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**CES Report on EU research visit to Germany, April 19 – June 25, 2022**

The Centre for European Studies funded my research visit to Germany in April-June 2022 in order to undertake qualitative research for part of my doctoral thesis titled “European refugee radio as a small-scale public sphere: Exploring and assessing opportunities for deliberation on the issues of refugees' integration in Germany” supervised by Professor Ira Wagman, Carleton University.

The travel for research has been funded by two awards: the Graduate Student Travel-Research Grant on the European Union and the grant received from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union to support the Jean Monnet Network in EU-Canada Relations, both administrated by the Centre for European Studies at Carleton University. Travel for research was combined with a two-month research internship at the Technical University of Munich. The host supervisor was Professor Miranda Schreurs, TU of Munich.

This research travel was important for exploring and assessing opportunities for deliberation on the issues of refugees' integration through and with help of refugee radio projects in Germany. Also, I needed to collect the data on the nation-wide and regional policy environment in refugees' integration and media coverage of refugees affairs in Germany.

As a result of my visit, I was able to collect a valuable first-hand data for my dissertation, focusing on three major regions: Hamburg, Sachsen-Anhalt (Halle, Magdeburg), and Baden-Wurttemberg (Freiburg). The timing for this research was excellent, as first in-person events resumed after the pandemic in Germany after April 20th. I was able to attend various in-person events.

I visited and observed the work of three refugee radio stations: Refugee Radio Network project at the free radio FSK in Hamburg; Common Voices refugee radio project at the free radio Corax in Halle (Saale); Our Voice project at the free radio Dreyeckland in Freiburg. I attended KoCafe's regular networking event for refugees, co-organized by Our Voice project in Freiburg on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As part of my research focus, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 I visited a refugee camp, located near Hamburg airport and one of the centres of receiving and registration of refugees in Hamburg.

In addition, on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 I visited the Migrantpolitan cultural space, co-organized by Refugee Radio Network and the Kampnagel theatre in Hamburg, and observed their work. From May 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> I spent three days in the overnight radio camp located in Markelfingen on the lake Konstanz. This annual radio camp is co-organized by radio Dreyeckland and Our Voice refugee radio project. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022,

I participated in a one-day event on the next cycle of deliberation on the use of 'Duldung' status in Germany. The discussion was held with refugees, representatives of civil society organizations and lawyers in Magdeburg, and this event was connected to the radio Corax, Common Voices radio that I study.

In total during this research trip, I conducted 32 research interviews: 28 interviews took place in-person and 4 interviews took place online via Zoom that were the follow-up to in-person communication (Carleton University Research Ethics Board 'A' project clearance # 115091). Noticeably, I was only able to schedule and confirm online interviews while in Germany through the local phone calls and recommendations.

I was able to attend in-person over 10 different workshops on topics of my research.

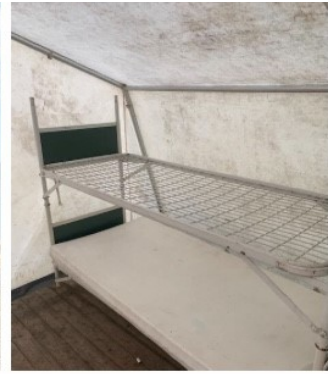
The skills developed during this visit include talking about my research in a concise manner with people from the academic and non-academic backgrounds such as politicians, integration officers, lawyers, radio volunteers in Germany; revisiting my working schedule on weekly basis to make necessary adjustments; setting up appointments and planning the travel logistics; conducting research interviews and observation in a diverse environment. Also, I was able to gain the skills of a guest researcher and a lecturer by spending two months in a host university and presenting the results of my research visit at the TU of Munich.

My research travel was finalized in the guest lecture titled “Refugees and their problems in Germany: legislature and free radio movement” that I gave on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at the Technical University of Munich in which I presented major research findings related to the refugees' integration, free radio movement and deliberation in Germany.

Here is the link to lecture's announcement:

<https://www.hfp.tum.de/en/environmentalpolicy/news/news-single-view-environmentalpolicy-en/article/gastforscherin-elena-kaliberda-haelt-einen-vortrag-in-hfp/>

On May 5<sup>th</sup> I was invited to the University team potluck dinner that helped me build relationships, meet people and get to know the faculty better. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the team of Climate and Environmental Policy of Hochschule für Politik at TU of Munich got together for the lunch to say goodbye to me.



- Radio camp at the lake Konstanz in Markelfingen, Germany. May 27-29, 2022
- Pictures: archive of Elena Kaliberda

Picture: The radio camp in Markelfingen, Germany, May 27-29<sup>th</sup> , 2022.