



UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT  
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



# Erasmus+



## 2023 ERASMUS + Staff Mobility at the Professional Development Center of the University of Split Croatia: A Cultural Learning and Professional Experience of a Lifetime



(Ref: Invitation letter dated March 29, 2023 by University of Split to MAAP President for the May 1-May 15, 2023 visit)

By: **Prof Angelica M Baylon, PhD**  
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Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific Philippines



**Special Acknowledgement:** My heartfelt thanks to **Dean Dr Prof Peter Pepur** , the Head of the University of Split Center for Professional Studies ;**Dr. Tonko Konacevic** , the Head for Student Affairs; **Prof. Domagoja Buljan Barbaca** , the lady Head for Quality Assurance; **Dr. Goran Corluca** , the Head for Academic and International Affairs and **Dr Marko Miletic** , the Head for Investment and Development ; **Ana Marivonic** , Expert Associate for Academic Mobility , International Relations Office of the University of Split; **Ms. Mia Vatavuk**, ERASMUS Coordinator of the University of Split Center for Professional Studies;

**Special thanks:** Prof Juric Zdeslav, (Ms Ivana Alujevic and Mrs Vlasta Viaak c/o Prof Tatjana), Ms Ivana Ljubas and Mr. Mate Marusic



## ABSTRACT

This paper presents a **photo documentation report** of the cultural, professional learning and wonderful experiences in Split Croatia made possible through the **ERASMUS Plus Mobility programme of the University of Split Center for Professional Studies** and **MAAP** as external relations Director. The paper ends with concluding remarks and the way forward between MAAP and the University of Split Center for Professional Studies. .

## INTRODUCTION

**The Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) and University of Split Faculty of Maritime Studies** have a good strong cooperation. Both are members of the International Association of Maritime Lecturers (**IMLA**) and the International Association of Maritime Universities (**IAMU**) that gathers maritime higher education institutions worldwide and aims to ensure the standardization of the teaching curricula in order to foster mobility and the gaining of the necessary competencies in facing the challenges of the global labor market.

Both MAAP and the University of Split Center for Professional Studies was founded in **1998** as a higher educational institution.

Formerly named University of Applied Sciences, in 2003, it became a constituent institution of the **University of Split** – Department of Professional Studies with **five departments**: (*Department of Electrical Engineering, Department of Information Technology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Accounting and Finance, & Department of Business Trade*) with **four units**: (*Unit of Mathematics and Physics, Unit of Foreign Languages, Unit of Informatics & Unit of Law and Ethics*). These units run **common courses** for all the Department`s study programmes with three **common values** for the development of students and professionals: **sound professional knowledge** base, **foreign language competence** and necessary **IT training**. The curriculum has been updated on a regular basis to include latest professional achievements and trends in contemporary professional education in Europe.

For this report, I call the University of Split – **Department** of Professional Studies as the University of Split – **Center** of Professional Studies because it has five

departments under the center, so as to distinguish the center from the five departments .

As shown, the **University Center of Professional Studies** at the University of Split, is the only constituent part of the University of Split that delivers undergraduate professional study programmes as well as specialist professional graduate study programmes by its various Departments,

The **University of Split Center of Professional Studies** curriculum, just like any European University, is described based on learning outcomes and is graded using the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). All programs are validated through its quality assurance process. The University of Split recognizes the use of ECTS for the purposes of **international mobility**. The bilateral cooperation initiatives' activities result from the **ERASMUS+ Bureau's negotiations with foreign counterparts**.

**MAAP** offers 4-year **3 Bachelor's Degrees**: *Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering, and Marine Engineering and Transportation(Dual Course)* and soon *BS Electrotechnology and Electronics with Mechatronics* under the two (2) Departments : Department of Marine Transportation and Marine Engineering respectively. On the other hand the University of Split Center of Professional Studies has five (5) Departments namely: Department of Electrical Engineering ; Department of Computing; Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Management , Trade and Tourism; and Department of Accounting and Finance , hence offering 3-year six (6 ) **Undergraduate Professional Study Programmes ( with 180 ECTS Credits)** (*Electronics; Power Engineering ; Computing; Mechanical Engineering; Trade and Tourism Manaement; Accounting and Finnance* ).

For the graduate programs, MAAP is the only maritime school in the Philippines, that offers vertically aligned **two graduate courses**, (*Master of Science in Marine Transportation or MSMT* and *Master of Science in Marine Engineering or MSMarE*), accredited by the Philippine Commission on Higher Education . On the other hand, the University of Split Canter offers 2-year five **Specialist Professional Graduate Study programmes (with 120 ECTS Credits) namely:** *Electrical Engineering; Applied Computing ; Mechanical Engineering; Trade and Tourism Management; and Accounting and Finance*.

Both MAAP (a scholarship private institution for Filipinos) and the Center of the University of Split (a government institution) are currently having about 2000

students in a year. Both are engaged in improving the existing programs, the quality of students' needed to complete their studies to enter the global labour market. Both aims to strengthen cooperation through **shared best practices, international mobility, technology transfer** and joint **implementation** proactively.

Happy to learn the Center for Professional Studies' best practices and various facilities for effective delivery of a global Professional Studies. I would like to express my wonderful experience using the Mnemonic **E-R-A-S-M-U-S P-L-U-S**, which my experiences and professional meetings stand for:

**E-** Enjoyed social and cultural activities and Explored Croatia, its Adriatic Coast, top towns, historical places and breath taking locations.

**R-** Reinvigorated my faith as I get to visit so many Catholic Churches which are all walking distance. Although in Croatian Language, felt heavenly peace, fellowship and overflowing happiness every Mass.

**A-** Amazed with the beauty of Croatia and the so many Catholic Churches, similar in the Philippines with all church named after the Saints or the Blessed Mother, which is really heartwarming.

**S-**Supplemented through additional international contacts and friends needed for global partnerships in line with SDG 17.

**M-**Mesmerized by the various experts, facilities, equipment, and courses the Center for Professional Studies of the University of Split offers.

**U-** Unique experiences made possible by ERASMUS plus in the beautiful Croatia

**S-** Strengthened cooperation between my institution- the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) Philippines, and the University of Split Center for Professional Studies

**P-** Participated in round table discussions and presented MAAP curriculum both in the undergraduate and graduate level, so we may see areas for possible cooperation, Teaching /Staff mobility and online teaching pro-actively in line with SDG 4 for Quality Education and Training.



