
REPORTS

VISITATION REPORT OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL OF THE POLITICAL AND EUROPEAN SCIENCES INSTITUTE OF SZCZECIN UNIVERSITY ON RESEARCH INTERNSHIP IN TURKEY

by Piotr Mszyca

From September 26, 2012 to October 3, 2012 scientific personnel of the Political and European Sciences Institute of Szczecin University delegated to Turkey. The travel was part of scientific research within the confines of LLP Erasmus – Staff Training Mobility Program. Polish side was represented by head of European Security and Strategy Department – Jaroslaw Piatek, assistant professor of Szczecin University; and doctoral candidate at Political and European Sciences Institute of Szczecin University – mgr Piotr Mszyca as professor Jaroslaw Piatek’s assistant.

The main goal was to bring into effect STT – Erasmus guidelines, namely to establish closer relations with Economic and Administrative Sciences Faculty of Trakya University in Edirne. The visit was a result of the bilateral agreement between Political and European Sciences Institute of Szczecin University and Trakya University’s Faculty.

The international delegation started on September 26, 2012 with a flight from Berlin do Istanbul. Stay in Istanbul was assigned on the recognition of Istanbul University’s Library sources. The delegates visited academic campus, situated in Istanbul’s district Beyazit.

The use of university campus' idea is very often solution and is quite a standard in almost every academic city in Turkey. However in Poland, campuses are still unusual and rare. On a campus area is almost everything that student needs for his or hers everyday's life. Beginning with little shopping mall, through restaurants, banks, hospital, gyms, training fields, theatre, entertainment centers (for instance: bowling, pool), canteens, and finally dormitories both public and also private ones. To sum up, the infrastructure of such campus is fully adjusted to student's requirements, who can meet his or hers needs, without leaving the campus.

Very interesting issue, from European point of view is the matter of mosques at the campus site. Mindful that Turkey is a secular country, where in theory religion should be completely separated from the state, we can advance a thesis, that there is some contradiction in this case. What is more, if we take a closer look at famous within the last decade discourse about the prohibition of ostentatious wearing of religious symbols on the state institutions' property, new confusions emerge. Well, the most common example of these symbols, are Muslim headscarves for women – veils covering their hair. Every campus is public and Turkish government owns it. For those, who visit such a campus for the first time, seems that this prohibition is not respected by many people. Moreover, in a form of a protest, many female students wear traditional Muslim headscarves, but also on the top of it, they have wigs, wearing them in the most visible way, that it is hard not to notice it.

The mosque on Istanbul University's campus is very majestic and after entering the main gate, this is the first construction that visiting person sees. Additionally, two minarets of this shrine are visible, so as every passer-by of extremely popular among tourists town district could have seen it. The mosque issue in this case, has also another, more symbolic meaning. There is very common partition of cities, town districts or academic centers in Turkey. The partition refers to more conservative in religion meaning, nationalistic, cosmopolitan and finally military. Military in a sense that such universities or academies educate not only present or future military officers, but also their children, who will work as civilians in military institutions in the future. There is very visible cult in those academic divisions of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – recognized as founder of

modern Republic of Turkey. The cosmopolitan ones, perform as a universities with great international relations and have many student exchange programs. In the contrary, the main goal of nationalistic is to activate Turkishness. Conservative in the end, define their goal as promotion of Islamic values and tradition relevant to the religion. Without any doubt, we should rate Istanbul University as conservative. To give wider view of the discussed topic, the idea of conservatism is also visible at another Istanbul's university – Fatih University or other university, outside Istanbul – Selçuk University in Konya. For a regular European, such a partition might be a bit odd, in Turkey however it is very common, taken almost as an unofficial cannon. That phenomenon is apparent by all means at the job market and during appointing offices in public administration. The best examples for that are: Selçuk University's professor – Ahmet Davutoğlu, current Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in Justice and Development Party's government. Another one is Abdullach Gül – Istanbul University alumni, present Turkey's President. We should underline that Justice and Development Party is defined as a political party based on strong Islamic grounds.

After four days in Istanbul, Polish guests went to Edirne – delegation's main destination point, which is over 200 kilometers far from the biggest Turkish city. On Monday there was a meeting held with Trakya University's personnel. Apart from Economic and Administrative Sciences Faculty's authorities, also familiar professors hosted a meeting. Professor Neziha Musaoğlu, Erasmus Coordinator at Economic and Administrative Sciences Faculty of Trakya University and professor Fahrı Türk – lecturer at the same Faculty, who visited Szczecin University earlier within the confines of the same program as visitors from Poland.

During the meeting, there have formal documents exchange taken place. Also, both sides completed all the regulations concerning bureaucratic issue of LLP Erasmus STT Program. What is more, Polish and Turkish representatives declared to put as much as possible effort the bilateral cooperation between universities became fruitful, profitable and the agreement to brought further positive effects. Professor Fahrı Türk has also accepted an invitation to become a member of scientific council of the annual magazine *Reality of Politics. Estimates, comments, forecast,*

established with the efforts of Political and European Sciences Institute of Szczecin University's personnel.

Research program members learnt about scientific and teaching facilities at the Turkish university. Hosts presented lecture halls which, what is worth to mention, are equipped with the newest audiovisual device. Guests from Szczecin University visited two academic libraries, what has widen their scientific sources vastly. Referring to their own research projects and schemes, they could use all the sources, mainly Turkish and American, collected in both universities' libraries. During the visit, it was also possible to get to know the conditions provided to students. It has to be underlined, that economic boom of Turkey, is also visible in education sector. What is a positive effect of this issue and surprises a visitor is the fact, that there are no problems for the university's graduates with finding a job.

The visits, both at Istanbul University and Trakya University in Edirne should be recognized as extremely interesting. They confirmed the need of personal contacts which could be helpful to improve scientific relations but also should give a wider picture of the different culture, which is very often assisted by stereotypes.