

## Interview Estonian students

**After three months in the Netherlands, Andrea, Jakob, Pavel and Marite from Estonia are very enthusiastic about studying at the Police Academy. The students talk about the differences and the knowledge they gained at the Police Academy.**

Studying here is different from Estonia. The Police and Border Guard College is part of the Academy of Security Science Estonia in Tallinn and Pärnu. At home we live at the campus with other students and have a tight schedule during the week. At 6:50 hours we wake up to go running with the entire school. Then we have classes almost every day. In Estonia we're more focused on our training and sports. There are all kind of facilities there. We study around 12 months and go in to practice for two months."

### Speed up the programme

During a presentation of the Erasmus programme and the experience of two Dutch police officers in Estonia, the four students decided they want to go to Holland. "It would have been easier when we could study a year abroad, but for four months it took some adjustments. For our college but also for ourselves. We didn't have any free time left, because we had to speed up with some subjects. We also study here from a distance. But it's all worth it."

### Shifts with the local police

Before the students came to Apeldoorn, they didn't know what to expect. The Police Academy took care of the programme and housing. "It is very well organized, we have a nice place to live. We have class two times a week and enough studying to do in the rest of the week. In our free time we visit for example Amsterdam and Rotterdam. We managed to arrange some shifts with the local police. We've been in Arnhem, Zutphen, Apeldoorn and Enschede at the border with Germany. We've been more on the streets in the Netherlands than in Estonia."



### Differences

The biggest difference is the approach of the Dutch police officers, according to the Estonian students. "Here you are more friendly and open. In Estonia it's more authoritative. There is more of a power distance. For example you don't shake hands with the police on the streets and we don't make close contact. There is no friendliness. In the Netherlands the police is more open. That's a good thing, but sometimes it's also dangerous to be too close to people, also for your own safety."

### Mind opening

The Estonian students follow the International minor and learn about European Policing and Research Methods. "It would have been nice when we had more Dutch or other European students in our class, but it is fine now. The subjects we learn are interesting and useful. It is hard to imagine that we had to miss this knowledge when we stayed in Estonia. We learn new ways to look at problems to know you can use multiple approaches. See that things can be done differently. And especially the information about European Policing and terrorism is mind opening. Estonia is a small country and we don't have the complexity of police work like you have in The Netherlands. Coming here broadened our perspective in a new way."