

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Name: **Jan Lohynský**

Home institution: **Charles University**

Host institution: **University of Innsbruck**

Period of stay: **winter term 2018/2019 (3 month)**

During my stay at the University of Innsbruck I was able to consult my master thesis with the topic 'European migration crisis in Czech and Austrian media' with Univ.-Prof. Dr. Andreas Maurer from the Institute for Political Science. Thanks to a very welcoming attitude of Professor Maurer and other faculty staff members I received my own working table in one of the university rooms and access to other useful tools. I could also gain inspiration from other master and PhD. students, who shared the same room at the faculty and who worked on their own research in the field of political science.

However, most of my time was spent in the library of the university, where I was able not only to write my master thesis, but also to use sources that the university library offers. One of the books that I have used as sources in my master thesis are for example Mediating Migration, written by Radha S. Hedge or The Media in Europe, written by Kelly, Mazzoleni and McQuail. Very helpful was also the fact that Professor Maurer connected me with the members of the Media, Society and Communication Department and particularly with Univ. Prof. DDr. Günther Pallaver, who helped me to get contact with a responsible person at APA (Austrian Presse Agentur), which is an archive system that is one of the key tools for gathering the research materials necessary for my master thesis.

I have used most of my time by researching scientific publications relevant for my topic and thus forming the state of the art chapter. This has led me to finding a specific research, which I decided to use as a main source for the theory part of my master thesis, but also as a source of methodology for the research part. I was able to finish the theory part concept of my master thesis which is composed of the exploration of the theme European migration crisis, the role of media during the European migration crisis, Austrian media and definition of other basic concepts relevant for the understanding of the topic of the master thesis.

The consultations with Professor Maurer have also led to a small shift of the previous master thesis proposal at my home university. Especially when it comes to the choice of specific Austrian media and the time period of their outlets, which are supposed to be researched. The Czech part of my master thesis remained unchanged, although this will be also consulted with my home university academic supervisor. The methodology of the research was also one of the main points consulted with professor Maurer. In this case I presented a proposal of partly editing a successfully finished research design with a similar topic and partly replicating it with specified research questions which were also consulted with Professor Maurer. This has led to stating a core of the master thesis as a whole.

Besides working on my master thesis, I also used my time at the University of Innsbruck to visit most of the lectures of the course Europäische Integration I: Theorieentwicklung und Politiken im globalen Handlungskontext led by Professor Maurer which helped me to broaden my understanding of relevant themes surrounding European Union, which are topics not that much present at my home university, nor in the Czech public life.

I also visited a talk with Czech prime minister Andrej Babiš at the Management Center Innsbruck, which allowed me to see how he presents himself and the Czech Republic as a country abroad and particularly in Austria. Leading a public discussion with many Czech students on foreign soil was interesting for all those who participated. I also visited the meeting of the Fakultätsrat (faculty members meeting), which I was invited to by Professor Maurer and which has given me an idea of the functioning of the University of Innsbruck and in a sense also of the Austrian educational system on the university level. I also took part in the event Medientag 2018 der Universität Innsbruck with the topic Das Ende der Vielfalt? Zur Diversität der Medien which was relevant for further understanding of current media-related topics in Austria.

I am thankful to AKTION scholarship Czech Republic – Austria, to DZS organisation on the Czech side and the OeAD organisation on the Austrian side for enabling this master thesis research and study exchange and for helping me to progress academically with my master thesis and my future studies.