**L** – Learned that there many things to learn, explore and be grateful for in my lifetime

**U**- Understood and appreciated the culture and history of Croatia and its similarities and differences from the Philippines

**S**- Shared and Snapshots with old and new found friends in Croatia especially different places visited that form part of this report. Indeed photos speak a thousand words and wonderful experiences, friends, food and places were photo-documented. All these have been made possible by ERASMUS Plus.

## The ERASMUS International Week May 2-6, 2023

With theme “*GETTING TOGETHER – introducing institutions and fostering Collaboration*”. University of Split hosted by the Center for Professional Studies, celebrated the **2ND Erasmus International Week**



which offered the great opportunity to explore more about the **University Center of Professional Studies** as well as the city of Split and its surroundings; to participate in a round table and workshops with the teaching and administrative staff; to network and meet with colleagues and enjoy social and cultural activities with English as the official language of communication.

### Programme of Activities



**A Taste of Croatian Food ( Rissotto, Pasticada, Grilled Seafood etc) and met many Filipinos working in the many fine dining restaurants**



## PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

At the **University of Split Professional Studies Center** Kopilica ul. 5, 21000, Split <https://www.oss.unist.hr/en/> (accompanied by Head of **Marine Engineering of the Faculty of Maritime Studies** Dr Prof Engr Zdeslav Juric)



At the **University of Split International Relations Office (ERASMUS Plus)** Sinjska 2, 21000 Split Hrvatska / Croatia <http://www.unist.hr> ( Meeting with Expert associate for Academic and Staff Mobility **Ms Ana Marinovic**)





**At the Office and Auditorium of the University of Split Center for Professional Studies (welcomed by the Head Dr Prof Peter Pepur)**

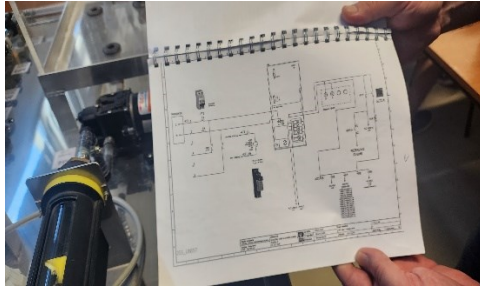
Having met **Dr. Peter Pepur** for the first time, he confirmed that I am the first Filipino to visit the center of the University of Split. I provided a brief introduction about MAAP and discussed possible areas for cooperation . Dr Pepur arranged another meeting with all his officers to further discuss more on possible joint areas for cooperation

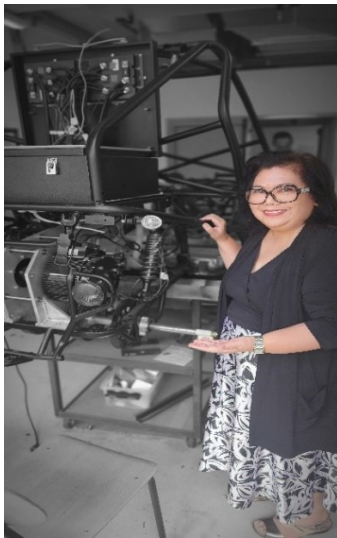


**Tour of the Amazing Electrotechnologies ,Electronics Laboratories**











At the **Main Campus of Center of Professional Studies** Kopilica ul. 5, 21000, Split  
<https://www.oss.unist.hr/en/>



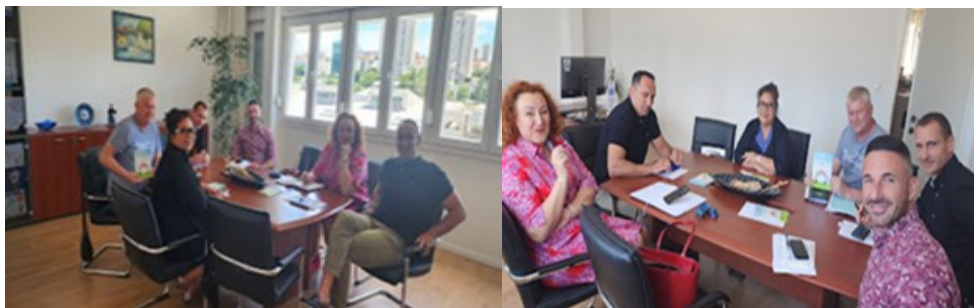
With Ms **Mia Vataluca** , the lady ERASMUS Coordinator of the Center , Dr Prof **Peter Pepur**, the Head of the Center and with Dr. Prof. **Domagoja Buljan Barbaca** , the lady Acting Head for Quality Assurance.



Met with other top officials of the Center led by the Head of the Center Dr Prof **Peter Pepur**. Photo souvenir with the important personalities, leaders, and professors of the Center as we discussed the possible way forward for the international cooperation between MAAP and University of Split Center for Professional Studies and their visit at MAAP to meet MAAP President / IMO Goodwill Ambassador **Vadm Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret)**.



**L-R** Head for Student Affairs – **Tonko Kovačević Ph.D**; Head for Academic and International Affairs – **Goran Ćorluka Ph.D** ; Head for Quality Assurance – **Domagoja Buljan Barbača Ph.D** ; Head of Center for Professional Studies-**Peter Pepur, PhD** ; Dr. **Baylon** of MAAP; Head for Investment and Development – **Marko Miletić Ph.D**.



## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

In visiting Split, part of the ERASMUS staff mobility is knowing **interesting facts** about Split and to **visit historical ancient and nature places** that Split has to offer. Split is the largest city in Dalmatia, the second largest city in Croatia and the administrative center of the Split-Dalmatia County. The inhabitants of Split say that it is not only the most beautiful but also the sportiest city in the world.

- **DIOCLETIAN DREAM** – Virtual Reality Museum ( 15 minutes) A dynamic 360 degree 3D experience , bringing one close and personal with the emperor and his amazing palace .



