Rennes 2 University

EMERGE Alliance: The Essential Role of Student Ambassadors



** This article is a translated version of an original interview conducted in French*

Read the original article and watch a video of the Ambassadors here.

What do your roles as EMERGE ambassadors involve?

Virginia: So far, my main role has been to share projects with partner universities. As an ambassador, I represent Rennes 2 University within the Alliance, whether through activities organized on campus or during workshops.

Nadia: Being an EMERGE ambassador means representing the Alliance and adapting to different contexts. It was during my trip to Slovakia as part of the EMERGE program that I realized how many moving parts this involves. Our role is to present the Alliance and adapt to the needs of the people we meet.

Mira: For me, my role as an EMERGE ambassador has mainly involved raising the Alliance's visibility among students at Rennes 2 University.

What motivated you to join this European University Alliance?

Virginia: Throughout my studies, I've had many European and international experiences. In high school, I even went to New York to take part in the Change the World Model United Nations (CWMUN), where I simulated UN meetings at the UN Headquarters. By joining EMERGE, I wanted to deepen my knowledge of international issues, especially in Europe.

Nadia: I like stepping outside my usual environment and taking action. Being part of a meaningful project — both human and political — fuels my intellectual and social curiosity. Having traveled a lot, I know how much stepping out of your comfort zone helps you discover others and yourself. For me, getting involved means being part of a collective project and becoming a fully active participant with a concrete role.

Mira: When I read the call for applications for ambassadors, I felt that my skills and background matched the expectations perfectly. I had already taken part in a European project abroad, which was a great experience and made me want to get involved in similar initiatives — even better within a university setting. I thought it would be an interesting experience.

What advantages and opportunities does the EMERGE Alliance offer you?

Virginia: The Alliance allows me to broaden my horizons and meet new people. Professionally, I enjoyed learning how the Erasmus system works behind the scenes. Thanks to EMERGE, I can also travel — a wonderful opportunity! During the workshops in Slovakia, I was struck by the openness and sociability of the Greek participants, traits that reminded me of Italian culture, my own background. These experiences helped me step back, leave my comfort zone, and open myself more to cultural diversity. Last year, I also took part in a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) in Flensburg, which strengthened my desire to explore and exchange.

Nadia: I'm interested in the EMERGE Alliance because I already have a master's degree in English. It's a great opportunity to use and further develop my skills.

Mira: I've always been fascinated by international projects, so being part of an alliance that brings together several countries is very appealing. So far, this experience has mainly allowed me to meet inspiring people and better understand how such an organization works.

Can you give examples of activities you've taken part in? How are you involved?

Virginia: During the Campus Week, we organized activities for students, including questions about Europe and Breton culture. As someone naturally reserved, I pushed myself to open up, gather my courage, and approach people to talk with them.

Nadia: During the Erasmus Days, Mira and I ran a booth where we hosted a quiz about films and music from the Alliance's countries — a fun way to introduce them. We appreciated having a place among the other Erasmus Days participants; we were physically integrated into the event. We also discovered music and films from other countries. Connecting with students made me realize that what we do truly matters.

Mira: We also took part in events organized within EMERGE, such as the opening of an exhibition at the Languages Library, which allowed us to meet others involved in the Alliance.

What skills or qualities have you developed through your role as ambassadors?

Virginia: My experiences with the Alliance have helped me improve my communication skills in both French and English.

Nadia: I've developed flexibility, the ability to make myself available, seize opportunities, and work under pressure with tight deadlines. I feel I've grown in my adaptability and leadership.

Mira: Participating in the Campus Week booth was very instructive. I wasn't very confident about running a booth, but it went really well. I think it boosted my self-confidence.

What has been your most memorable experience as an EMERGE ambassador so far?

Virginia: Slovakia! Especially the International Village, an event organized by students at Matej Bel University. Alliance members and Erasmus students had five minutes to present their country in a creative way — skits, dances, historical or cultural snapshots… Each country also brought culinary specialties and traditional drinks, offering a real taste-discovery journey through the many stands. It was a moment full of encounters, flavors, and traditions, highlighted by beautiful Moldovan dances.

Nadia: Slovakia as well! I even managed to get people from all over the world to dance the gavotte. I loved the atmosphere of the International Village. Along with UBS (Université de Bretagne Sud), we proudly represented Brittany. When we all started dancing together, a real sense of connection emerged — we felt united, as if we had known each other for a long time.

Mira: The Erasmus Days left a strong impression on me. Nadia and I had prepared an activity, but the organization on the day was complicated, so we had to change our plans at the last minute. Still, it was great fun and everything went well.

How does your experience as an ambassador influence your future personal or professional plans?

Virginia: My experience as an EMERGE ambassador only strengthens my desire to pursue more international opportunities.

Nadia: This experience made me aware of the many opportunities available abroad. You can build connections even from where you are. It's very rewarding to take part in a project like this. I particularly enjoy the teamwork and the concrete nature of our involvement.

Mira: I'm a fine arts student, and for now I don't have projects directly linked to this role. However, I'm sure this experience will be useful at some point, professionally or personally.

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