

Internship report

My name is Simon Lièvre and I just finished my internship at AdRem Software in Krakow, Poland. In this report I give my impressions about my work for AdRem Software, Poland and polish culture and what this internship brought to me.

AdRem Software is a software development company whose unique product is a network monitoring software. Thanks to its performances and functionalities, it fits to market needs. It is designed in a modular way that makes it easier to add new features.

I was integrated in a development team with 3 others trainees. We spent the first month with a senior developer to learn new programming languages and technologies. It was very interesting and we learned a lot but an entire month was definitely too much. I don't mean that we are fast learner, it's just that they had nothing else for us to do.

After that month we finally got a project. They had a standalone application that needed to be refracted in a three-tier architecture (client - server - database). This application consisted in remote agents (client) installed on specific nodes on the network that collects and sends monitoring data to a server for storage. A web application is used to see this data and manage the remote agent through the server. The project was naturally divided in 3 parts: remote agents, back-end server and web application. I was responsible for the server part with an other trainee. The server is build upon Node JS. Our goal was to define data structures for storing the data and provide a REST API for the communication with the other components.

I appreciated the fact that we were quite independent on the project. We also always found help when needed. Everyone was nice with us and we never missed anything. I just regret that we could have done more if they had given us the project sooner.

I move now more specifically on my stay in Krakow and the polish culture as I felt it.

The local IAESTE committee in Krakow is great, there is a lot of people always there to help or have a drink. As I wasn't familiar with IAESTE members before my internship, it was disturbing for me at first that almost everything is managed only by students with all pro and contras that it means. I am someone well-organized who likes order and plans. Not knowing when and where I was suppose to go to work on Monday or when would I get my salary was a strange feeling. But like I said there is always someone to help.

The local committee organized events during my stay. I strongly recommend to attend it if you want to make new friendship with other trainees from all over the world. We went for trekking in Zakopane, City tours and parties.

Polish young people are nice and opened to discussion. Elderly people are cold and only speak Polish or Russian. It is hard to blame them though it was hard for us to get a monthly ticket for the bus or book a washing machine in the dormitory.

Speaking of the dormitory, well it is a student dormitory what else to say ? It was really cheap and that is the only good thing. We were 3 in a room. Toilets and shower are shared with 3 other rooms. If you don't clean it yourself no one does. The kitchen is good enough to cook spaghetti but not much more. We had 2 Ethernet cables for 3 people so we had to set up Wi-Fi hotspots with our laptops. There is a lot of noise in the streets by night.

For all these reasons we did not spend much time in the dormitory. We rather chose to eat in restaurants and do sport in the evening (except on GoT day). There were a swimming pool and a gym nearby the dormitory which was good.

About Krakow now, it is an amazing city ! If you like sightseeing you won't be disappointed. There are so many things to see. Krakow has an important historical background and you can feel it. If you prefer partying, you will find more bars, pubs and clubs than anywhere else in Europe.

Prices in Poland are lower than in most countries in Europe. For a Swiss guy like me, it is hard to believe that you pay 1.5 CHF for a 0.5L beer. But you have to keep in mind that you are paid like a Polish worker. In fact I have to say that I lived like in vacation and did not spare money during my stay. But the salary was correct and sufficient to ensure a journey without extras (restaurants, bars, visits).

To conclude, I am really happy to have taken that opportunity offered to me. As a professional experience, I have learned a lot of things and I found the job quite interesting. As a personal experience, I discovered amazing people there and I am more self confident as my studies gently comes to an end and real work begins...