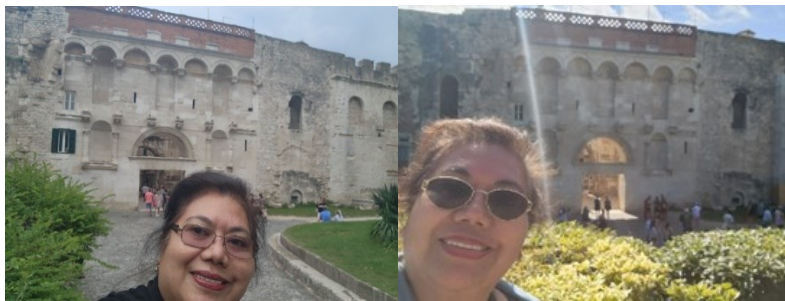
- **SPLIT**

The Story of Split is already 17 centuries old, dating to the time the Roman Emperor Diocletian decided to build his Palace right on the peninsula near the great **Roman city Solana**, where he wanted to spend the last years of his life. During these 1700 years, the place turned into a city , which to this day lures with its rich tradition , glorious history and beauty of its natural and cultural heritage. **Diocletian palace** and the entire historical core of Split have been on the **World Heritage UNESCO list** ever since 1979, and not only for the extraordinary preservation of the palace but also because the palace and its city continue to live a full life. Exploring the ancient city walks me through time ,along the great examples of ancient architecture like Peristyle , the middle age Romanesque church and **Gothic Palace** , Renaissance portals of the noblemen's houses,, Baroque facades and modern architecture superbly merged in the rich heritage. **Diocletian Palace** is surrounded by Four Gates; Golden (N), Silver (E), Brass (S) and Iron (W) gates.



**Golden or Northern Gate ( Porta Aurea)** –in the past , it is the gate that accommodated military and servants

- Adjacent to the **Strossmayerov Park** (Ðardin) and the statue of **Grgur Ninski**. It is connected to a *cardo*, a north-south main street, leading to the central square of Peristil at Diocletian’s Street). The main entrance to the palace used by the emperor in entering his new home upon arrival from his nearby town of Salona (Solin). Remains of the Benedictine convent can be seen nearby at the **Chapel of Arnir** featuring an altar slab and sarcophagus made by the early Renaissance sculptor and architect Juraj Dalmatinac. Above the gate is the 5th century **Chapel of St. Martin**, (patron saint of soldiers). This miniscule chapel (5 meters in width), may be accessed thru a narrow stairway by turning right after passing through the gates and ring the doorbell of the Dominican convent.





Sculpted by Ivan Meštrović, this gargantuan statue (**Grgur Ninski**). is one of the defining images of Split. Its subject, a 10th-century Croatian bishop, fought for the right to **use old Croatian in liturgical services instead of Latin**. Notice that his left big toe has been polished to a shine – it’s said that **rubbing the toe brings good luck and guarantees that you’ll come back to Split**. Indeed true in my case! A third time in Split ?

**BRASS or SOUTHERN GATE** (*Porta aenea*) (Brass Gate) –in the past , the gate is known for Emperors residential and religious purposes

- Adjacent to the sea and popular Riva harbor-front promenade. It connects into the basement halls of the palace leading below the emperor’s imperial quarters up the stairs to the Peristil Square, and further down the *cardo* to the Golden Gate. Dubbed a “**safety gate**” because it enabled the emperor and others to escape by sea in case of danger. It also acted as a service entrance for supplies that came by boat. Most popular passageway for tourists, leading to souvenir shops in the basement. The **basement halls** showcase the substructure of Diocletian’s Palace consisting of many rooms and wall work as supporting walls for the emperor’s residents above.



**SILVER or EASTERN GATE** (*Porta argentea*) (Silver Gate)

-Adjacent to main **green market, Pazar** and the **church of St. Dominic**. It connects to the *decumanus*, an east-west main street leading to the central square of Peristil and on to the

Iron Gate, exiting onto the Pjaca Square.- The look-out corridor above the gate was transformed into a church in the 6<sup>th</sup> century dedicated to the gate's patron **Saint Apollinaire** .



Pope John Paul II in 2000 passed through the gate in his “Popemobile” and driving along the wide decumanus, much like the emperor did in his chariot almost two millennia ago.



### **IRON or WESTERN GATE (Porta Ferrea)**

-At the exit to the popular **Pjaca Square**. It connects to the decumanus, an east-west main street leading to the central square of Peristil and on to the Silver Gate. Most cluttered of the four gates as centuries of developments have been built around and Romans, Avars, Slavs, Italians and French have all left their mark here. **Saint Teodor** was the protector of the Iron Gate and in the 6th century a tower-like church was erected above the gate on the sentry corridor to honor him.





- THE BASEMENT HALLS OF DIOCLETIAN PALACE





## 12 Catholic Churches Visited in Split

### 1. Cathedral of Saint Domnius, Split

Named after Saint Domnius (Saint Dujam, or Saint Domnius) patron saint of Split, who was a **3rd-century Bishop of Salona**. Salona was a large Roman city serving as capital of the Province of Dalmatia. Today it is located near the city of Solin in Croatia. Saint Domnius was martyred with seven other Christians in the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian. He was born in Antioch, in modern-day Turkey, and beheaded in 304 at Salona.



### 2. Church and Monastery of St. Frances, Split

- Located on the Western part of the Riva, were built on the old early Christian site, by the grave and a small Church of St Felix, martyr from the time of Diocletian. In the 13th century the Little brothers of St Francis inhabit the Church. From the Church's artwork the most valuable is the Gothic Crucifix painting by Blaž Juraj of Trogir from the beginning of the 15th century, and the sarcophagus depicting the Crossing over the Red sea, part of the sacral artwork from the Roman times. Next to the Church is a Franciscan monastery with a 13th century cloister and an opulent library with over 3000 books, among which even some from 16th century. In the Church and the Monastery are tombs of prominent citizens of Split, like the father of Croatian literature Marko Marulić and one of the greatest Croatian politicians Ante Trumbić whose sarcophagus is the work of Ivan Meštrović





**3. The Church of Saint Martin ,Split ( near golden gate)**





#### 4. The Dominican Church and Monastery of St Catherine of Alexandria or St Dominic Church ( Across Silver gate)

Outside the **silver gate** is the Church of St. Dominic, first mentioned in the 13th century but got its current structured in the 17th century and later it underwent an expansion in the 19th century. Within the church you will find a fascinating painting from the Middle Ages titled “**Miracle in Suriano**” by Palma il Giovane, a **gothic crucifix**, preserved **wooden Baroque altars**, an ancient organ, and the tomb of Arrigoni, the early 17th century bishop of Šibenik



