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Research Trip Report

To carry out the work for my MRP entitled “Climate migration: Germany’s key issue at Conference of the Parties from 2008 to 2016,” as outlined in my initial project proposal submitted to the Selection Committee, I travelled to Bonn from May 18th to the 27th. There I interviewed experts in the field of climate migration and I had the opportunity to interview policy experts from the German Institute for Development (DIE) and researchers from the TransRe Project on building resilience as a result of climate change and migration. The TransRe research group is hosted by the Geography Institute at Bonn University. While I was not able to secure an in-person interview with experts from the UN University due to conflicting availabilities, I scheduled a Skype interview with an Analyst at UNFCCC upon my return from Germany. I was not able to reach contacts at the BMU, the German Federal Ministry for Environment, however the interviewees who participated in the study had knowledge of the manner in which the BMU approaches climate migration policies, as well as on the relationship between the EU and Germany on climate migration issues.

I am very thankful for being a recipient of the EU Travel Grant, as this research trip has provided the much-needed insight of experts to be included in my Master’s Research Paper. I gained first-hand knowledge in the state of the art regarding Germany’s leadership in climate migration policies. Furthermore, the experts I interviewed were very helpful in pointing out not only other researchers and experts that could be contacted, but also newly published material to consult. My research process has benefitted from this experience as now I am able to have a more comprehensive picture of Germany’s leadership on climate migration policies at UN level, and also of the collaboration between the EU and Germany in matters concerning climate migration and relevant high-level policies. I am looking forward to presenting the conclusive version of my Master’s Research Paper.