

Ik heb het hier enorm naar mijn zin. Natuurlijk wist ik van mijn broer al een beetje hoe het er hier aan toe zou gaan, maar om het zelf te ervaren is altijd beter.

De eerste week ben ik met mijn baas bij veel bedrijven langs geweest waar hij melkpoeder verkoopt, ik heb dus al veel gezien.

In het weekend trekken we naar de kust waar hij een tweede huis heeft. Omdat we beide veel wielrennen, maken we daar mooie ritten langs de kust (Highway One). Ik vermaak me hier wel ;)

Groeten,
Xaf in Amerika

VERY NICE

Everything is ok. My hosts are very nice and friendly people. They help me to cope with everything. Sometimes they give me useful advises, help me to book some tickets and so on. And they do it very well.

My work is nice and interesting too. It is not hard, but very useful. I knew a lot about main features of tulips and how to work with them. My hosts tell me a lot about it.

Also you shouldn't worry that I sit at home whole day. I like going by bicycle in a little trip around my town after working day. I think that it would be a crime to sit at home in such beautiful country :). Holland is a very nice country and I like it very much.

With best regards,
Nick Dereva at van Dam



Bericht gastmoeder:

Ik hoop op weer net zo een leuk jaar als dit afgelopen jaar. Het werkt nou eenmaal meerdere kanten op toch? Volgens mij hebben zij het wel naar hun zin bij mij en ik vind het ook nog steeds erg leuk.

Morgen komen alle stagiaires bij mij gourmetten, wat een hele onderneming zal zijn: (alle slaapkamers vol met tuinkussens op de grond en slaapzakken erop), maar ik verheug mij er erg op.

Wat bijzonder vind ik het ook als je zo'n groep dan beter leert kennen. We hebben het afgelopen jaar wel samen wat uitstapjes gemaakt zoals Volendam en met wat stagiaires de Nieuwjaarsduik gedaan en dan is het ijs natuurlijk helemaal snel gebroken.

Een fijn weekend, groetjes
Petra Bakker.



Stichting Uitwisseling en Studiereizen voor het Platteland (SUSP)

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Preface

In December SUSP existed 65 years. Instead of having a reason for celebrating 2014 sadly turned out to be a very tough year.

In Spring the rules to the law for foreign labour were changed by the government. And as a result of this work permits were issued much too late by UWV*. Therefore many students could not participate anymore, as they had to be back at their educational institution by the time the work permit was granted. Moreover the work permits for training periods longer than three months were reason for many additional questions by UWV and this caused even more delay.

SUSP was making the costs for staff and office space but could not earn these back. The turnover needed to cover the costs could not be achieved. SUSP could by far not organise as many internships for inbound trainees as budgeted. Tough decisions were necessary: three staff members had to leave the organisation and the three remaining were cut down in working hours.

To ensure the possibility of long term internships in the future SUSP started discussions at the Ministry of Social Affairs. Support is given by members of parliament, the Dutch farmers organisation, the Ministries of Education and Economic Affairs (under which agriculture resorts) and representatives of vocational education and the universities for applied science. This issue will continue to be discussed in the first period of 2015. In December all parties involved expressed that the intention is to come to a positive outcome for SUSP.

All people working at and with SUSP are happy that the organisation can continue the activities and are ready to work towards 100 years of existence.

* UWV = Dutch governmental body responsible for a.o. issuing work permits

Marlous Mens
director

2014

ANNUAL REPORT

Outbound

SUSP sent 72 Dutch youngsters abroad. They went to Canada (35), USA (35) and New Zealand (2).

Inbound

105 students who came from the following countries were placed:

Brazil	5	Japan	12
Denmark	2	Ukraine	52
Germany	1	Russia	10
Guatemala	2	Spain	5
Ireland	1	South Korea	3
France	4	Switzerland	7
Hungary	1		

November
17-20 Training local agents for validating training companies by QAFF standards at de Baak, Noordwijk

November
27 'Wil Weg Markt'. Fair organised by University for applied sciences HAS Den Bosch to inform students about internships abroad

December
4 Meeting at Ministry of Social Affairs about training in The Netherlands for foreign students

December
11 Information meeting for outbound students at Nordwin Agricultural College, Leeuwarden

March
3-8 Study tour for group of 8 teachers from Saratov University Russia

March
14 Meeting Contact Committee

Activities of Stichting Uitwisseling en Studiereizen voor het Platteland

Spread over the year SUSP has organized 12 introductory meetings for 105 foreign trainees and 35 people attended preparatory meetings for Dutch trainees going abroad

De eerste dagen op het bedrijf zijn voor mij erg wennen. Het bedrijf waar ik stage loop is onwijs groot! Zo met de drukke periode loopt er op een dag wel bijna 1000 man rond. Elke dag trekken ze met een mannetje of 80 tulpen en bossen ze in 3 ploegen 24 uur per dag door. Ze zijn dus ook niet voor niks een van de grootste bloemenkwekers van de VS. Er werken ook een hoop Mexicanen op het bedrijf, wat weer goed is om mijn Spaans verder te verbeteren. Al gauw werd het me duidelijk dat het erg druk zou worden voor de Valentijn. Bartje viel dus weer eens met zijn neus in de boeter...

Na een van de eerste paar dagen hadden we gelijk al een 'Farm Meeting'. Hierbij komt al het personeel maandelijks bij elkaar tijdens de lunch. We kregen een Mexicaans soepje en dan vertelt Lane eerst wat over de productiecijfers van elke afdeling en dat gaat gepaard met een hoop applaus. Ook worden er prijzen uitgereikt voor het veiligste team van die maand en voor in de loterij.