## 5. Church of the Holy Cross , Split



## 6. Church of the Holy Ghost , Split ( 24/7 Adoration Chapel)

(Many thanks to my new found lovely lady friend Ivan , as she showed me to the other churches within the Diocletian Palace )



## 7. Church of St Philip Neri ,Split





**8. Church of St Joseph and the Holy Family , Split , ( near Hotel Globo)**



**9. Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church ,Split**



**10. Our Lady of Health Monastery and Church , Split**



**11. Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary , Split**



## 12. Provinciate and Monastery of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Vinko Paulski, Split



- Split Central Treasury Museum

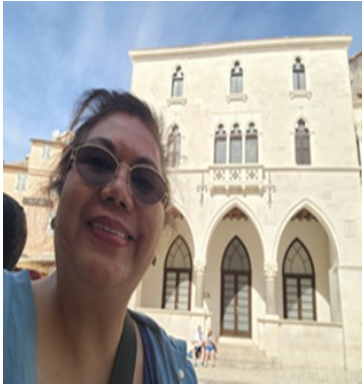






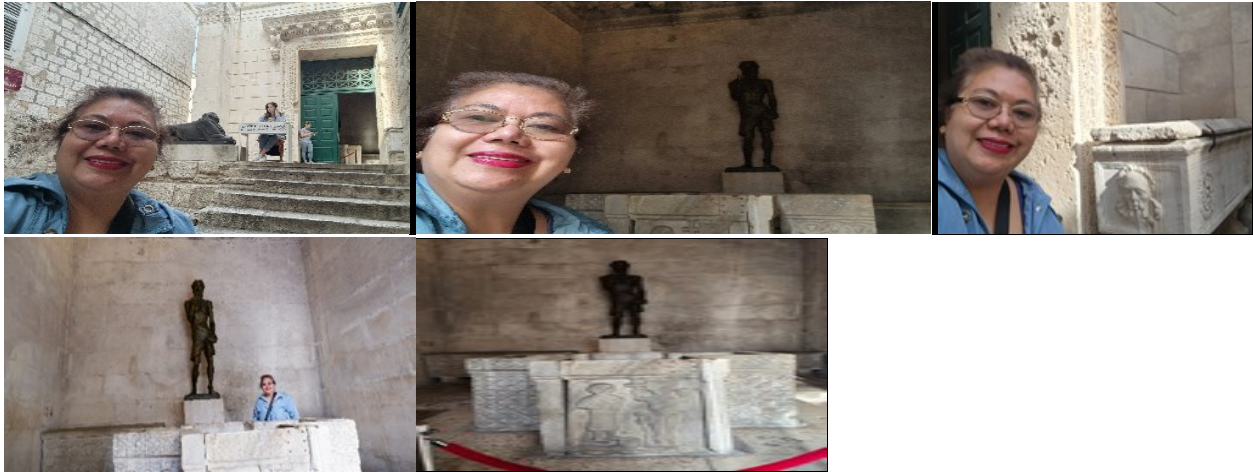
**Climbed Up at the Tower of the Cathedral of Dominos overlooking Split**







- **Temple of Jupiter** ( opposite Heritage Hotel in Diocletian Palace )

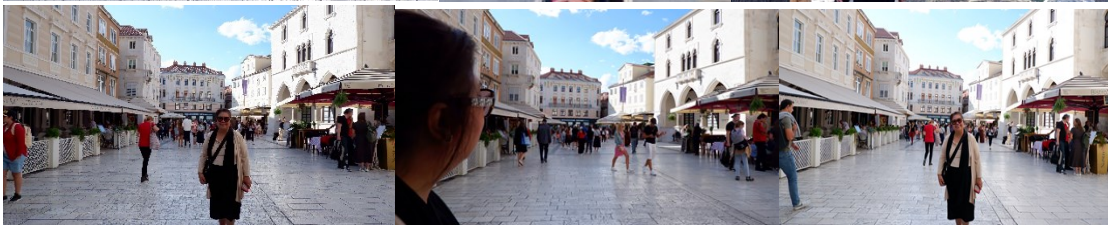
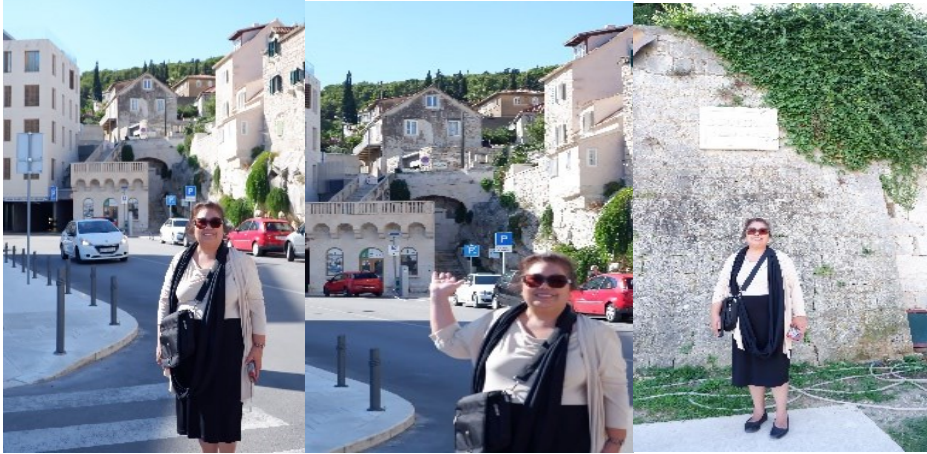


- **OLD TOWN OF SPLIT**

The Old Town of Split is the maze of streets and cobblestoned lanes that surround Diocletian's Palace. **People's Square (Narodni Trg)** is the **heart of the Old Town**. Cafes and restaurants spill out into the square and one of the highlights of a visit here is gazing up at the old town clock.





