

# Introducing ESN

Have you heard about ESN (Erasmus Student Network)? It's a great organisation which provide opportunities for cultural programs to international students. You can join ESN groups in all over the world - wherever you are. METU also have an ESN community. In Milan our ESN section includes 2 other universities in addition to NABA : IULM and BRERA. I remember during the first week here, I didn't know anybody except my flatmates so I searched for programs on Facebook and this is how I came across with an event organised by ESN. So I went to this event which was an international dinner - everyone had to bring something traditional from their own country. Since I found this event in the last minute I didn't have enough time to cook Gulyás soup so I took some Téliszalámi - our Hungarian salami. At the beggining I was a bit lost: most of the studensts speaked in italian or spanish - which are quite similar. But by the end of the nighth I decided to become a member of this amazing community. Since then, I participated in a lot of programs:

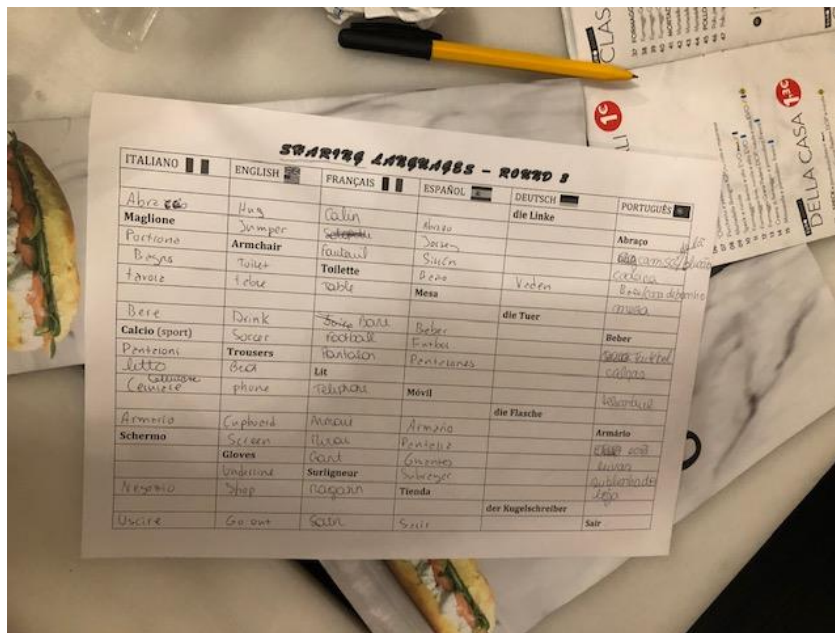




visiting the popular Monumental Cemetery with free tour guide



protest against climate change



tandem night (playing games in order to practice the italian language while eating/drinking)



going to a one day trip to Sirmione and Bardolino (to the wine festival!)



...and of course a lot of parties, like tram party (literally party on a tram which goes around the city)

And these are only those programs which I took in. Besides these, there was a chance to go to Tuscany, to Rome, to a pizza dinner (unlimited pizza for a specified price), visiting museums ect.

To get our ESN member card, all we had to do is register and pay 10 euro. With this card we also get discounts for example on airlines or in pubs. Besides ESN, there is also another chance to get help from a local student-somebody who knows the city and can help you: the papaya app. It was actually developed by ESN. You can download this app on your phone, fill your profile and wait till you find your „buddy“.



**Me and my buddy**