may have some wrong idea about these things.
33	IR	So, do you feel as an integral part of students' community? And do you feel that your adaptation has been influence from the fact that you are Greek?
34	RE	No, I don't think so. I think that what I do is generally what most of International students do.
35	IR	To conclude, do you believe that personal relationships are controlled by the economic situation or human factor is always superior?
36	RE	No, I don't think so. I mean if it was, students from richer countries would be like weirder and careful on who they choose to contact with. I don't think that something like that is happening here. It is may be only the first impression but then they get to see that this is something like wrong.
37	IR	Ok, thank you very much for participating in the interview.
38	RE	I was my pleasure.