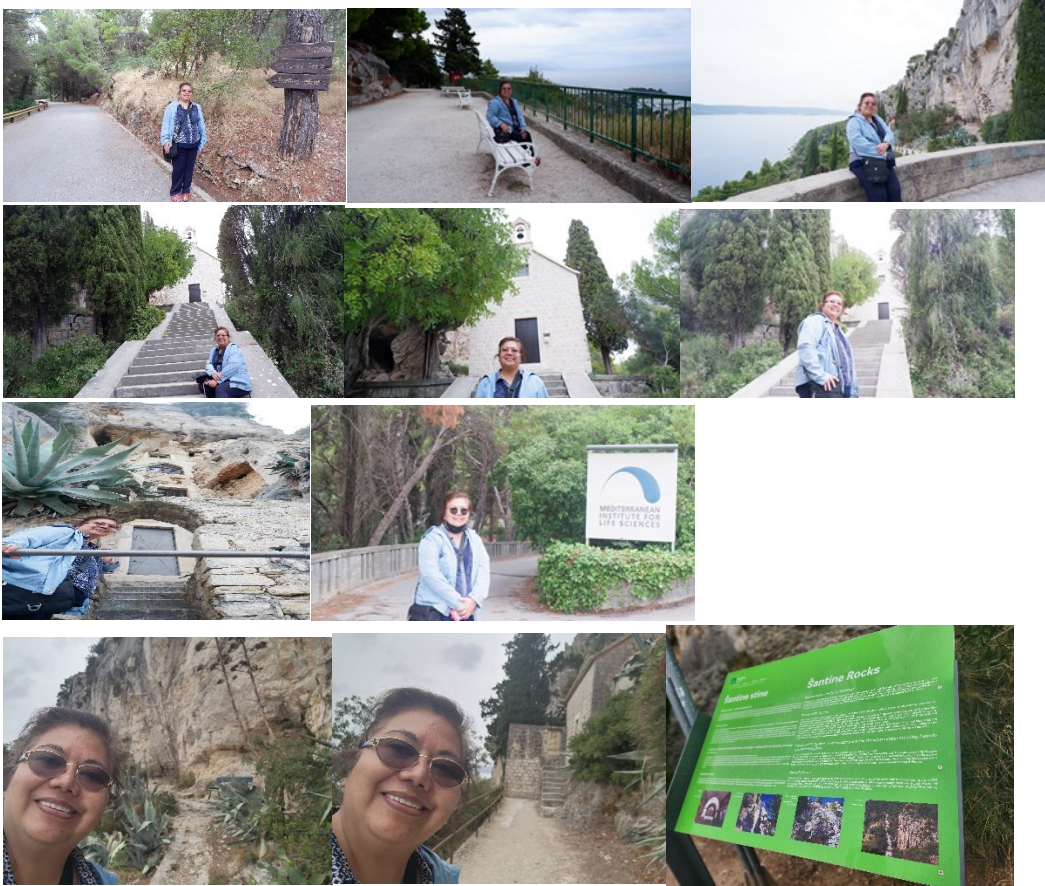




- **MARJAN PARK**

Often referred to as the *“lungs of the city”*, this green forest oasis west of Split's old town area is a favorite amongst locals for hiking, biking, swimming, and rock climbing. Approaching up to 178m over Split's western fringes, this nature reserve occupies a big space in Split's essence. The sights over the city and neighboring islands are amazing, and the shady trails provide a welcome stay from both the heat and the summertime tourist crowds. An 8.0-km circular trail near Split, Split-Dalmatia, it took me an average of it takes an average of 2 hours walking to complete, although there is a road for cars. The highest peak called **Telegrin**, which name derives from Napoleonic era where here it was a telegraph station, is 178 meters high with 314 steps to reach the highest point. Entrance to Marjan Forest is free. Two churches: Our lady of Bethlehem and St Nicholas Church at Marjan park





- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM , Split Croatia**







- **KRKA NATIONAL PARK**

This is known after the Krka waterfalls of which the **Skradinski Bulk** is the largest and the most beautiful waterfall in Europe (37.5 meter high). The national park encircles the Krka River and its deep canyons. It has the most amazing river in Dalmatian surrounded by untouched nature. The **Plitvice Lakes National Park** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Croatia's oldest and largest National Park.





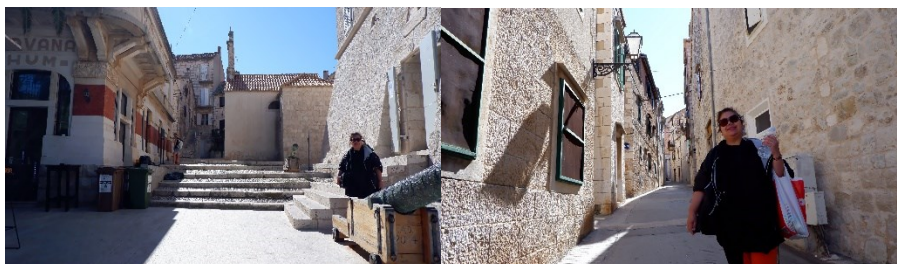
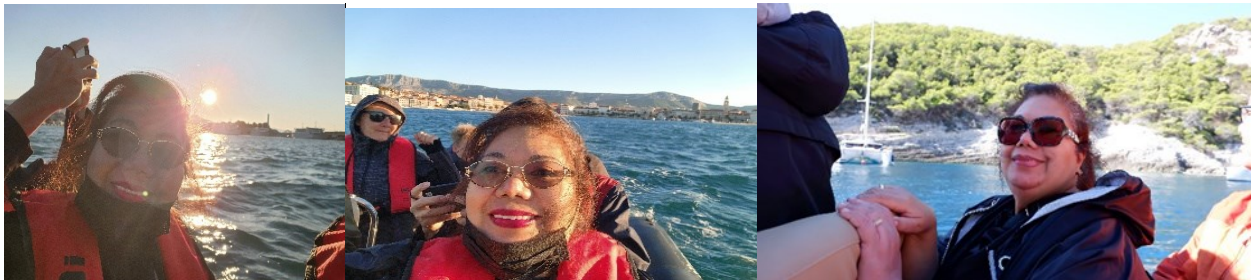
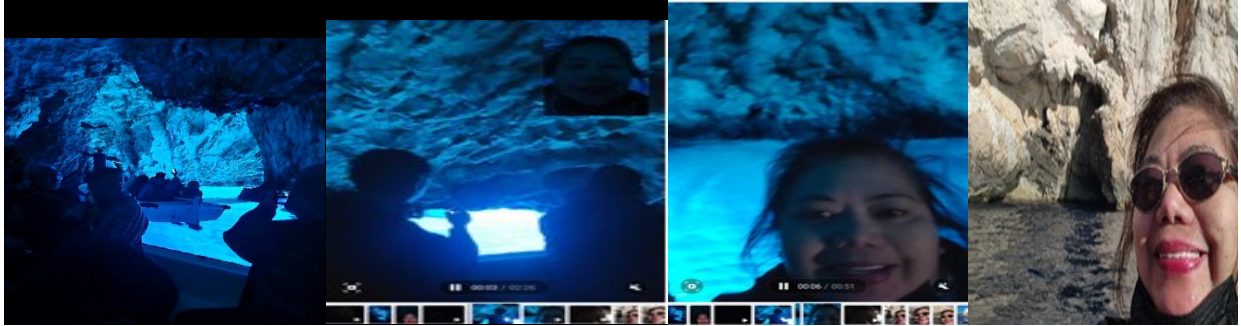