Op zaterdagochtend ook even met Lane gesproken over mijn opdracht. Eigenlijk zou ik iets doen in de bemesting met tulpen maar dit wordt nauwelijks gedaan en daarom vond ik het niet erg zinvol. We hebben ook voor wat anders gekozen. Ik ga kijken hoe ik het proces van het tulpen broeien kan optimaliseren. Maar goed, eerst de Valentijns drukte en daarna maar aan mijn opdracht.

Vaak doe ik een of twee keer in de week boodschappen. Ik heb wel een soort van gat in mijn hand met boodschappen doen. Vaak ga ik heen voor vijf dingetjes en dan kom ik thuis met een koffer vol, letterlijk eigenlijk. Omdat ik alleen een fiets heb leek het me handig om mijn koffer mee te nemen om daar de boodschappen in te doen. Ging ik dan, met mijn koffer aan de hand op de fiets.

Bericht van Bart Pletting in Amerika



HELLO!

In a few days I will go home! I have a lot of impressions, I am really very happy that I have used this program and was here 3 month! It was excited and I will never forget these moments!

Thank you so much! It is a pleasure to work with your company and your program!

My farm people with whom I was working all this time, my host: all of these are really cool! I get a lot of experience develop my professional skills, my English, now I can speak free with people abroad! Also I knew a lot of new information and learn process of making cheese! I like it a lot! Now I am even sad, that I will go home, I can't imagine my life without cheese, my farm and people with whom I was all this time!

Julia at "EKO de Eerste"

Thank you for the best summer in my life))))

Demid Naydenov at dairyfarm W. Klaver

Hello Stichting Uitwisseling !

Thanks you everybody for the birthday's post card ! It is very nice ! :)

Here all is Ok as usually, but I am sad to leave soon this great place with these incredible nice family.

It was and it is "gezellig" !

Vincent Jolivelt at GAOS

Kenji and Aleksandr at Tesselaar Alstroemeria



Tatiana and Mariia at "Bruinsma"



Staff trip Texel



Midpoint meeting

Hello! I'm fine, I really like the family, very nice and kind people. I also like the Dutch, their morals, traditions, customs and behavior. I already have some acquaintance with the locals.

My job I like, Marcel teaches me all things, and together we have interesting experiments. On the weekends I go to different cities. Also I really like to ride a bike. I would like to thank you for the Midpoint meeting, it was the most fun of what happened to me here. I now have lots of new friends. Holland is very beautiful and green country.

Thank you very much for this experience and the chance to visit here. I'm happy!

Irina Chekulaeva at Kvekerij Figaro



COZY!

My last week goes very fast, almost all time I was with members of family. During this week we were in town in the south of Friesland. There we went to a forest, also we went to a chicken farm and had a good time together.

Thank you for this exciting time, I don't have enough words to describe those emotions which i feel now. Especially want to thank you for introducing me to such a good family. They are really nice people, thanks for them I saw a lot of things, places and get a big experience in farming. I really enjoyed every moment which I spent here. This 3 month with family and other workers was really cozy.

Thank you also for Tatyana, living with her was nice. We did everything together, and now we are good friends.

Thank you very very much for opportunity to be here. Wish you luck in your good case.

Mariia at Mts Bruinsma-Lenger



Introductory meeting of September



Russian studygroup at Tomatoworld

March
25-27 Study tour for French group 'Genech': 16 students and 2 teachers

April
2-5 EU partner meeting Cork Ireland

April
17-20 Study tour for French group 'Amange': 14 students and 3 teachers

June
10-13 Workmeeting project partners Quality Assurance Foreign Placements (QAFP), Antalya, Turkey

June
19-20 Midpoint meeting Vorden in cooperation with rural youth organisation

July
3 Staff trip Texel

September
9 Meeting Advisory Board

September
25-28 Midpoint meeting Aalten in cooperation with rural youth organisation

October
1 Meeting with Member of Parliament in The Hague on training in The Netherlands for foreign students

October
2-5 Final conference QAFP project at Euroskills, Lille France

October
15-19 General Assembly EUROPEA Bari, Italy

October
23-24 Visit US partner to SUSP office, agricultural college and hosts

October
27 Erasmus+ program advisory meeting with representatives National Agency

November
6 Work conference internationalisation for all Dutch stakeholders at university for applied agricultural science in Delft

November
14 Meeting Contact Committee

Dear Ms. Marlous Mens,

The group of teachers from the Saratov State Agrarian University took part in the study tour in March 2014. We visited various companies and had a magnificent culture program.

We visited dairy campus Waiboerhoeve, where we learned about the organization of the farm with high research facilities. At the Happy Chicken poultry farm we learned the experience of keeping hens using floor management. We visited Flora Holland, they charmed us with many different flowers, their number and beauty. We managed to become participants of the auction, where buyers make their choice from a very rich and colorful assortment.

As we are all economists, it was very interesting and useful for us to communicate with the Vice Chairman of the Dutch Farmers' union, Mr Siem Jan Schenk. We received insight in the Dutch agrarian policy and compared it with Russian one. Due to the extensive cultural program our group was charmed by Amsterdam! We want to say a special thanks to Marlous Mens for organizing this tour and to our Russian speaking guide Oksana Huisman, who told us many interesting stories and facts.

Head of the accounting department of SSAU,

Irina Sharikova