

Narrative Report for Fieldwork Funded by the Center for European Studies, Carleton University

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As a recipient of the Travel / Research Grant offered by the Center for European Studies (CES) at Carleton University, I was able to travel to Warsaw, Poland for an extended stay in order to collect fieldwork for my Master's thesis entitled "Poland's compliance with EU Water Policy". I lived in Poland for three months in the Fall term of the 2011-2012 academic school year, and was able to conduct interviews, send out research questionnaires, meet with specialists in the field, as well as collect relevant legal and public policy documents only available within the country. Without the financial support from CES, I would not have been able to delve as deep into my thesis topic as I did, because an extended stay would not have been possible.

In total, I collected 23 interviews/ research questionnaires for my thesis project. I was able to meet with academics, high-level public servants, Ministers, Agency Presidents, NGO staff, as well as EU-level leaders. These individuals proved to be invaluable resources that provided significant insights for my project. I would not have been able to reach as many diversified and high-level individuals without being in the country and contacting potential interviewees/ respondents in person and by telephone.

My time in Poland not only helped me collect important information for my project, but also exposed me to the political and social context of the country, which is important to understand when conducting country or regionally-based case studies. It also provided a great networking opportunity, which allowed me to meet, and establish working relationships with many specialists in the field.

Through this fieldwork, my project will contribute to the literature on Europeanization, Environmental Policy, and Transition, and will hopefully result in a publication. This would not be possible without the financial help from CES.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the Centre for European Studies staff who worked on the selection and provision of the Travel / Research Grant, as well as my Thesis Supervisor and Director of the Centre for European Studies, Dr. Joan DeBardeleben, who has provided me support and guidance during the course of this project.