

DAAD RESEARCH GRANT – FELLOWSHIP IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The undersigned stayed for three months in Germany, mainly in Kiel, from the end of October 2015 to the end of January 2016, for research with a DAAD grant (Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Kiel University of Applied Sciences, German National Library of Economics /ZBW/).

Initially, the aim was to study literature on regional policy to find additional materials for my lecture courses and to prepare the respective publication/book. However, also other topics could be added to the initial range of topics, such as:

- the need to acquire information on services (different terms are used: tertiarisation, tertiary sector, society of services, service society, services sector, etc.);
- technology and innovation (incl. Industry 4.0 initiated by German institutions to start all these by now complex activities; also Energy 4.0, Trade 4.0 etc., in total Economy 4.0; All this is regarded to be above all the fourth wave of the so-to-say industrial revolution (and the related subject areas)) and the respective consultations/discussions with German colleagues.

We have to note here that the researchers of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy have been studying the economy and economic policy of the three Baltic States for years already (they have also published their papers in the Estonian journal on economic policy and participated with presentations and in discussions at our conference on economic policy at Jäneda in Estonia for several times). As the institute mentioned will probably undergo structural changes and also changes in research topics in a few years, the German colleagues are interested in continuing their research into the economies of the Baltic States also in the future by covering all three Baltic States with their research topics, contributing to the mutual cooperation between the three states and to the further integration of these states to the European Union and involving also the economists and doctoral students of these states in their research work. We had recurrent discussions on this subject: this will certainly be a challenge both for the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian economists and for their national institutions. The near future will tell whether or not it will all work out.

During the stay in Germany I managed to take short visits also to Frankfurt am Main and Berlin (incl. the visit to the publishing partner Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag). Visiting the publishing house was beneficial for both parties both for the exchange of information, asking questions and getting answers to the questions (besides, some of the earlier contact persons had been replaced). The successful cooperation will continue now with a somewhat broader programme.

Besides the research we had also a number of discussions with the local colleagues (3–4 times almost every week) on the subjects of both Estonian and German economy, incl. the refugee issues of very serious concern for Europe and EU Member States (in Germany, 2015 was even called a historic year!) and the related expenditures and activities but naturally also talks/discussions on the range of problems studied by the undersigned.

It is important to emphasise about working in Kiel that the choice of literature in the German National Library of Economics is excellent and comprehensive (although mainly in English and German but also in many other languages, including Estonian). Recommendation of the undersigned to colleagues and other interested persons – you should use any opportunity to work in this library. An opportunity to discuss any issues that have arisen with the local economists would certainly be an added value of this library (which the undersigned used, if necessary).

In summary, my activities in Germany could be divided into the following main topics:

- regional and local government policy yesterday, today and tomorrow;
- public sector as a part of the society of services, and the role of economic policy in these changes;
- the role of regional economy (incl. the respective economic policy and local government) in the society of services and the need for adjustments of economic policy;
- the role of technology and innovation in a globalising society, the role of digitalisation in development processes – a need for new behaviours in economic policy;
- cooperation with German universities and other German institutions on the subject of research topics (incl. Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Kiel University of Applied Sciences, German National Library of Economics /ZBW/, Berlin publishing house of research literature /Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag/, etc.);
- continuation and development of joint conferences and discussions, incl. involvement of doctoral students;
- also the participation of the German colleagues in the next, XXIV International Conference on Economic Policy on the subject „Economic Policy in the EU Member States – in 2016“, which will be held already from 30 June to 2 July 2016 at Järeda in Estonia was discussed (the initiator and main organiser of the series of conferences is Matti Raudjärv);
- writing of papers for the issues of the peer-reviewed journal *Estonian Discussions on Economic Policy / Estnische Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik / Eesti majanduspoliitilised väitlused – 2016* published in three languages; the publication has been published since 1984, since 2007 under the current title (the Chief Editor is Matti Raudjärv, the publisher is the Estonian publishing house Mattimar OÜ and the co-publisher is the German publishing house Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag), two issues are currently published annually; the journal is represented in such international databases as: **DOAJ** – Directory of Open Access Journals (Netherlands), **EBSCO** – Elton B. Stephens Company (USA), **EconBib** – Economics Bibliography (KSP Journals; International), **ECONIS** – Economics Information System (Germany), **ESO** – European Sources Online (United Kingdom) and **SSRN** – Social Science Research Network (USA);
- also the peer review of papers for the journal *Estonian Discussions of Economic Policy* published in Estonia (in cooperation with the German publishing house BWV) in three languages was discussed;

- naturally also spare time for separate communication with specific persons but also for getting more familiar with the German society, culture and traditions.

An important event for the foreign guests of the Kiel University was the traditional reception with invitations from the President of the Kiel University Professor Dr. Lutz Kipp, for meeting foreign academic staff and foreign researchers in the evening of 19 November, with the speech from the Vice-President in International Affairs of the Kiel University, Professor Dr. Anja Pistor-Hatam. The reception was interesting and energetic, with predominantly Chinese guests (and increasingly so for the at least 15–20 last years).

For spare time entertainment it was possible to listen various both instrumental and vocal concerts on almost every Wednesday at 17.00 for half an hour in the St. Nicholas Church with wonderful acoustics in the Old Market area of the Old Town of Kiel at the distance of a walk of about 8–10 minutes from the University Hotel. This is a tradition kept up in Kiel already for decades which could be started also in Estonia. By the way, the programme of one concert included also a piece by the world-famous Estonian composer Arvo Pärt who now lives in Estonia.

In conclusion – the work period in Germany was substantial, very informative, varied and interesting in many respects, bringing also new and enriching acquaintances in addition to the existing contacts. The information I managed to acquire/read/experience was useful and developing from many aspects and still has to be processed and thought over and written down in Estonia. It is also solid and good source material for the further development of university lectures/workshops and writing/publishing papers and publications. The undersigned is again convinced that it is not possible to acquire such information or experience by staying only in Estonia and working with the computer for whole days! As it is important besides everything else to have direct communication, talk, discuss things with people. Such direct communication seems to be increasingly lacking in Estonia and in our institutions of higher education! And this makes our education and culture, even whole Estonia much weaker!

The undersigned is grateful to the colleagues from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Dr. Klaus Schrader, Dr. Claus-Friedrich Laaser, Professor Dr. Hennig Klodt, Professor Dr. Hartmut Lehment), from the Kiel University of Applied Sciences (Professor Emeritus Dr. Manfred O. E. Hennies, Professor Dr. Enno Langfeldt, Professor Dr. Andreas Thiemer, Professor Dr. Ruth Boerckel-Rominger), from the Greifswald University (Professor Dr. Armin Rohde) etc., also the staff of the Kiel University International Affairs Mrs. Isolda Ritter and Mrs. Sabine Karlich who contributed to these activities. I certainly thank also the Pärnu College of the University of Tartu (Director Dr. Henn Vallimäe) who paid for the Tallinn-Copenhagen-Hamburg-Frankfurt am Main-Tallinn flights. In conclusion, the undersigned is grateful and happy for this research opportunity in the foreign country and for the valuable experience gained.

February 2016

Sincerely,
Matti Raudjärv