Had enjoyed the sights of crystal clear waters, waterfalls, small lakes. On **Skradinski bulk water fall**, I see old mills and expert presentation of ethnological collections stamping mills, rollers , weavers and picturesque landscape. Another **St Nicholas Church** inside KRKA park.

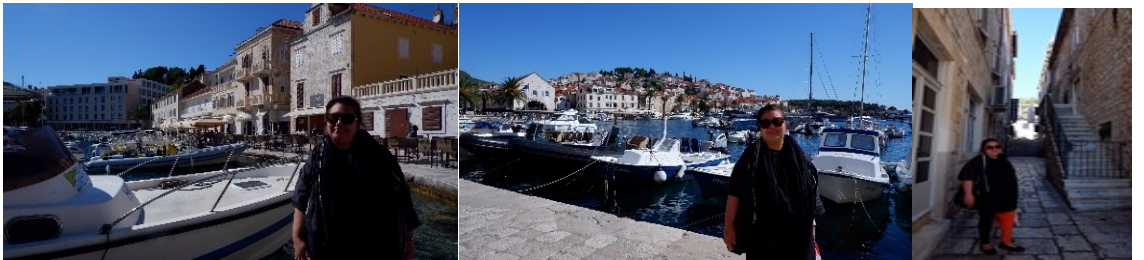
- **Blue Cave and Hvar Tour - 5 Islands Tour from Split ( Komiza Island, Siniva Bay Island, Budikovac Island, Paksland and Hvar town )**
- Took a boat over the calm waters of the **Adriatic Sea** to the **Blue Cave**, a coastal wonder famed the aquamarine light within. Marveled and witnessed the spectral display of sunlight within the ancient coastal caves and discovered the spellbinding natural phenomenon of the Blue Cave. Explored



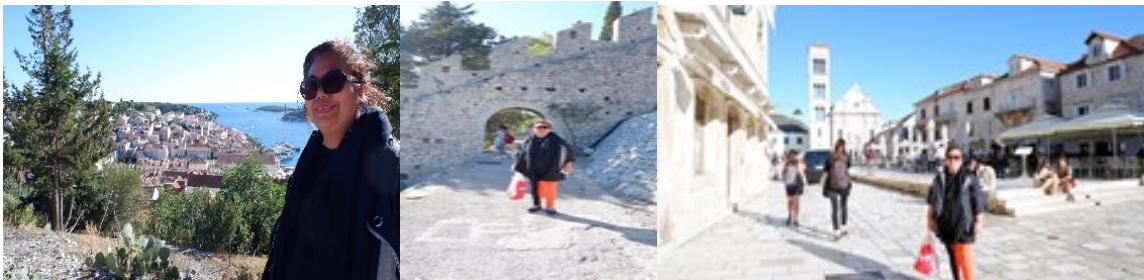
the charming seaside village **towns of Komiza** and **quaint coastal town Hvar**  
Gained interesting insight into the rich culture and heritage of the region











**Sta Maria Church, HVAR Island**





- **Blue LAGOON CROATIA TOUR**

Indeed a breathtaking tourist destination in Croatia and in the Adriatic Sea. It is located between **Drvenik Veliki Island** and other small islands, , **Krknjaš Mali**, and **Krknjaš Veli. Maslinica, Necuja** on Solta Island . The Split harbor, it's about 14 nautical miles in the southwest.





**Budihivac Island** . paleosoils, sand ,pebbles, **Solta Island** , and **blue lagoon** on a flooded rocky hill



- **OMIS CROATIA**

The views from both fortresses are stunning and are definitely worth a visit. Omiš itself is tiny and can easily be explored in an hour. It has pretty streets and old buildings as well as a few churches (8), which is a lot for such a small town). namely: **Church of Sv. Mihovil (St. Michael); Church of Sv. Rok (St. Roch Church of Sv. Petar (St. Peter);); Church of Sv. Duh (Holy Ghost); Church of Sv. Luka (St. Luke); Church of Sv. Marije (St.Mary); Church**



## The Catholic Churches in Omis Croatia

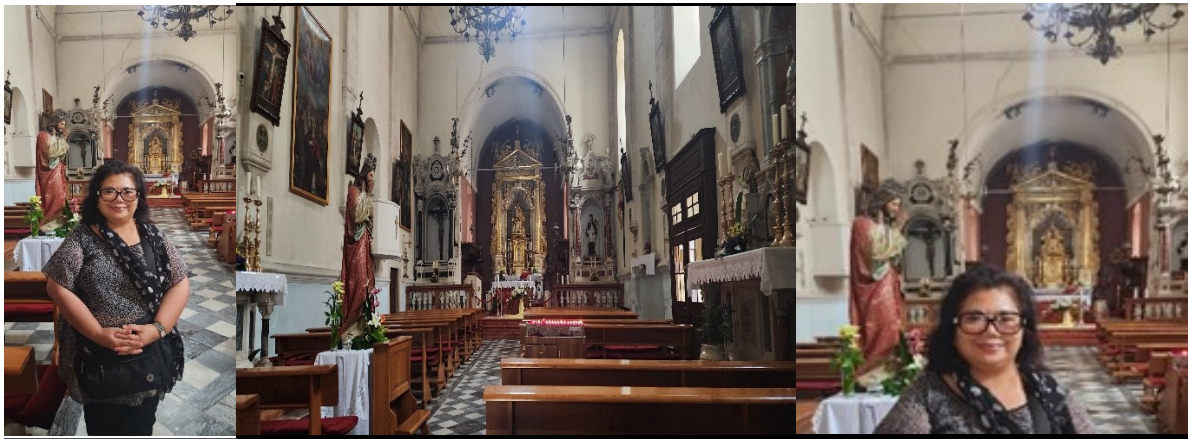


(1) *St Michael Church (oldest); (2) St Roch Church; (3) St Peter Church (4) Holy Ghost Church*



