

EU Travel-Research Grant Trip Report
(August 2009, Rome-Italy)
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Thanks to the Centre for European Studies travel grant, I was able to travel to Rome (Italy) where I conducted my research required for my MA research paper, “2007 European Union Enlargement and Romanian Immigration to Italy”. I travelled to Italy for the period of August 01-11/2009. Here I met with a dozen of Romanian association leaders and members of the Diaspora. I also visited important places of interest of Romanian community: churches, educational institutions and Romanian ethnic commercial places.

The phenomenon analyzed (EU enlargement), happened not a long time ago. It merely passed couple of years. Consequently, academic material, quantitative studies and analyses about the phenomenon are virtually inexistent. For this reason, in the absence of academic work and with only raw statistical data, traveling to the field and conducting interviews with members of Romanian diasporas was the only possible way to get a full and in depth grasp of the phenomenon. There is a certain amount of analysis of East-West immigration phenomenon from the Eastern Europe, but no particular examination of case-to-case migratory flow. This is why I left for Italy with a theory that proved to be self-sufficient and I came back with a more adequate perception of the socio-political reality in the area of immigration.

The CES grant has been central in making my trip possible and in helping me conduct my research. The interviews proved to be crucial to my research. The information they have provided has also helped me add a new dimension to my project. If I did not conduct the interviews, I would not have been aware of many implications of European Union political transformations. Moreover, I believe that my research essay, which will explore the trends of immigration in European Union, will help stimulate the academic debate on the changing dynamics of this phenomenon.

Being able to visit the place of my research interest allowed me to get in touch with other researchers in the area, thus obtaining second opinions and unedited primary sources that would not be available in Canada and to gather information without relying on what is available within scholarly publication.

I would like to take the opportunity, therefore, to express my gratitude for the help and support of the Centre for European Studies, Dr. Joan DeBardeleben, Director of CES and the supervisor of my thesis.