

## From Rennes to La Coruña: PhD Students Reflect on their EMERGE Mobility Experience in Spain



### A Week of Learning and Exchange

The program focused on Horizon Europe projects, providing workshops on funding opportunities, research methodologies, and career development. Students engaged in hands-on sessions, gaining practical insights into European research collaboration.

Marielle André, a Psychology PhD student, found the workshops on European project calls particularly valuable. *"The sessions clearly outlined the guidelines, requirements, and challenges of these projects,"* she said. *"The speakers were excellent, and their willingness to engage in discussion was really helpful."*

Nassima Karem, also in Psychology, appreciated the practical advice on academic publishing and literature searches from librarians. *"The session on postdoctoral funding was eye-opening—it showed us how to identify opportunities and plan our next career steps,"* she shared.

### Skills for Future Research Careers

The program also emphasized career development and funding strategies. Mohamed Elhariti, a PhD student in Education Sciences, highlighted two key workshops:

*"The qualitative data analysis session was very hands-on, covering methods like interviews and observation—something I can use directly in my thesis. The career development workshop helped me understand funding options and how to prepare strong applications."*

Constance Hinfray, an Arts PhD student, praised the practical approach to building interdisciplinary projects. *"Professor Elena Solera and her team gave a fantastic overview of European Commission opportunities and potential collaborations,"* she said.

### Beyond the Classroom: Cultural and Professional Connections

The program wasn't just about academic learning—it also fostered international friendships and collaborations. Leaticia Ami Mathob Ouedraogo, a PhD student in Urban and Social Geography, valued the project management and international cooperation sessions. *"Since I'm interested in higher education partnerships, these sessions were incredibly useful,"* she noted.

Students also enjoyed cultural exchanges, from sharing tapas with Spanish peers to exploring Santiago de Compostela. *"The bus ride to Santiago was like a fun school trip—it brought everyone together,"* laughed Constance.

### A Lasting Impact on Research and Careers

The EMERGE Alliance BIP provided more than just academic training—it inspired future collaborations and career growth. As Mohamed reflected, *"Meeting researchers from different countries opened new perspectives and potential partnerships."*

With its blend of skills development, networking, and cultural immersion, the program proved to be a transformative experience for all participants. As Europe continues to strengthen its research ecosystem, initiatives like EMERGE play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of scholars.

*"This wasn't just a training program—it was a stepping stone for our careers,"* Nassima concluded. *"I left with new skills, connections, and a deeper understanding of European research opportunities."*

**\*This article is provides a summary of an article originally written in French. To see the full article, [please go here](#).**