

STUDY TRIP TO BRUSSELS

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report by

Oliwia Niedobecka & Agelika Rutowicz

students of the University of Wrocław

On April 18-20th this year, a group of students from the University of Wrocław took part in a study trip organised by the Regional Representation of the European Commission in Wrocław in cooperation with the European Commission Visitors Centre in Brussels. These were extremely intensive three days, during which we had an opportunity not only to get insights about the functioning of the European Union and career-opportunities, but also to see and feel the atmosphere of the European Union itself.

During the trip we attended meetings with Polish representatives - staff from various departments (DGs) of the European Commission. We had an opportunity to discuss topics concerning the role and functioning of the Commission, the European BAUHAUS policy, civil protection issues from the EU level and policies oriented on prevention of disinformation.

The meeting concerning the role and functioning of the European Commission was hosted by Dr. Michał Rynkowski, who gave a comprehensive account of how the European Commission works on a day-to-day basis. Moreover, as a member of the Legal Service, he introduced us to the legislative process from the perspective of the person whose task is to ensure that the Commission's legislative proposals are in line with the EU law, preventing the risk of litigation. Mr Sebastian Gojdz introduced us to how the Commission's regional policy is conducted and discussed the subject of the 'New European Bauhaus', focusing on objectives that will, in practice, change our environment to become better and more friendly. During the meeting with Mr Marcin

Pater the topic of crisis management and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism were discussed. The meeting was extremely informative: looking back at the past years we have been directly or indirectly affected by many crises, only to mention the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The figures and tables presented by Marcin Pater demonstrated the scale of the aid provided by the European Union to combat various crises and illustrated the variety of aid measures offered to the Member States, but also all over the world.

The online meeting with Mr Zbigniew Gniatkowski generated most questions from the students. We discussed the subject of disinformation and how we can avoid and counteract it. We have found the topic very challenging but at the same time very interesting. During the third day we had a meeting introducing us to the application process for EU internships. This meeting took place in the 'Info-point Europe' building and concerned the so-called Blue Book.

The study trip undoubtedly provided all of us with a broader perspective on the opportunities offered by the European Union. We have experienced the spirit of Europeanness and we learned a lot about various policies in the EU. Each person with whom we met presented their work-area in a very comprehensive and easy to follow way. Additionally, we were encouraged to apply for internships and other career-opportunities. The added value of each meeting was that many different subject were covered. As a consequence, students of European diplomacy, political science or international relations were able to deepen their knowledge regarding topic that they find particularly interesting.