**Alex Ariol Omaki – Game Over (Portsmouth)**

Thanks to Erasmus+ I got the opportunity to stay in Portsmouth, UK and experience what it’s like to work and live there independently. I got the chance to work at Game Over, a gaming/internet café that offers dozens of gaming consoles all the way from the 70’s up until the most recent consoles.

I got a chance to work with and handle a cash register which was quite confusing at times, not knowing which buttons are which, random numbers appearing on the screen, but once I got used to it, it just felt natural. During the month I was there, I got to meet a lot of really nice and interesting people that had some of the best stories I’ve ever heard, which made the job even more desirable.

My employer got the chance to build an exhibition at the Portsmouth museum on retro gaming that I helped out with, which meant that I even got the chance to stay working during closed hours. While we displayed the consoles, I got to see many familiar ones and some I never would imagine existed.

The time I had and experience in Portsmouth made a great impact on my abilities as an employee and as a person. At first I was a bit nervous because I didn’t know what to expect from my employer and overall what it’s going to be like in a foreign country for a month technically on my own. Once I started working I didn’t want to make any mistakes, so I tried my best and immediately I started to get the hang of it. After that I felt comfortable and I started seeing my job and even my future career in a more enthusiastic mind-opening perspective, which actually gave me an easier way to figure what I’d like to do in the future. I also learnt how to communicate openly with my co-worker/ supervisor and work as a team which made it a lot easier than doing everything by yourself. I also took a lot from Steve, my boss, who showed me where he sees himself and his company in 5 years which showed me a lot on dealing with a small business that’s quickly rising from the bottom. Overall the whole experience was life-changing and revitalizing and I’m extremely grateful to the Erasmus+ program for making this all happen. 