

## **Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students**

### **The speech of the 2019 Laureate, Janeli Harjus**

Thank you, it's an honour to stand here in front of you today. I've been reading about myself being this year's laureate in e-mails for a while now, but I don't think I actually realized it until making it to Krakow this afternoon. I would like to thank the Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize committee for considering my work worthy of this year's Prize, it means a lot.

I would also like to thank my universities, both my home university in Tartu and the university of Aarhus, my home for a semester - I'm keeping you both really close to my heart. Of course, there's also endless gratitude in me to the people who were around me during my MA studies, either for academic or mental support, and who pretty much made it all happen - I wouldn't be here without them.

And last but not least - I'm sure there are at least some people here who work with the Erasmus+ programme directly - I just wanted to say that you are amazing. What these few brief months of exchange can do is incredible. I'm sure you are aware of what the benefits are academically, but the experience in terms of personal growth is even greater. I've been on three exchanges myself and I've seen so many of my friends and acquaintances heading for an exchange and coming back. And they come back happy, open-minded, adventurous, with love for the world around them. And that's exactly the kind of people the world needs today. Thank you for making this happen.