5) *St Luke church (6) St Mary church ( 7) St Petra Pico Church (newest)*

### *St Michael Church ( Oldest Church in Omis Croatia)*

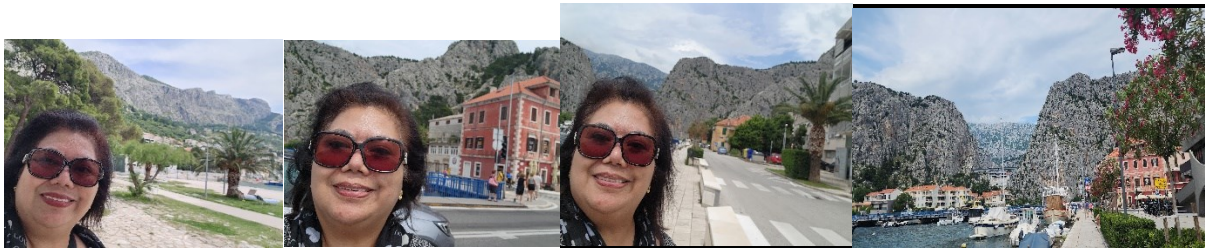
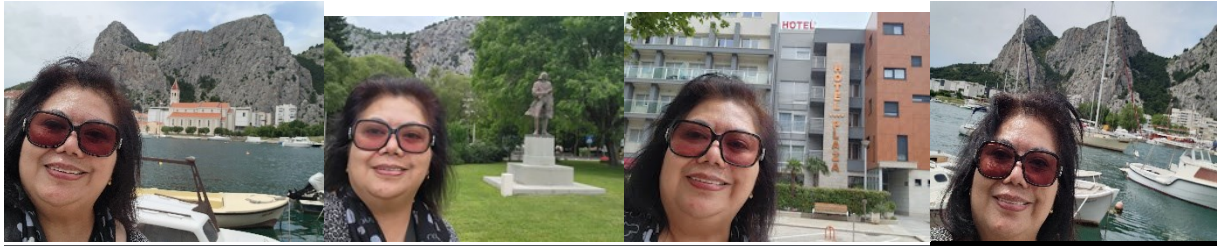




**The Church of St Petra Pico ( newest Church in Omis Croatia)**



**Walking in the Parks , OMNIS Croatia**





- TROGIR , Croatia





## 1. St Lawrence Church in Trogir

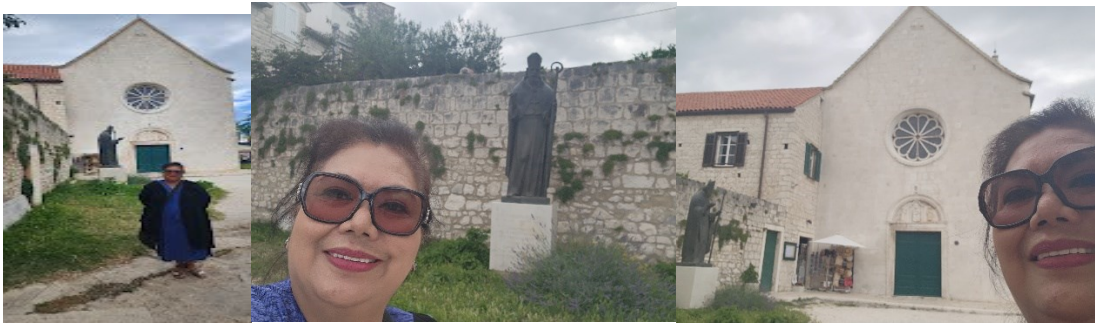
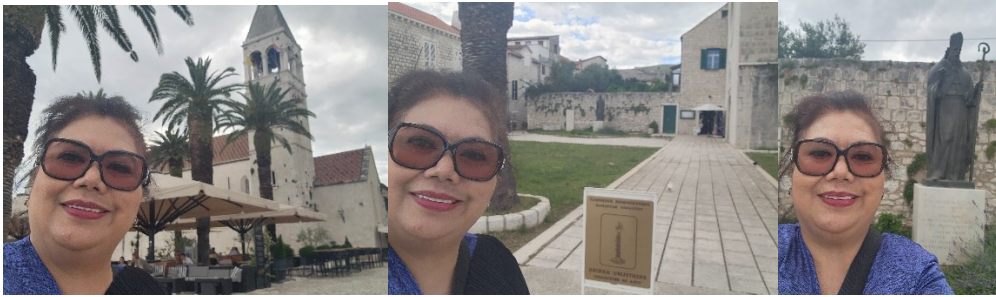


## 2. Nicholas Church in Trogir





### 3. St Dominic Church and Monastery in Trogir



### 4. St Ivan Church in Trogir



## The Fortress Karmelengo (15<sup>th</sup> Century)



- **SOLIN or SALONA CROATIA**

Solin is a small, slightly inland town in Central Dalmatia, just 5km away from Split. Solin (or Salona) is rather famous for having been the birthplace of Roman Emperor Diocletian in the 3rd century and also the capital of Dalmatia in Roman times. Solin is the cradle of ancient Croatian History, Walking at the footsteps of Emeror Diocletian , Queen Jelena , King Zvmir and many more.

### **SALONA ROMAN RUINS**

Salona was destroyed and abandoned in the 7th Century during the invasion of the Avars and Croats.





- **Sarcophagus ( Bishop Fr Frane)**



- **Manastirine (Early Christian Basilica – 5<sup>th</sup> Century)**



- **Tomb of St Dominic or Domino ( Bishop and Martyr )**





- Chapel of St Dominic ( Medieval)



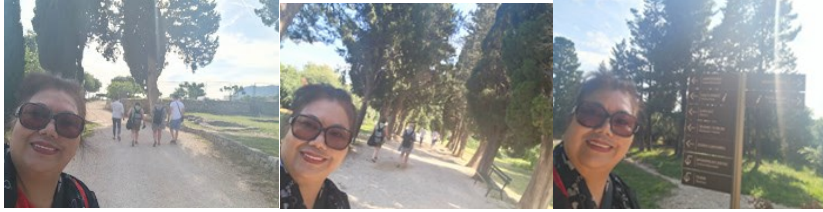
- Tusculum



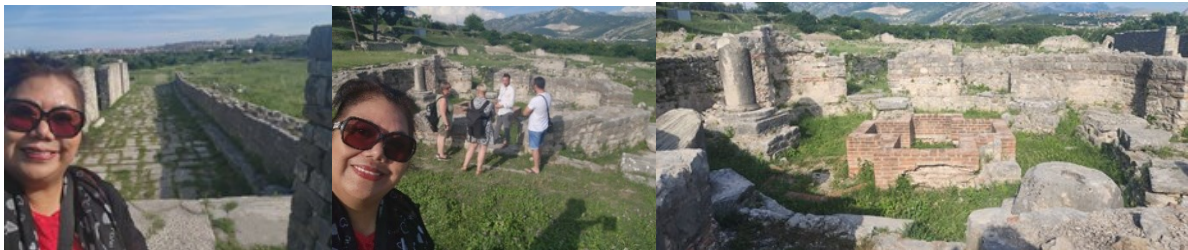
- Episcopal Center







- **Basilica Cum Baptisteryo**

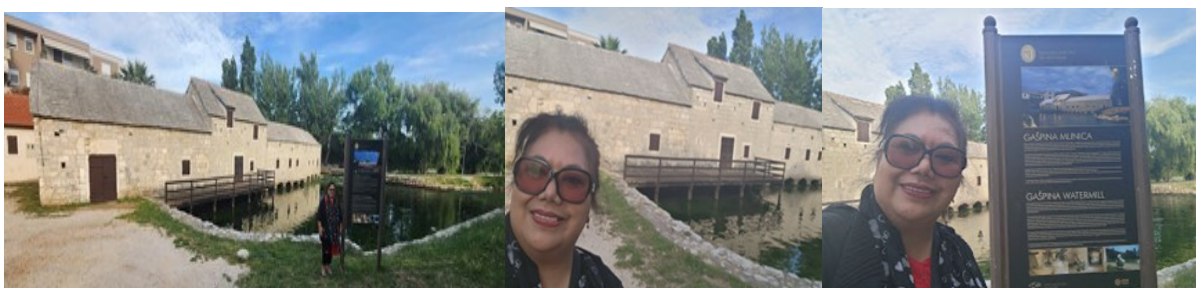


- **Amphitheatre** is in the farthest part of the park from the entrance, and took a 15-20 minutes to walk. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, it was built to accommodate an impressive 15,000 spectators.



- **Gaspina Mill**

This mill, one of the few preserved ones left on the **Jadro River** that was constructed in the early 18th century and worked – to a lesser extent – up until the 1960s. After being closed and following a period of disrepair, the mill was restored and reopened to visitors in 2008. Here the grain was ground by the farmers from the inland area of Zagorje who would descend from the **Kils Mountain** in autumn in wagons. In terms of historical continuity and ethnographic value, this mill represents a cultural monument and has been entered into the **Registry of Cultural Monuments** of the Croatia Republic.







- **Hollow Church** (*Suplja crkva* in Croatian) or **Church of St Peter and Moses** , is the remains of a church from the 11th century, which was in fact built within a basilica from the 6th century. The **River Jadro** flows close to this church, often flooding parts of the site.





## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The ERASMUS+ mobility provided an excellent opportunity for my **personal and professional growth**, beneficial for **my institution MAAP** and **all organizations I am affiliated with**. Having met various experts, faculties, and visited new facilities I have noted some of the best practices and the way forward.

I am very much amazed by the Electro technologies and Electronics laboratories, which are also very visible from the expertise of the Head of the Center **Dr Peter Pepur** and Deputy **Tonco** and faculty, and also from the undergraduate and graduate technical and professional course offerings coupled by the impressive robotics, electrical vehicles and various software programs and projects that are being completed by the students. Indeed students are not only taught the theoretical part, but more so all students are trained the technical part hence are provided the needed skills needed for them to be an entrepreneur. The graduates may opt to put up their own businesses like service centers because they both know the theories and also on how to do it.

The Professional Studies Center of University of Split and MAAP Philippines also agreed to organize Online **Lecturing Program** of their faculty to students and, based on common topics being taught in the BSMT and BSMarE program and also in the MSMT and MSMarE graduate programs at CAMS–MAAP especially on the subject Electrotechnology or Electronics as MAAP will soon offer a BS in Electro technology and Electronics. We will arrange it based on a common convenient time and schedule.

I also have been encouraged to explore Split and was advised to visit nice places to form part of my ERASMUS plus report.

Croatia is just like the Philippines being a **Catholic Nation**. There are so many Catholic churches. Although Masses are only in Croatian language, I enjoyed attending the masses and offered thanksgiving and prayers to loved ones, kind people, and for the blessings provided me in my lifetime.

For every great opportunity, there is a corresponding responsibility that goes with it. Being grateful and motivated by the privileges and opportunities granted to me inspired me to do the best of my capabilities thru God's help and overflowing grace. Indeed, this wonderful professional experience made me represent my institution

MAAP as a **global Filipino citizen** being able to represent values of women's inclusivity and diversity in Higher Education Institutions in line with **SDG 4** (Quality Education) , **SDG 5** ( Women Empowerment and Inclusivity ) , and **SDG 17** ( Global Partnership).

This ERASMUS Plus experience shall serve as an inspiration to be a productive and nurturing human being as God's instrument for His greater honor and glory. I saw and felt God's power and love in this ERASMUS-plus journey. The experience also added another first in the history of my career as the **FIRST FILIPINO** and also the pioneer MAAP Director and **first ERASMUS coordinator** for MAAP, ever invited in Croatia by the University of Split Center for Professional Studies this **2023**, in their campus which I shall forever cherish as long as I live!

Thank you, **University of Split Center for Professional Studies**. Thank you **MAAP**. Thank you, **ERASMUS +**, and to all those **important people and friends** who made this professional and cultural journey possible for me in my lifetime.

To God be the Glory and Honor!